



# The Searchlight

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Columbia, Missouri

2615 Shepard Blvd., Columbia, MO 65201 • 573-442-5764 • [www.uuchurch.net](http://www.uuchurch.net) • Volume 53, Issue 6, February 2014

## Worship Services

February 2014

*Services begin at 10:30 a.m.*

**Sunday, Feb. 2**

**“Embodying Creativity”**

**Rev. Molly Housh Gordon  
and William Palmer**

Rev. Molly will be joined by worship associate and scholar of creativity Will Palmer as we explore creativity as a theological and practical concept... a generative force we can engage and embody in our own lives.

**Sunday, Feb. 9**

**“In the Beginning”**

**Rev. Molly Housh Gordon  
and DRE Lisa Fritsche**

Join us for a fun and fascinating multi-generational service as we explore creation stories from around the world, and as we share a covenant of care for creation with our Green Sanctuary Team.

**Sunday, Feb. 16**

**“The Art of Creation”**

**Lay-Led by Creative UUs**

Join our Creative UUs group for moving testimony about the importance of creative pursuits.

**Sunday, Feb. 23**

**“Creative Tension”**

**Rev. Molly Housh Gordon  
and Laird Schaub**

Together with group process facilitator Laird Schaub, we will explore the creative possibility that emerges most readily from chaos, tension, and even conflict. Join Laird after the service for a wonderful workshop on “Conflict: Flight, Fight, or Opportunity?”

## Our February Worship Theme:

# Creativity

*“In the beginning was creativity, and the creativity was with God, and the creativity was God. All things came into being through the mystery of creativity; apart from creativity nothing would have come into being.”*

– Theologian Gordon Kaufman

A world without creativity would be unchanging, static, devoid of life. Our lives without creativity would be colorless, half-asleep, unfulfilled.

Creativity is not just about beauty or art – it is about the movement of newness and change in the world – a movement that is inevitable, often beautiful, and sometimes terrible. Our lives are made up of possibilities for good or ill, brought to life by that unstoppable, universal force – creativity.

In this way, you are an agent of creativity whether or not you think of yourself as an artist. Every time you have an idea, you are a creator. Every time you engage in an act of compassion, you are a creator. Indeed, we co-create the world in partnership with all beings and with those forces greater than our selves. In doing so, we must be intentional and aware of what we are bringing into being. We strive to create goodness, wholeness, and love.

This month, let us get in touch with the creative spirit that moves around, among, and through us.

See you in church!

Rev. Molly

## Highlights of What's Inside

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# February Worship Theme: Creativity

## Wise Words

“Imagination does not become great until human beings, given the courage and the strength, use it to create.”

– Maria Montessori

“Everybody born comes from the Creator trailing wisps of glory. We come from the Creator with creativity. I think that each one of us is born with creativity.”

– Maya Angelou

“The creative is the place where no one else has ever been. You have to leave the city of your comfort and go into the wilderness of your intuition. What you’ll discover will be wonderful. What you’ll discover is yourself.”

– Alan Alda

“To practice any art, no matter how well or badly, is a way to make your soul grow. So do it.”

– Kurt Vonnegut

## Want to reflect further? Check out these resources...

*The Courage to Create* by Rollo May – A psychologist’s case for putting creativity at the center of human experience.

*In the Beginning... Creativity* by Gordon Kaufman – A work of theology describing the divine as Creativity, as seen in the beginnings of our universe, in the process of evolution, and in human expressions of creation.

*Zig Zag: The Surprising Path to Greater Creativity* by Keith Sawyer – A path to unlocking the creativity in each of us, supported by scientific findings.

*In the Beginning: Creation Stories from Around the World* by Virginia Hamilton – Appropriate for many ages, this collection of creation stories spans many cultures and traditions.

## Creative books for kids...

*The Everything Seed: A Story of Beginnings* by Carole Martignacco – A modern creation story combining a scientific origin story with a sense of wonder.

*Beautiful Oops* by Barney Saltzberg – A picture book emphasizing the role of mistakes and accidents in the creative process.

