



# THE COMMON LIGHT

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CAMPUS CENTER  
URBANA, ILLINOIS

SPRING 2011

## SEED BOMBS ARE HERE!



The Red Herring now hosts a seed bomb machine! A seed bomb is a small ball made from a mixture of clay, compost, and seeds.

Seed bombs are an increasingly popular means for combating the many forgotten grey spaces we encounter everyday- from sidewalk cracks to vacant lots and parking medians. They can be thrown anonymously into these derelict urban sites to temporarily reclaim and transform them into places worth looking at and caring for.

Using just the loose coins in your pocket, you can make a small but meaningful contribution to the beautification of your city! The Herring's seed bombs are crafted with native plants and are just 50 cents each.

Stop in today and grab a handful!!!

More info at: [thecommonstudio.com](http://thecommonstudio.com)

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## CMF RECEIVES GRANT FROM IDF

Channing Murray has received a \$4500 grant from Illinois Disciples Foundation (\$250/mo. for 18 months). It will start in July 2011. The Program-Related Investment is for the general support of the Channing Murray Foundation's mission. The IDF Board selected CMF to receive this continuing support because of our mutual history of working in the struggle for



**Illinois Disciples Foundation**  
*A Peace with Justice Campus Ministry*

peace with social justice. We thank the IDF for their generosity in support of our programming.

## DO YOU BELIEVE CHANNING-MURRAY COULD AND SHOULD DO MORE?

We can and will... with your support! If you like what we are doing, please help us increase our capacity by making a tax deductible donation! It is easy, go to:

[www.ChanningMurray.org/donate.html](http://www.ChanningMurray.org/donate.html) (We also still appreciate checks!)

*Thank You!*

Age considers;  
youth ventures.  
Rabindranath Tagore

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Monday through Thursday: 11-4  
or by appointment

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*We are a nonprofit religious foundation. Our Board of Governors meets monthly to oversee Channing-Murray programs and finances. The Foundation is supported by generous commitments of time and money from members and friends, the UU Church of Urbana, parking and room reservation fees, grants, and special fundraising activities.*

## UU YOUNG ADULT GROUP

### Tuesday 7pm Dinner 7:30 - 9:00pm meeting

Over the past few months the young adult group has strengthened its wonderful partnership with the United Church of Christ (UCC). Several UU young adults accompanied the UCC campus ministry group on their spring break service trip, where they helped transport and chaperone younger students while repairing homes for needy families in South Carolina.



Katie and two UCC folks who often come on Tuesdays during Spring Break UCC service trip to South Carolina.

Every Tuesday night, about a dozen young people from both traditions gather in Channing-Murray for food, fun, and fellowship. Each week, one young adult brings a topic for discussion along with relevant readings and questions to share while the Reverend Karen Bush helps facilitate conversation and leads opportunities for prayer and self-reflection.

This semester, we've reflected on our pasts, considered the labels that define us, explored the origins of compassion, interrogated the relationship between religion and sexuality, and challenged our notions of what makes us happy. We're a deep-thinking bunch!

In April, UU and UCC young adults will be competing in a dodge-ball tournament to benefit Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Champaign County: wish us luck or, better yet, come cheer us on! Also, on Saturday, April 16<sup>th</sup> from 9-am-1pm, the young adults will be helping pick-up litter, remove non-native plants, and install storm drain medallions at Scott Park in Champaign: please join us if you can! As always, we greatly appreciate the delicious food our supporters provide—if you'd like to volunteer to provide a meal for the young adults (or if you'd just like to get to know us over dinner one Tuesday) please e-mail [Outreach@channingmurray.org](mailto:Outreach@channingmurray.org)

## OPUS 2011- Annual Spiritual Retreat

### Continental Unitarian Universalist Young Adult Network

#### August 3rd to 7th - Camp Shaw-waw-naw-see, Manteno, IL

It's social action. It's spiritual renewal. It's in the summer. It's Opus! In the spirit of strengthening our young adult community--and having some serious UU fun - join us in for four days of camping and reconnecting as we celebrate the return of this amazing event!

