

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Elgin

UNICHORD



January, 2010

TIME-SENSITIVE NEWS

Several events are coming up quickly. Don't miss:

- January 2, when the qUUilters gather to start creating designs for the Project Linus blankets. Drop-ins are welcome; see page 4.
- The Sunday morning worship service on January 3 will present the UUCE 2009 "Year in Review."
- On January 4 at 7 p.m., the Strategic Planning Meeting will be held in the Fellowship Hall.

SPECIAL EVENTS TO LOOK FORWARD TO:

The UUCE Service Auction will be February 27, 2010.

Winter WomanSpirit 2010 will be hosted by the First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee February 26-28. The theme is "Nurturing Ourselves -- Sustaining the World." Visit www.womenandreligion.org for complete information.

UUA ♥ S SOCIAL JUSTICE

The Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) helped make history in the nation's capital on December 15, 2009. The Standing on the Side of Love (SSL) campaign worked hard to develop an interfaith coalition which promoted the legalization of marriage for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) citizens. Social justice prevailed on this date when, by

an 11-2 margin, the Council of the District of Columbia voted to legalize said marriage. Senior Minister of All Souls Church Unitarian in Washington, D.C., said, "It was thrilling to be present in the Council chambers as history was being made. When the vote was announced, people shouted and wept for joy. Friends, this is what it feels like to stand on the side of love."





I found the following written by David Blanchard in a collection of meditations written by UU ministers entitled “Listening for Our Song”:

No one lives in Syracuse, New York, for long without finding some way to make

peace with winter. Snow is what we manufacture the most around here. It mixes with falling leaves early in November and dukes it out with the daffodils in April. I know what to expect, yet I am never ready.

When I awoke to 6 inches the other day, I pattered about in search of gloves and a hat and a scraper for the car before starting out to an early appointment. I was lost in thought about possible delays to the flight I was scheduled to take, the need for new tires, the urgency to get the storm windows in place, the leaves raked, and the garden mulched. All the standard winter worries. Then like a gong awakening me, a snow ball splashed against metal. I thought some kids had chosen my car as a handy target, but I soon saw that it was the stop sign that had been hit. I looked around to see the culprit. There he was, grinning broadly, rubbing his hands together in pride over his bull’s-eye. A fellow about 80 years old. He waved. I waved. He smiled. I smiled.

I had a feeling he knew something about winter that I could stand to learn. By the time my appointment was over, most of the snow had melted. I had missed my chance to welcome winter. With a little practice, I will have learned something by April.

--Dan

PAINTING DONATION

Roberta Nauman has donated a painting titled “Morning Has Broken” by artist Gretchen Klug in memory of her husband, and long-time member of the UUCE, Jim Burnidge. The Aesthetics Team has accepted it into our permanent collection. The painting is currently hanging in the minister’s office until suitable location is found.

3 UUCE: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

For last year’s words belong to last year’s language
And next year’s words await another voice.
And to make an end is to make a beginning.

~T.S. Eliot

Service led by Paul Anderson.

10 WHAT WOULD UU DO?

A look at some current events and what our faith calls us to do in the face of them. Service led by the Rev. Dan Brosier.

17 “LIFE IS A VERB”

Patti Digh’s stepfather was diagnosed with lung cancer in 2003 and died just 37 days later. As a result, she has asked herself this question every morning for the past six years: “What would I be doing today if I only had 37 days to live?” It is a question that has changed her life—and might change yours too. She’ll share her learning, her stories, and her insights with us. Service led by the Rev. Dan Brosier.

24 THIS I BELIEVE

In this annual service, three members of our congregation will share a bit about their spiritual journeys and belief systems. Come join us as we build community through sharing our lives. Service led by Elise C. Wall.

31 IN THE WAKE OF THE ERA

As a man I often assume that women enjoy the same rights and privileges as men—that even though the Equal Rights Amendment was defeated those many years ago, equality has still been realized. Is this true or is it a classic case of male privilege? Service led by the Rev. Dan Brosier.