*Sparkle and Spin: A Book About Words* by Ann and Paul Rand – A picture book exploring the creative ways we can use words.



## YRUU February Schedule

YRUU (Young Religious Unitarian Universalists) is our youth ministry program for high-school aged youth. Jamila Batchelder (256-8688) is the adult advisor.

**Meetings are generally from noon to 2 p.m. in the lower level of the church.**

**Sunday, Feb. 2**

Theatre of the Oppressed Workshop  
with Shannon Palmer

**Sunday, Feb. 9**

City Walk with Rev. Meg Hegemann: A tour of Columbia from the perspective of the homeless

**Saturday, Feb. 15**

Valentine’s Day Dance and Lock-In

**Sunday, Feb. 23**

Akari Kudo will present on Japanese Culture

# Minister's Message

## “Creating Together”

Recently, as I gave the prayer during a service, a baby in our midst prayed with me – gurgling, cooing, shouting, crying. Was this an interruption, or was it a reminder of our very reason for praying – gratitude at the fullness of life? I hope we can come to understand it as the latter.

I've been wondering lately: How are we doing at co-creating our community with individuals of every age? Church is one of the only places in our lives beyond our families where we can spend quality time with those of generations other than our own. But we don't always live up to that possibility, finding it easier to be with those who share our life stage.

This month I hope we will challenge ourselves to come closer to that holy possibility – I invite you to intentionally cross age boundaries at every opportunity you see. Take the time to learn about, and from, someone who is older or younger than you. We can all benefit from the beautiful age diversity of our community!

It is only as a community of all ages that we will ever find ourselves able to co-create the world we dream about. It takes all of us, our whole lives long.

In faith,  
Rev. Molly

## Forum Schedule for February 2014

9 a.m. Sundays

*The UU Forum, an adult discussion group open to the public, meets on Sundays from 9 to 10 a.m. Conversation and light refreshments are offered along with the discussion. Childcare is offered at no charge in our nursery. If you have ideas for a program or would like to make a presentation at Forum, contact the coordinator, Bill Clark, at 474-4510.*

### **Sunday, Feb. 2**

“Seeking a Meaningful Retirement”  
presented by UU David Leuthold.

### **Sunday, Feb. 9**

“Working With People In Need” presented by  
Deborah Howenstein, City-County  
Family Health Center.

### **Sunday, Feb. 16**

“Journey to a Starry Universe, Part 2”  
presented by Jim Pastoret

### **Sunday, Feb. 23**

“The Affordable Care Act and the Marketplace”  
presented by UU Jeremy Milarsky of Primaris.

## Exploring Spirituality Group

9 a.m. Sundays

*On the last Sunday of every month, we will do a Socrates Circle as we have been doing them for the past several months. On other Sundays, we will have a predetermined topic and a presenter who will introduce and set up/facilitate discussion. Everyone is welcome. No fees or registration required. Free childcare is available in the nursery.*

## New to Unitarian Universalism?

Join us for **Discover UU** on Sunday, Feb. 9. **Discover UU** is a short (20-30 minute) session after church to answer any questions you might have. Whether you are new to Unitarian-Universalism, or coming from another UU church and wanting find where you fit here, we welcome you.

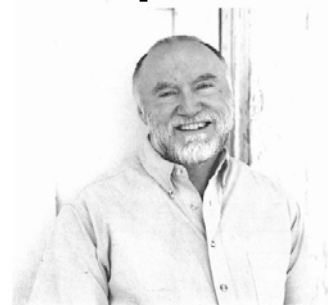
# Laird Schaub to Lead Feb. 23 Workshop on 'Conflict'

On Feb. 23, Laird Schaub will conduct a workshop, "Conflict: Flight, Fight or *Opportunity*?" Laird will share the regular Sunday Service with Rev. Molly and then continue the workshop following a light lunch after the coffee hour. The workshop will conclude by 4 p.m.