We are an intentional community of seekers exploring liberal religion, social justice and diversity. We will be exploring rejuvenation of mind, body, faith, spirit, and earth. Workshops will involve artistic exercises, philosophical discussions, environmental action and spiritual reflection; but to make the most of our time together, we want to hear from you! CUUYAN is providing scholarships. More information is on facebook, search for OPUS.



OPUS 2010 at Camp Shaw-waw-naw-see, Manteno, IL

## SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS

Unitarian-Universalists are frequently in the forefront of movements promoting peace and social justice, human rights, and the preservation of the earth's environment. Our focus for this academic year has been to further explore the plight of those whose voices need to be heard. One evening remains in our Spring Film/Discussion series. We have presented films which illustrate community efforts to address needs which require addressing. Other films we have discussed this Spring include La Marcha, which highlights the successful Santa Fe Living Wage campaign, and Living in L.A., the story of three Latina immigrants working in Los Angeles sweatshops as they embark on a three-year odyssey to win basic labor protections from trendy clothing retailer.

Our co-sponsors for this semester's series are The Education Justice Project's Family and Community Engagement program (FACE), The Social Action Committee of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Urbana-Champaign, Peace and Service Committee of the Urbana-Champaign Friends Meeting and McKinley Presbyterian Church and Foundation.

All films are free and open to the public. Snacks and discussion follow each screening. For more info, please contact: Pat Nolan, Social Justice Committee Chair at [Justice@ChanningMurray.org](mailto:Justice@ChanningMurray.org)

**Wednesday, April 20 7PM**

### **WAR ON THE FAMILY: Mothers in Prison and the Children They Leave Behind**

A few appalling statistics: Illinois' rate of re-uniting an incarcerated mother and her children after prison is only 28%. In Illinois, 73% of the women's prison population are women of color. While over 80% of women in the Illinois Department of Corrections need drug treatment, it is available to only 16% of them.

This film puts a human face over the statistics: haunting first person narratives, coupled with analysis from passionate advocates, paint a devastatingly clear picture of the effects imprisonment has not only on the women who are locked away, but also on the children who have been left behind.



## INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATION



In Celebration of International Women's Day, March 8, Channing-Murray Co-executive director Claire Szoke was one of 30 women from the Champaign-Urbana community recognized for their contributions to women's empowerment and social justice issues. It gave Claire an opportunity to highlight the work Channing Murray Foundation has done over the years to foster these goals. Her bio stated: "Active in the University YMCA, Claire is co-executive director of Channing Murray Foundation, a Unitarian Universalist Campus Center whose motto is "radically inclusive, justice centered, spiritually alive." Since the 1950's Channing Murray has sponsored and partnered with other progressive groups in activities promoting anti-war efforts, conflict resolution, civil and human rights, immigration reform, religious tolerance, intercultural understanding, women's empowerment, and LGBT concerns." The event was hosted by the Women's Resource Center.

## IMMIGRATION AS A MORAL ISSUE

On Sunday, May 1, Ricardo Diaz, Claire Szoke, and Pat Nolan have been invited by the Abraham Lincoln Unitarian Universalist Church of Springfield, IL. to speak on Immigration as a Moral Issue for the congregations' Sunday service. The topic is the UU Congregational Study/Action Issue for 2010-2014. As migration of people - driven by economic, social, political and environmental factors - continues to take place around the world, the US has needs to give this historical phenomenon the attention it deserves. Millions are currently in transit, in refugee camps, in detention centers, or living and working in places without full legal status and without access to social services or protection of civil rights. Given that the dignity of all the world's peoples is core to UU principles and values and the justice-oriented nature of UU faith, UUs are called to be leaders in the struggle for immigrant and refugee rights, and to view immigration not only as a legal issue but also as a moral issue.

Channing Murray and the Unitarian Universalist Church of Urbana-Champaign have a long history of actively participating with other groups – secular and religious – in working for immigration rights and related human rights issues. The past three years, several of our CMF social justice forums (co-sponsored by the Social Action Committee of the UUCUC) have focused on different aspects of immigration reform. Ricardo was actively involved in immigration reform issues in Philadelphia before he and his family moved to Urbana, and is one of the prime movers behind establishing a coalition of Champaign-Urbana groups to work on specific immigration rights concerns locally.

