



### FROM YOUR MINISTER



This March we joined Unitarian Universalists and others around the country in commemorating the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the voting rights marches in Selma, Alabama. Our own Linda and Doug Weeder attended the festivities in Selma (see article later in this newsletter) and we dedicated two full services to the Unitarian Universalist commitment (then and now) to racial justice, and also lifted up Viola Liuzzo and

Rev. James Reeb: our fellow UUs who lost their lives during the marches. Our Selma celebration culminated with our Soul Feeding Community brunch where everyone was well-fed and enjoyed wonderful company and discussion. If you missed our services or events last month, please check out our photo galleries on Facebook and our sermon audio archive on our website!

April begins with Easter Sunday, and in our tradition we will be recognizing the life and message of Jesus of Nazareth in the multi-faith context of the Passover, spring and fertility holidays from all over the world. It is always a wonderful service filled with great music, so please come with your families and be sure to invite your friends- especially if they are not going anywhere on Easter.

The rest of April will be dedicated to our sacred task of stewardship, with multiple services on Earth Day and our environment. Many thanks to the newly revitalized worship team for agreeing to lead service in my absence on April 12<sup>th</sup> and contribute so much for our Earth Day celebration on April 26<sup>th</sup>.

In community news, I have taken on a larger leadership role with our local Stockton Ministerial Association, spearheading a joint program with the Stockton Police Department to create a fund to provide emergency, temporary housing to Stockton residents and visitors in need. I will also be providing the offering prayer at our annual Stockton Good Friday service and helping with the Stockton High School Baccalaureate service next month.

Have a very happy Easter, many blessings for a wonderful first month of spring and hope to see you in church soon!  
- Rev. Erik

<b>Rev. Erik David Carlson</b>
Rev. Carlson is available for pastoral services. If you or someone you know is in need, please contact Rev. Carlson at <a href="mailto:uureverend@gmail.com">uureverend@gmail.com</a> or by leaving a message at the church: 815.947.3812. All requests for pastoral care will be kept confidential. Please write Rev. Erik to receive electronic newsletters.

### NEWS FROM YOUR BOARD

Your UU Stockton Board met at Leslie Hawley's on Saturday, February 28<sup>th</sup>, for our annual retreat. We shared good food and fellowship, saw clips from a short film *Bidder 70* - which we may show later at church, and then identified priorities for 2015.

A number of ideas were collected under three broad topics:

- Priority 1 - Non-Sunday church events (on site and off site).**
- Priority 2 - Define and express the identity of the Congregation.**
- Priority 3 - Community Involvement.**

We will welcome your help in implementing the finer points of these goals in the coming months.

See You at Church,  
Mark Haman, Co-Moderator.

<b>2015 Board Roster</b>
<b>Moderators</b> Ted Davenport (2017) Mark Haman (2016)
<b>Secretary</b> Sheila Haman (2017)
<b>Financial Secretary</b> John Fischer (2017)
<b>Treasurer</b> Leslie Hawley (2017)
<b>Stewards</b> Laura Dufford (2018) Bill Schuldt (2016) Joan Rawce Metzger (2017)
<b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:board@UUChurchOfStockton.org">board@UUChurchOfStockton.org</a>

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

As Percy Bysshe Shelley wrote, “And Spring arose on the garden fair, Like the Spirit of Love felt everywhere,” it’s a great time of year, and spring will be offering all its outdoor opportunities very, very soon. For us it’s a time for growth, for new experiences, and for understanding our impact on our communities. This is also a great time to get re-involved in the Religious Education program. Whether you would like to volunteer to teach, have a specific lesson that you would like to impart, or would like to get your child involved we would love to hear from you.



Last month was a very fun month in Religious Education. At right you can see pictures from the Ramadan lesson in which we made a star mobile to represent the fast breaking, prayer, and community gatherings that happen after sundown during the holiday.



Coming up this month we will have a lesson involving King Midas, a lesson to review the principals of Ying and Yang, and will be talking about what it means to leave our footprints on our family, friends, and world with our actions and beliefs. You are always welcome to join us!

-Mandy Nachampassack-Maloney, Religious Education Coordinator [mandy@uuchurchofstockton.org](mailto:mandy@uuchurchofstockton.org)

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION SCHEDULE – APRIL 2015

### APRIL 5<sup>TH</sup> – EASTER SUNDAY & UU INVOCATION

Our students will learn about the spiritual power of invocation within worship, and how intentional worship practices can make us feel more connected to each other and the world.