In addition to being an author and public speaker about various aspects of community, Laird is also a meeting junkie and has parlayed his passion for good process into a consulting business on group dynamics. He has worked with about 100 different cooperative groups, many of them multiple times.

His specialty is up-tempo meetings that engage the full range of human input, teaching groups to work creatively with conflict, and at the same time being ruthless about capturing as much product as possible. In 2003, he pioneered a two-year training in Integrative Facilitation that he has delivered eight times and is now marketing across the continent.

Laird has lived 39 years at Sandhill Farm, an income-sharing community in Missouri which he helped found. He is also the main administrator of the Fellowship for International Community, a network organization he helped create in 1987 that serves as a clearing house of



information about North American communities of all stripes.

Sponsored by the Peace Building Team, "Conflict: Flight, Fight, or *Opportunity*?" will be an excellent chance for us to better understand and engage each other in moments of reaction and disagreement. We hope you'll join us for an illuminating day of skill building and connection.

The registration form can be found on this page or in the Greeting Area at the Book Table. To attend, fill out a registration form and put it in the marked box on top of the Book Table cabinet or mail it to the church. Registration is necessary for determining amounts of food needed and child care.

There is no fee for the workshop, but a free-will collection will be taken to help cover costs.

## ***CONFLICT: FLIGHT, FIGHT OR OPPORTUNITY?*** ***A Workshop with Laird Schaub*** ***Sponsored by the UCC Peace Building Team***

**Sunday, Feb. 23, 2014 – 12:30 to 4 p.m. – Sanctuary**

### **REGISTRATION FORM**

Names(s) \_\_\_\_\_

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

Child care needed for: \_\_\_\_\_

Names and ages

(Bring lunch for your children, please)

Lunch choice: Vegetarian  Regular

(Please put this completed form in the box on top of the Book Table cabinet)

## Programs and Updates

### Something new for OWL

### **OWL Camp planned during spring break**

OWL (Our Whole Lives) covers relationships, sexuality and sexual expression for teens. The interactive course covers important topics such as communication in a relationship, how to break up, staying safe, gender identity, sexual orientation, pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases and tough issues such as abortion and rape.

**We are trying something new. OWL Camp will be offered in March 2014 for students in 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade.** We are taking OWL on the road to Camp Shannondale in Salem, Missouri. We will have heated space for sleeping and learning as well as beautiful grounds for letting off some energy.

We will hold a parent meeting from 6 to 9 p.m. March 9 at the church. Parents/guardians must participate in orientation meeting in order for youth to attend. Youth will meet at the church for an initial class from 2 to 6 p.m. March 16. We'll head to Camp Shannondale during spring break, leaving Wednesday, March 26 and returning Sunday, March 30. We'll have one final meeting to wrap up from 2 to 6 p.m. April 6.

Class size is limited to 20 students. First priority for enrollment is given to children of members and friends of the UU churches in Columbia and Jefferson City. We round out our classes with youth from United Church of Christ and then other community members when space permits.

The OWL base curriculum was co-written by the Unitarian Universalist Association and the United Church of Christ. Our teaching team continually updates the curriculum with current materials and topics relevant to our youth. We use popular media, current research, and news articles. Information about contraception and

safe sex is updated with assistance from the Boone County Health Department.

OWL is typically taught between January and March. Junior High OWL is offered in odd-numbered years to students in 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> grade. The next Junior High OWL class will be offered in January 2015. High School OWL is offered in even-numbered years.

For more information contact Larry Lile ([lawrencelile@gmail.com](mailto:lawrencelile@gmail.com)) or Christy Hutton ([christyahutton@gmail.com](mailto:christyahutton@gmail.com)).

**Need a Ride?** Do you need a ride to church on Sunday, or a church function at another time? Margaret Tyler is coordinating rides as part of the Caring Ministry. Please call the church office at 442-5764.