You are invited to the  
**UNITARIAN  
 UNIVERSALIST  
 CHURCH OF  
 URBANA**

309 W Green, Urbana  
 217.384.8862

**SUNDAY SERVICES  
 9:30AM & 11:15AM**

Single 10am Summer Service  
 May 29 to Sept 4, 2011

We are a welcoming  
 congregation. Please join  
 us for any of our programs.

For more details,  
 please visit our web site.

**UUCUC.ORG**

**GENERAL  
 ASSEMBLY  
 2011** *June 22-26*  
**Charlotte, NC**

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST  
 ASSOCIATION OF CONGREGATIONS

**50<sup>TH</sup>**  
  
 ANNIVERSARY  
 1961-2011



**Church of  
 the Younger  
 Fellowship**

CYF is a vibrant online spiritual  
 community of young adults,  
 rooted in UU principles and  
 values [www.uucyf.org](http://www.uucyf.org)

**JAPAN DISASTER RELIEF**

Following the devastating earthquake and resulting tsunamis in Japan, the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) and the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) established the [UUA/UUSC Japan Relief Fund](http://uua.org/japanrelief). UUA President Peter Morales issued a statement in which he said, "We at the UUA, will hold the country of Japan in our hearts, as we work to support them in their time of great need." Read his full statement at [uua.org](http://uua.org)



Our partners, including Rissho Kosei-kai, Tsubaki Grand Shrine, the Konko Church of Izuo, the Tokyo Dojin Church, and the Japan Chapter of the International Association for Religious Freedom, are all in discernment about the specific efforts they will be taking to support recovery work, and the UUA and the UUSC will walk with them in the directions that are ultimately chosen. Please join with Unitarian Universalists (UUs) throughout the United States by contributing to the [UUA/UUSC Japan Relief Fund](http://uua.org/japanrelief).

In addition, Japan House and FAA have established a fund to aid the victims of the recent disaster in Japan. All funds collected will be for disaster relief. For more information or to make an online donation, check out <http://faa.illinois.edu/JapanRelief>. Checks, payable to UIF IL-Japan Disaster Relief, can also be sent to Japan House, 2000 S. Lincoln Ave, Urbana 61802.

**THE EDGE OF DREAMING**

At 7:00 pm on April 30, "The Edge of Dreaming", an 80 minute documentary film will be shown in the chapel at CMF. It is produced and filmed by Amy Hardie, a film maker and scientist from Scotland. This film is filled with beautiful images of nature, conversations, and dreams. Snacks from the Red Herring Vegetarian Restaurant will be available during and after, and there will be a discussion after the film, facilitated by Pam Blosser, the director of the School of Metaphysics. For more information or questions about the film or the school, please contact Ms. Blosser at 344-2270.

**RED HERRING FICTION WORKSHOP**

Founded in 1980, the Red Herring Fiction Workshop has been a forum for writers to critique one another's work in fiction, creative non-fiction, and play/screen-writing. The workshop is community-based and open to the public. In recent years, workshop members

have given a public reading in conjunction with the annual Boneyard Arts Festival.

Whether from Champaign-Urbana or beyond, beginner or been-around, seeking publication or just plain fun, all writers are welcome. Contact Elaine Palencia at 217.356.3893 for details.

**Fiction Writers**  
 Tuesdays at 7:30pm



**RED HERRING POETRY WORKSHOP**

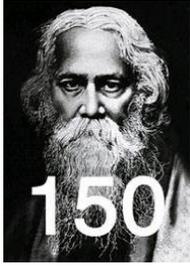
Channing-Murray's Red Herring Poetry Workshop—one of our longest running programs—is a poetry roundtable where poets can read and discuss their work. Bring ten copies of your poem to read and

critique. All styles and types of poetry are welcome. Poetry readings open to the public are held the second Monday of every month.

Contact Ruth Walker at 217-328-1530.