### APRIL 12<sup>TH</sup> – KING MIDAS AND MORAL TALES

Our students will hear the story of King Midas and begin exploring how morality is taught through folk tales and stories.

### APRIL 19<sup>TH</sup> – YING & YANG

Our students will learn about the Taoist belief in dualism that lies behind the iconic Ying Yang symbol.

### APRIL 26<sup>TH</sup> – LEAVING OUR FOOTPRINTS

Our students will learn about cave paintings and other ways people have left their mark on their spaces since the beginning of history, and make their own prints and memories.

## SELMA COMMUNITY BRUNCH



Thank you to everyone who helped make our Selma event so memorable- especially Joan Rawce Metzger, Nancy Schuldt, Sheila Haman, Alice Ericksen, Laura Dufford and Laurie Wurster for providing the fantastic soul-feeding food, everyone who helped prepare and clean up, and all who brought guests to our special Sunday!

Be sure to check out all our pictures online at <https://Facebook.com/UChurchOfStockton>

## UU STOCKTON REPRESENTED AT 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF SELMA MARCHES

BE SURE TO VISIT [HTTP://UUWORLD.ORG](http://uuworld.org) FOR COVERAGE OF THE UUA PRESENCE AT SELMA'S 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY.

We arrived in Selma on Sunday morning [March 8<sup>th</sup>]. What a day! We found a parking space in the downtown area (it was a miracle to find that space.) We walked the dogs on a grassy area that was quite clear of broken bottles and debris. It was decided I would go to the rally outside of Brown Chapel, the organization center during the original walk, while Doug stayed with the dogs.



I have never before felt like such a minority with my very white face. At the same time I have never been treated as politely in my life. Everyone greeted me with a smile and hello. We met eye to eye, almost as though we knew we had a common purpose - the right to vote. I struck up a conversation with two ladies, mother and daughter from New York State. We had plenty of time to talk as we viewed what was going on in the church on a big screen. I learned so much from them about the point of view of middle class blacks. I even asked them, "Why would a black person vote for a Republican?" They said they are the ones getting things done for them. I think they meant on a local level.

The last speaker was Al Sharpton. I said to the ladies, "I wonder how many more speakers there will be." "Oh he's the last one", they said. "No one could follow Sharpton." Well, I'm no Sharpton fan but he really said it. He began by pointing out the need to stand up for all rights. He said I know you don't want to hear it, but the rights for homosexuals and immigrants too.

As he got going with his speech it started to feel more like a church service. Some ladies next to me started to repeat phrases. The cadence of words was just wonderful. One lady raised her hands, not in the Don't Shoot symbol but in the sign of worship. It was just so interesting I had to pinch myself to see if it were real.

I tired of waiting for the march to the bridge to begin so I joined Doug at the car. He was sitting in the back of the van with Yulee next to him as they watched people walk by. Doug had struck up a conversation with one of the men outside the store where we were parked.

Doug had spent most of his time talking to this man. If he were to be believed, he was 10 years old when he and his mama went to the march. He told Doug lots of stories, mostly about his mama. Doug had a great time talking with him. When I say we parked in front of a store let's just say it was a multi-use building. It was a beauty shop/ barber shop/ restroom (which could be used for \$2.00) and out of a doorway near the back of the building they were selling food. We watched people walk down the parade route and finally decided to join the group. Doug had made arrangements with his buddy to watch the dogs and car.

As we approached the bridge the crowd was tremendous, but there was no pushing and shoving. We just all shuffled forward together. We found a group of Unitarian Universalists in their "Standing on the Side of Love" shirts and more or less walked along with them. We felt so triumphant as we walked up that bridge! The arch is so high you cannot see the road to Montgomery until you get to the top. But 50 years ago they did get to the top and beyond - finally. How ironic that the bridge is named for a grand dragon of the Ku Klux Klan.

By the way, my hat was a success. I put a black band around my hat and tucked names of some of the people killed in the civil rights movement in the band. One lady came up to me at the rally and said, "May I take one of the names from your hat for a minute." She took the name Viola Liuzzo and proceeded to tell a young girl about her. (Viola Liuzzo came from Detroit. She was driving an African American activist to Montgomery on the last day of the march when she was followed by the Ku Klux Klan. She was shot through the window of her car.)

I wanted to share this with some of you to give you a taste of what we experienced. Doug keeps saying "We did it!!!" That's one to check off the bucket list.

Proud marchers for civil rights,  
Doug and Linda Weeder

## PLANT SALE - SATURDAY, MAY 9<sup>TH</sup>, 8AM TO 12NOON

Think SPRING! It's here! Root those plants, plant those seeds! The church plant sale will be Saturday, May 9th. The sale will run from 8:00 to noon. We are hoping everyone is looking ahead and will make their plant cuttings soon so the new plants are ready for the sale.