### **UUC Book Table**

In February, the Peace Building Team, is sponsoring a workshop, "Conflict: Fight, Flight or *Opportunity*?" with Laird Schaub (see page 4). The Book Table has many good books on communication, including dealing with conflict. Some titles are:

*Creating a Healthy Congregation*

*Creating True Peace*

*How to Raise Emotionally Healthy Kids*

*How to Talk so Kids will Listen*

*Peace in Our Time*

*Power of Communication*

*Getting to Yes*

*The Third Side*

These books are readable and full of really good suggestions for better communication and resolving conflict.

### **Book Discussion Group changes date, location**

In February the UU Book Discussion Group will meet at 5:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 21, the third Friday, at Jack's Gourmet Restaurant, 1903 Business Loop East.

We have reserved the room on the southeast corner of the restaurant and will order our dinner from the bar menu. If you have ideas for other appropriate restaurants, we are open to suggestions.

Bring a book you have read to discuss briefly. Call Pam at 445-0642 if you have questions.

The group formerly met on the second Friday each month at Upper Crust South.

### **21 going to Honduras for June 12-19 service trip**

About 21 people will be going to Honduras to build latrines from June 12 to 19, 2014, and preparations are well under way.

On Feb. 9, the Faith-to-Action collection will go towards the service trip.

The next planning meeting will take place on Feb. 15, so please join us if you would like to be involved.

For more information, contact Allie Gassmann of the Social Action Team at [alliegassmann@socket.net](mailto:alliegassmann@socket.net).

### **Our Web Presence**

<http://uuchurch.net>

**Complete information on church activities and online calendar.**



## Fun Events

# Spring Fling Gala and Art Auction set April 12

Dancing, food, entertainment and art – what could be better? Join us for a fabulous night at our second annual Gala and Art Auction at 7 p.m. Saturday, April 12 at the church.

*We need some help to make the evening a success:*

**Auction Items:** You know that painting, pottery or stained glass piece that is collecting dust? Would it look better in a larger living room or a perfectly sized nook? Let us help you find a loving home for your art. Donate those items to the Art Auction.

**Entertainment:** Are you excited to strut your stuff for an appreciative audience? If so, please sign up for the talent show at the gala. We are recruiting performers of all kinds (jugglers? storytellers? poets? accordion players?). Sign up soon – two hours fills up fast!

For more information or to sign up, contact Maria Oropallo or Ene Chippendale.



**SAVE THE DATE**  
**Spring Fling Gala and Art Auction**

Saturday, April 12th, 7 p.m.  
Unitarian Universalist Church of Columbia

# Spring

Join us for a light dinner, enjoy wine and beer, give your dancing partner a whirl, sing-a-long, and bid high and often at the art auction!

Relax while listening to great music, live performances, comedy, story telling, poetry slam, and juggling.  
(really? Juggling?)

Young families:  
contact us if you need childcare.  
We want you there!  
Couples \$50.00, single tickets \$35

Sponsored by  
UUCU - Gala Team

## YRUU Announces Valentine's Day Dance 6 to 8 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 15

For people of all ages – come dance the night away at this event for the whole family!

Refreshments will be served. Suggested donation is \$5 per person or \$20 per family.

Proceeds support the YRUU program and summer trip.

## Feed the food barrel

When you come to a potluck, remember to feed our food barrel.

Please bring non-perishable food item(s) and put them in the food barrel upstairs near the coat rack. When the barrel is full, the food is taken to the Central Pantry, which serves Columbia and Boone County.

# Reflections

## Jr. Youth Group Road Trip is on the Horizon!



Our Jr. Youth Group (6th-8th graders) have been invited to a Mini-Con at First Unitarian Church in St. Louis. We'll head there on Friday, Feb. 28, and return at about supper time on March 1. A service project will be planned for Saturday morning, and a City Museum visit that afternoon. This is a fantastic opportunity for our youth. Church events like this are rare, and it's a great chance for the kids of our church to see there really are other UU churches out there, and other kids and adults who think like they do! Chaperones are needed, and great fun is promised.