**Red Herring Poets**  
 Mondays at 7:30pm





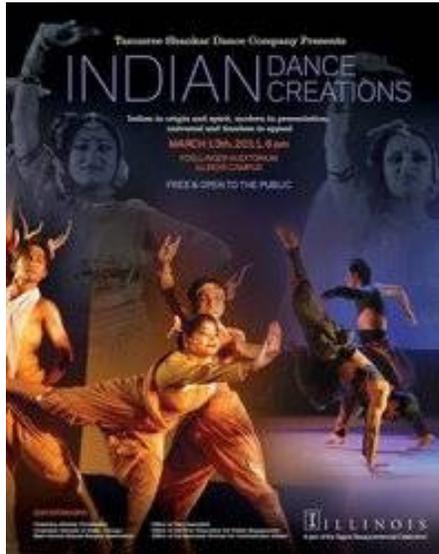
## TAGORE SESQUICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

The 150th anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore's birth is being celebrated all over the world in 2011. In Urbana, Channing Murray Foundation is collaborating with the University of Illinois and the East Central Illinois Bengali Association to organize a year-long celebration. Four key events have been planned to commemorate the occasion:

**A. Dance Recital** by Tanushree Shankar et al. featuring varied aspects of Tagore's music. Shankar's group performed on Sunday March 13, at the Foellinger Auditorium, to an enraptured audience. The recital showcased the unique fusion dance technique pioneered by Uday Shankar, and featured several compositions based on Tagore's poems and songs.

**B. Exhibition of original documents** at the U of I Main Library related to Tagore's visit to Urbana and select library holdings of rare translations of Tagore's works.

**C. Day-long symposium** celebrating the life and legacy of Tagore. The April 15 Symposium was held at Channing Murray Foundation and featured an opening statement by the Chancellor of the University of Illinois, and lectures by Professor Brian Hatcher (Tufts University), Rajeshwari Panhdaripande (Illinois), Professor Blair Kling (Illinois) and Rajmohan Gandhi (Illinois).



## RHYTHM & RAAG

Rhythm and Raag, a program of Channing Murray Foundation, will again be teaching Indian classical music and dance in the Champaign Public Schools starting in late February.

Our Teachers:

Subrata: tabla - Nirmalya: vocal

Indrajit: sitar

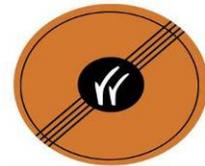
Raman: Odissi dance



### Spring Classes at Channing-Murray & other locations.

We will be offering music and dance classes- sitar, tabla, vocal, Odissi Dance from the end of February until May 15th.

Please contact Sue Purkayastha at 217 398-6742 or see our facebook page for details: [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com)



RHYTHM & RAAG



**D. Extended Annual Tagore Festival**, featuring a keynote speech, discussion panels, screening of films on Tagore, and a cultural program showcasing Tagore's work.

The Annual Tagore Festival will be held this year on Saturday September 24, and there also is the possibility of additional events on September 23.

## POST498A: SHADES OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE



On Thursday, April 14th, a screening of a new documentary film on domestic violence, modernity, and globalization was part of the series of events celebrating International Week at Illinois. The film, entitled **Post498A: Shades of Domestic Violence**, was written, narrated, produced, and co-directed by Rini Bhattacharya Mehta. The film, shot entirely in Kolkata, India, in Bengali and English with English subtitles, explores the complex dynamics between domestic violence, the law, and their representation in the post-global world, specifically in India. Rini Bhattacharya Mehta is an instructor in comparative and world literature at UIUC and is an active member of the Tagore Committee at Channing Murray.

## CLASS SCHEDULES

### West African Dance

Sundays: 6-7:30pm



drop-ins welcome  
hault2@uiuc.edu

### Five Animals Kung Fu

M, W & F: 5-6:30 pm



www.fiveanimalsclf.com

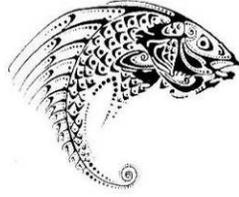
### Tango

Mondays: 9-10 pm

Thursdays: 7:30-10 pm



Find more info and  
pre-register at  
<http://cu-tango.com>



## WHY DOES CMF SPONSOR THE RED HERRING COFFEE HOUSE?

Channing Murray sponsors the RHCH because it is a program that puts into practice Unitarian Universalist principles, it is fun, and it provides a reason to gather in community to share ideas with one another. Over the past 43 years it has evolved... in 1967 it was energized by social activists addressing the issues of the day including the anti Vietnam War movement, civil rights and antiestablishmentarianism.