The plant sale has been one of our major fundraisers and we count on our members and friends to contribute their houseplants, garden plants, ground covers, hostas, ground covers, flowers and veggies, succulents, etc. Look around your yard – divide up those overcrowded plants! Ask your neighbors for diggings from their overcrowded gardens.

Plants may be delivered to the church from May 6th on. If you have questions, please contact Laura Dufford (947-2720) or Diane Heath (244-1187). We'd sure love some help the day of the sale! Thanks in advance!

- The Plant Sale Committee



## UU STOCKTON BOOK / MUSIC / ART SALE – THIS JULY-AUGUST!

It's not too late to begin collecting used books, CDs, LPs (you remember those don't you?) and DVDs.

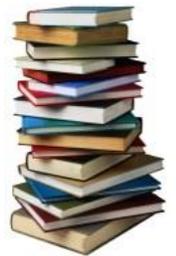
Also, be thinking about any artwork that you no longer want. We will find your treasures a new home.

All of these items will be sold at our biannual Book/Music/Art Sale.

This year our sale will be in conjunction with Stockton's giant sidewalk sale. We hope that this collaboration will bring more shoppers and make this fund-raiser even more successful.

This sale cannot happen without all of us pitching in.

Contact Alice Ericksen at 815-858-3880 or erickpa@molalla.net for more information.



## JOIN UU ROCKFORD AT FOOD BANK – SATURDAY APRIL 18<sup>TH</sup>

On April 18 from 9-11:30 am members of the UU Church, Rockford will be volunteering at the Northern Illinois Food Bank sorting and packing food. Much of the donated food Northern Illinois Food Bank distributes needs to be inspected, sorted and packaged before it's distributed to our hungry neighbors. Northern Illinois Food Bank could not do this without the help of volunteers. Every hour of assistance helps us ensure our hungry neighbors will have access to food in their time of need.

**Northern Illinois Food Bank**

**765 Research Parkway, Rockford, IL 61109**

**April 18<sup>th</sup>, 9:00am – 11:30am**

**Email: PD@UURockford.org**

Children ages 8 and older can volunteer with families or in groups with adult chaperones, a great chance to volunteer as a family and church community. Childcare for children under 8 years of age will be available at the Rockford UU church, 4848 Turner St, Rockford from 8:30am-12 pm in the Nursery downstairs. We are in need of 30 volunteers for that day. Please register online at <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20fod44a9ac29a31-uuchurch> or write Kimberlee Carlson at [pd@uurockford.org](mailto:pd@uurockford.org) with how many people in your party.

All are welcome!

## HIGHWAY CLEAN-UP – APRIL 6<sup>TH</sup> – 4:30PM



Time to clean-up the roadside! We're going to pick-up our stretch of Highway 78, south of Stockton on April 6<sup>th</sup>. We'll meet at the church at 4:30pm and should be done by 6:00pm. Please contact Laura Dufford (947-2720; [lauradufford@gmail.com](mailto:lauradufford@gmail.com)) for information. We'll reschedule if weather is a problem. We'd sure love to have some extra help with this! Thanks!

## NEWS FROM THE FACC

The March donation of personal item to the Freeport Area Church Cooperative was a huge one. Your continuing support of this important project is wonderful. We met Britany, the new manager of the food pantry and were impressed with her cheerful, professional manner.



FAAC provides much need services in the Freeport area: Feeding the Hungry and Sheltering the Homeless. To date this year, the Pantry has filled 254 orders, serving 591 people, with food distributed valued at \$25,174. So far this year, the Shelter programs have provided emergency housing for 39 men and women in the Chicago Avenue Mission; 8 adults and 15 children in Cherry Avenue Mission transitional housing program; and 5 chronically homeless veterans in the new Hero House.

Joan & Dick Harmet, UU Stockton FACC Representatives

## MEMBERSHIP SUNDAY – MAY 17<sup>TH</sup>



We will again be opening our membership book to all who would join our ranks as full members of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Stockton. Anyone who is interested in membership should review the Membership section of our website and speak with Rev. Erik or Sheila Haman prior to May 17<sup>th</sup>.

We will also be holding an open UU Seekers session immediately following services on April 19<sup>th</sup>. Open to newcomers and members alike, this is an opportunity to share about our own spiritual journeys, to ask questions about the Unitarian Universalist faith tradition, and is a recommended pre-requisite to joining the church. All are welcome!