**February 2014**  
Lisa Fritsche,  
Director of Religious Education  
[dre@uuchurch.net](mailto:dre@uuchurch.net)  
573-442-5764  
**Office Hours:**  
Wed. 9-3 and Sun. 8-12

### Important Dates:

Feb. 2 - Cakes for the  
Congregation Service Sunday  
Feb. 7 - Jr. Youth Fort Building  
Feb. 9 - Mystery Friends Big  
Reveal  
Feb. 16 - Take Apart Machines  
3rd Sunday Lunch  
Feb. 28 & March 1 - Jr. Youth  
Mini-Con in St. Louis  
March 2 - Used Toy Clinic  
Service Sunday

## 3rd Sunday Lunch on Feb. 16 ... Deconstructing Machines

We'll share a simple lunch, then start taking apart broken machines to see just what is inside. Bring along a broken down machine if you have one! The gathering will run from 11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 16. Come on downstairs after church to join in the fun!



### Mystery Friends...The Big Reveal!

After church on Feb. 9, all Mystery Friends, young and old, should gather downstairs in the Centering Room to meet each other face to face! We'll have a snack, and play a get-to-know-you game. Can't wait!



### Are Your Hands the Helping Kind?

If so, please sign up to serve as a Sunday morning classroom aide! Four are needed each week, and it really is a fun job.

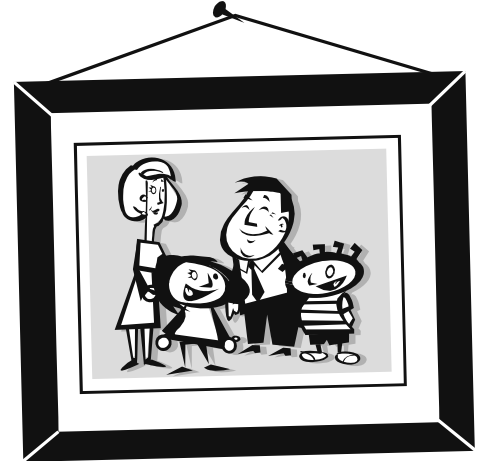
Go to <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0E44AFA72EA02-uusunday>.



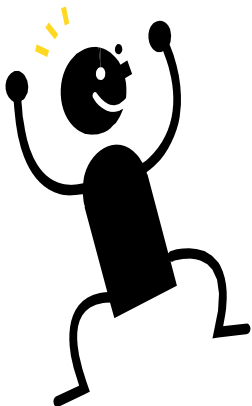
# Something to Think About in February

Reverend Molly's theme for February is "**Creativity.**" Here are some things you can do with your family this month....

1. Make a piece of art together as a family – a collage, a drawing, a poem, a dance, a silly song.
2. Share a crazy idea you've had or an invention that you've imagined.
3. Take turns making up a story.

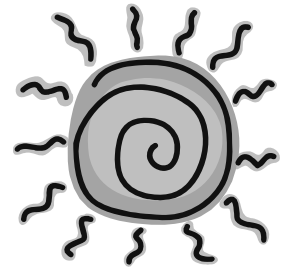


Hope to see you at Sunday School this month! The more often you come, the more connections you will make, and the more fun you will have! **IT'S A PROVEN FACT!**



## Summer Sunday School is in the Works!

Your Religious Education Team, with help from the Green Sanctuary Team, is putting together a Sunday school program to be conducted over the summer. Since our director, Lisa Fritsche, is not employed during the summer months, we will have to rely on volunteer power to make the program succeed.



Soon the R.E. families will be receiving a survey to determine in more detail the needs of our community over the summer. Please complete it so that we can get the show on the road!

## Many Thanks!

- To Alan Arnold, for loaning the Jr. Youth the movie "World War Z."
- To Bill Horner, for providing endless pizza to the hungry Jr. Youth Group.
- To the R.E. Team, for devoting much time and energy to making our program run.