Unitarian Universalist principles include a strong belief in the right to self expression, the worth and dignity of every individual and the process of democracy to change our priorities. Over the years, the RHCH has evolved and included specialized special programs, like the Gay Illini, Womyns Coffee House and most recently Coffee Party USA nights.

The Red Herring Coffee House strives to put in practice all seven principles which Unitarian Universalist congregations affirm and promote:

- The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
- Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;
- Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth;
- A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
- The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process;
- The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;
- Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

How we do this evolves, however some common objectives include:

- ★ Being available consistently with a welcoming atmosphere that include friendly folks offering coffee/tea and other refreshments.
- ★ Encouraging performers/speakers/artist to express themselves with a preference for original content, however respecting the value of selecting and performing others work as part of the process of finding one's own voice.
- ★ Providing and operating mikes/amps/speakers so performers can be heard and lights so they can be seen.
- ★ Supporting performer and the audience discussion of ideas presented. Leaving space for discussion between everyone or in small groups.
- ★ Listening to what people say, encouraging them to express their ideas and feelings, engaging in conversation on topics of interest to them and being responsive to their questions about Channing-Murray and Unitarian Universalism.
- ★ Doing benefit shows to raise money for and awareness of social justice issues and/or to support CMF programs, including the RHCH.
- ★ We strive to create a sharing/welcoming/loving community, where all are welcome of any age, religion, race, income, style, gender, or sexual preference.



In summary, our mission is to be:

**Radically Inclusive – Spiritually Alive – Justice Centered**

**The Red Herring Coffee House is currently open on Thursdays 8pm to 10pm for OPEN STAGE and Friday/Saturday from 8pm to Midnight.**

## SUNDAY SERVICES AT CHANNING-MURRAY

Unitarian Universalists value the intrinsic worth of every person: We welcome people from all religious, spiritual, philosophical, ethnic, and cultural backgrounds who seek to come together in a free search for meaning in their lives. Our lay-led Unitarian-Universalist Sunday Services (in circle worship style) are informal, participatory, and non-judgmental. They allow opportunities for centering thoughts, music, meditation, readings, spiritual exploration and reflection. Please stay to enjoy refreshments and conversation following the service.



### Sunday, April 10 - Religion is Relational

What role do rituals play in our lives? Avoiding the science vs. religion debate, evolutionary psychologist Matt J. Rosano contends that religion is what made us human – a way for humans to relate to each other and the world around them. It started back in prehistoric times when certain groups of humans developed social rituals such as song and dance. These essentially religious rituals gave the humans who practiced them a competitive advantage since they tended to be far more cohesive than nonreligious groups. Claire Szoke will facilitate a discussion of what rituals, religious or secular, are meaningful to us today.

### Sunday, April 17 - Poetry of Spring

Calling all the poets – and lovers of poetry - in our midst! Come share your favorite Spring or Earth Day poem. We will share in this time together, appreciative of the gift of language and community. John Coppess will facilitate this participatory service.

## CMF HOME TO A VARIETY OF ACTIVITIES

On any given night, you never know what you'll find behind CMF's doors, but you can bet that something will be going on. Channing Murray has always been a popular campus spot, and this semester is no exception. In addition to the weekly classes (African Dance, Kung Fu, Tango, Poetry, and Fiction Writers), CMF is also a popular spot for theatre groups (New Revels Players and What You Will Shakespeare) and sketch comedy groups (Potted Meat and The Titanic Players). This semester CMF will also be home to a senior music recital and a senior thesis art exhibition. Over Spring Break, an African Drumming Workshop filled the Chapel (and Building!) with rhythm, while the Illini Swing Society has been using the chapel for their late night swing dances. The weekend Red Herring Coffeehouse brings many local (and some not so local) musical performances to the Foundation, and ASHA for Education and the weekly Krishna Dinners provide delicious food you can feel good about eating. Add in a scheduled wedding, baby shower, and a 1st birthday party, and the variety of activities at Channing Murray continues! If you're interested in scheduling an activity at CMF, please contact the office at 217-344-1176 or [office@channingmurray.org](mailto:office@channingmurray.org).