## 2015 FUNDRAISING DATES RELEASED!

Please mark your calendars for the upcoming fundraising events at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Stockton:

**Plant Sale:** May 9<sup>th</sup>

**Men's Italian Cuisine Dinner:** May 16<sup>th</sup>

**Book, Music, Art Sale:** July 31<sup>st</sup> & August 1<sup>st</sup>

**Service Partner Concert:** September 12<sup>th</sup> at Council Hill Station, Scales Mound, IL

**Great Beginnings & Chocolate Finales:** October 3<sup>rd</sup>



## STATE SENIOR SPELLING BEE – APRIL 24<sup>TH</sup>, HANOVER, IL

Can you spell palindrome? Or malapropism? How about minuscule? Well then grab your honey, and show off your spelling talents at a Senior Spelling Bee. It's a fun and brain-healthy activity and it's FREE!

The Illinois State Senior Spelling Bee competition is an exciting program that provides Illinois adults age 50 and older the opportunity to showcase a lifetime of knowledge spelling abilities. The program is coordinated by the Association of Illinois Senior Centers with the help of the Illinois Department of Aging.

Friday, April 24th, 2015, 10:00am  
Senior Resource Center  
500 Fillmore St., Hanover, IL  
Linda Nobis, Contact  
815.777.1316 [lnobis@srcntr.org](mailto:lnobis@srcntr.org)

## MEMBERS IN NEED OF RIDES AND CARPOOLS



There are currently several members and friends of the church in need of rides to church and during the week (to doctors' appointments, run errands, etc.). If you might be available to help provide a ride for someone in need, or if you could use a ride to church yourself, please contact Rev. Erik at 815.947.3812 or [uureverend@gmail.com](mailto:uureverend@gmail.com).

## CALENDAR – APRIL – MAY 2015

**Sunday, Apr 5<sup>th</sup> 10:30am** Service: Easter Sunday

Religious Ed: UU Invocation

**Monday, Apr 6<sup>th</sup> 4:30pm** Stockton Highway Cleanup

**Sunday, Apr 12<sup>th</sup> 10:30am** Sunday Service

Religious Ed: King Midas and Moral Tales

**Monday, Apr 13<sup>th</sup> 6:00pm** UU Stockton Board Meeting

**Wednesday, Apr 15<sup>th</sup> 1:00pm** Membership Team meeting

**Saturday, Apr 18<sup>th</sup> 9:00am** Food Bank Project, Rockford

**Sunday, Apr 19<sup>th</sup> 10:30am** Service: Sacred Stewardship

Religious Ed: Ying & Yang

**Friday, Apr 24<sup>th</sup> 10:00am** Senior Spelling Bee, Hanover, IL

**Sunday, Apr 26<sup>th</sup> 10:30am** Service: Earth Day

Religious Ed: Leaving our Footprints

**Tuesday, April 28<sup>th</sup> 1:00pm** Stockton Ministerial Association meeting at  
UU Church of Stockton

**Wednesday, April 29<sup>th</sup> 5:00pm** May Newsletter Deadline

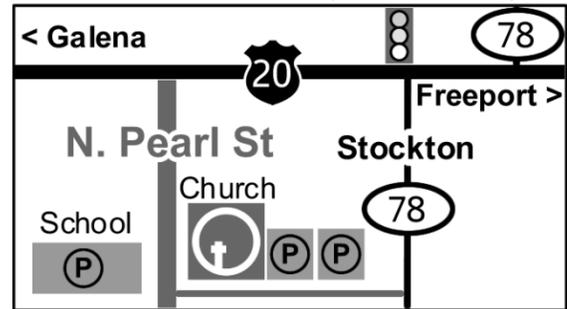
**Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup> 8:00am – 12:00pm** UU Stockton Plant Sale

**Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup> 5:30pm** Italian Cuisine Dinner

**Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup> 10:30am** Membership Sunday

## CHURCH INFORMATION

**219 N Pearl Street, Stockton, IL**



Wheel chair parking and elevator access is available  
from the rear parking lot.

**SUNDAY SERVICES & RELIGIOUS ED AT 10:30 AM**

**CHILD CARE EVERY SUNDAY AT 10:30 AM**

**REV. ERIK DAVID CARLSON, MINISTER**

**OFFICE HOURS: 11AM – 3PM MON, WED, FRI 815.947.3812**

**UUCHURCHOFSOCKTON.ORG**

**FACEBOOK.COM/UUCHURCHOFSOCKTON**

**UUREVEREND@GMAIL.COM**



**UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH**

**219 N PEARL ST, STOCKTON, IL 61085**