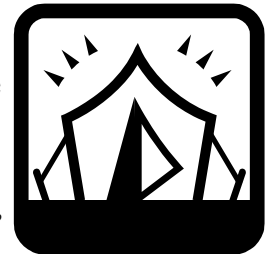


## Our Sanctuary Becomes a Jr. Youth Construction Site.

On Feb. 7, from 6 to 8 p.m., our Jr. Youth will be constructing a massive fort within our sanctuary.

They'll bring sheets, pillows, tee-pees, tunnels, bungee cords, and all sorts of fort-building supplies, demonstrating just how creative they can be.

Be sure to check their bulletin board downstairs for photos of all their adventures!





# Expanding Heart, Mind and Soul

## ***Radical welcome and creating space for more***

A new ministry team, the “Two Services Research Team,” consisting of Fran Reynolds, Tracey Milarsky, Kevin Fritsche, and myself, has been established. Our charge is to gather information regarding the desirability and feasibility of adding a second worship service.

Have you noticed that on nearly every Sunday morning our facilities including the Sanctuary, religious education classrooms, and parking lot are full or almost full? Well, it is true, and it is a great testament to the work we are doing. However, studies show that when churches feel crowded (>80% capacity), newcomers feel less welcome. The addition of another service would not only call us to extend our radical welcome to others in mid-Missouri, but with some creativity, a second service could appeal to people our current service/programming does not reach.

Fox Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship has

### **Exploring a Pagan presence at UCC**

I have heard from several people lately that they would be interested in a re-energized, re-invented, re-defined Pagan group within the church. So, just in time for Imbolc/Brigid’s Feast/Ground Hog Day, I am officially calling a meeting to discuss what kind of presence we would like to have in the church.

Join me in the Forum Room downstairs during the Feb. 2 potluck to talk about the whats, whens and whys of such a presence, and how (or if) you feel you could contribute to make such a group go and grow. Grab some food and a drink before you come. Children are welcome.

If you have questions or comments, contact me at 696-1784 or [oakshaven@socket.net](mailto:oakshaven@socket.net).

– Barbara Carter

### UU Life Writers

#### ***‘Writing as Spiritual Practice’ is current theme***

“Writing as Spiritual Practice” is the theme of the winter/spring UU Life Writers’ series of writing sessions. The group will dig into their treasure trove of life stories to write about and share.

One does not need to be a professional, published writer to enjoy the sessions. These are not “revise, edit and critique” sessions, but ones just for the pure joy of writing life stories ... and hearing others’ stories. Just bring pen, paper and tales.

The group will meet on the following dates in the Centering Room downstairs at the church from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.:

Feb. 1 and 15

March 1 and 15

April 5 and 19

May 3 and 17

May 31 and/or June 7.

not only successfully introduced a second service, but also a third service that takes place on Saturday afternoons. Our neighbors in St. Louis at Emerson and First Church, as well as many other UU congregations across the country, have also benefitted from having more than one worship opportunity each week.

In order to make this extension of our radical welcome a reality, we need your input and support. In the next few months we will be gathering and sharing information with you about how and when other UU congregations have successfully made this transition. There will be many opportunities for you to share your thoughts and concerns with us. Consider this just a “heads up.” We look forward to your participation and support in this important process.

Yours in spirit and service,  
Mary Denson

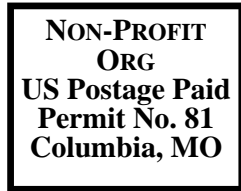
For more information contact Fran Reynolds at 443-4336 or [freynolds@centurytel.net](mailto:freynolds@centurytel.net).

### **Our Mission**

*In the spirit of courageous love, we forge a community of radical welcome and deep connection that moves us together to heal the world.*

# ***THE SEARCHLIGHT***

The Newsletter of:  
Unitarian Universalist Church  
2615 Shepard Blvd.  
Columbia, MO 65201-6132



**Return Service Requested**

## **Our Staff**

**Rev. Molly Housh Gordon, Minister**

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**Lisa Fritsche, Director of Youth Religious Education**

**Desiree Long, Music Director**

**Kathie Bergman, Administrator**

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or mail to Church Administrator.

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