## NOLA RELIEF BENEFIT DINNER A SUCCESS



The Red Herring Vegetarian Restaurant was the venue for a \$5 all-you-can eat vegetarian red beans and rice dinner on March 14. Some \$300 was raised for NOLA Relief. Thanks to Charlie Harris for organizing the benefit and cooking the meal and to the two local bands (the Parkland Early Jazz Ensemble, Matt and Tom Turino, and Sam Payne) who provided the music.

NOLA Relief, started in August 2006, is an organization dedicated to helping rebuild New Orleans after the devastation of Hurricane Katrina. With the support received from fundraisers and donations NOLA Relief pays for volunteers to travel to New Orleans and participate in the rebuilding efforts. NOLA Relief also pays for housing and food for volunteers. Help support their mission of rebuilding New Orleans by making volunteer opportunities available.

For more information regarding events at Channing-Murray, email [office@channingmurray.org](mailto:office@channingmurray.org) or check our online calendar at [www.channingmurray.org/calendar.html](http://www.channingmurray.org/calendar.html)

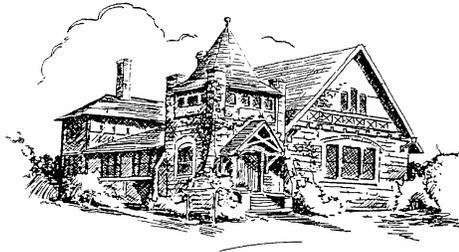
To receive regular reminders, contact our office to subscribe to the Weekly Common Light email.

## KRISHNA KARMA-FREE DINNERS

The popular Krishna dinners started up again March 28! Come to the Red Herring on **Mondays 5:30-7:30pm** during the U of I Fall and Spring Semesters for a \$5 all-you-can-eat vegetarian feast.

The Urbana Krishnas have been providing this meal to the community for over two decades. Volunteers are always welcome. For more information and for a complete menu, email [krishna-centeruiuc@hotmail.com](mailto:krishna-centeruiuc@hotmail.com).

SPRING 2011



CHANNING-MURRAY  
FOUNDATION  
1209 West Oregon St  
Urbana, Illinois 61801

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

*THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST  
CAMPUS CENTER AT THE UNIVERSITY  
OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA CHAMPAIGN*



office@channingmurray.org  
www.channingmurray.org  
www.theredherring.org

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## CHANNING-MURRAY ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING & SPRING POTLUCK - SUNDAY MAY 1<sup>ST</sup>

Come at 5:30 for a festive spring potluck dinner followed by the meeting at 6:30pm. This event is open to all friends and members of Channing-Murray and their families.

The agenda will be:

- Minutes for the 2010 Annual Meeting
- Highlights of the 2010/2011 Year
- Treasurer's Report  
(including discussion and approval of the 2011 budget)
- Nominating Committee Report
- Election of Board Members.

To vote at the meeting, you must be a member of Channing-Murray Foundation. All persons who are in sympathy with the purposes and programs of the Foundation may become individual members by signing the membership roll of the Foundation and making a financial contribution. To become a member, stop by Channing-Murray and speak to Claire Szoke, Doug Jones, or Anna Webb.

## Constructs

Creating Lasting Contributions  
Central Midwest District Young Adult Spring Conference  
May 21-23 at the

Unitarian Universalist Church of Stockton, IL.

Come and build up your community, your creativity and your spirit with us. We'll be focusing on how we can build up positive interpersonal relationships, build on our creative energies and elevate the conversations in our lives. Bring your sleeping bags, pillows, the snacks you love and the condiments you can't live without.

We'll be having a Coffee House Saturday evening, and Stockton has a few pianos laying about, so no need to haul your Steinway. But bring your sheet music, your violin, your juggling gear, your hula hoops and your best jokes. We are especially thrilled to have this Spring's Con in Stockton, as the church has recently called our own Erik Carlson as minister.

This event is open to individuals ages 18-35. Registration fees are on a rolling scale from \$35-80. Super broke? Apply for a scholarship by May 20 at: cmwd-uuyan.org



**Look for The Red Herring at the Urbana Farmer's Market!**  
That's right... starting May 7th... Look for our booth to get **RH Coffee & T-Shirts,**  
**Fresh Vegan Baked Goodies and Packaged Red Herring Favorites.**