All services begin at 10:45

January, 2010

JANUARY CALENDAR

WORSHIP SERVICES

Sundays at 10:45

*Note: Special Guest Speaker
Patti Digh on January 17*

ADULT SPIRITUALITY

Sundays at 9:00 in rooms 301
and 302

BOARD MEETING

January 20 at 7:00
in the Fellowship Hall

BOOK GROUP January 18,
at 12:30 (off-site)

BUDDHIST GROUP

Thursdays at 6:30
in rooms 301 and
302

COMMITTEE ON THE MINISTRY

January 6 at 7:00

COVENANT GROUP

January 12 and 26 at 7:00 (offsite)

EXECUTIVE TEAM MEETING

January 6 and 20 at 10:00



FAMILY FRIDAY

January 15 at 5:30 in the
Fellowship Hall

FINANCE COMMITTEE

January 13 at 7:00

GREEN SANCTUARY

January 17 at 12:30 in room 301

LEADERSHIP RETREAT:

VITAL CONNECTIONS

January 23 at 8:00

How do we connect with others within our community? What verbal and non-verbal cues do we give visitors who walk through our doors? What can we individually do to create the welcoming community we found at UUCE for others? All are invited to a morning workshop on January 23 to look at the successful ways we do so, and to learn how we can do better. Sponsored by the Committee on the Ministry and the Growth and Vitality Team.

PARENTING

BOOK CIRCLE

Sundays at 9:15 in room 201

QUUILTERS /

PROJECT LINUS

January 2, 9:30-12, room 302

R.E. COUNCIL

January 27 at 7:00
in the Fellowship Hall

SOCIAL JUSTICE MEETING

January 27 at 7:00

STRATEGIC PLANNING MEETING

January 4 and 18 at 7:00

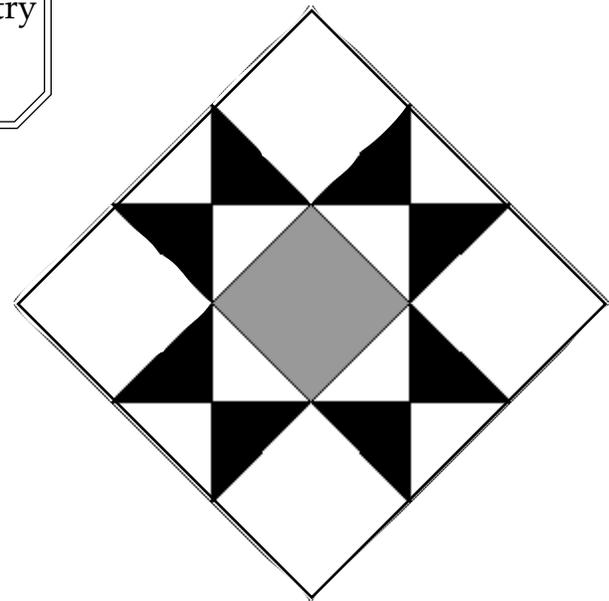
UNICHORD DEADLINE
January 24

WESTERN CRESCENT MINISTERS'

MEETING January 20 at
11:30

WORSHIP

COMMITTEE January 3
at 9:15



FROM THE DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



While we are starting a new calendar year, there are still seven weeks left in the fall semester for the young people's religious education classes.

The 6th-8th grade class will finish field testing a new curriculum through the Unitarian Universalist Association called "Riddle and Mystery". The group has been exploring some of life's big questions, such as "What happens after we die?" and "Is there a God?" More recently, they explored our Principles--in particular, the Seventh Principle which says, "We believe in caring for our planet earth, the home we share with all living things."

The youth had to think about the different types of groups and communities they were connected to, such as school, family, church, town, state, country, sports teams, etc. They then drew circles on a large piece of butcher paper representing each one. Each youth then drew lines to connect to each other's circles, which showed them just how much they are all connected. They could then imagine this on a larger scale--not only for people, but for animals too.

For fun, they next made t-shirt designs, which they drew onto t-shirts to wear! Some weeks, the group has been videotaping segments of their

own newscast, WCUU- Wisdom Community of Unitarian Universalists. My hope is that we can put all of their newscasts onto a DVD to show during fellowship hour.

In Adult Spirituality, there will be two new programs starting this month. On January 3, "The Transcendentalist Movement" facilitated by Jack Berry, will begin in room 302. The class will view segments of a DVD narrated by Dr. Ashton Nichols about the lives of the early New England idealists and activists, such as Emerson, Thoreau, the Alcotts, and Margaret Fuller, who

influenced today's Unitarian Universalism. Following the DVD, there will be interactive discussions about what we each bring to find a meaningful spirituality in today's contemporary world. On January 10, "Life Is A Verb: 37 Days to Wake Up, Be Mindful, and Live Intentionally" will begin at 9 am in Room 301, and will be facilitated by Beth Cooper-Zobott and Kathy Hislip. This class is based on the award-winning blog (37days.com) of Patricia Digh, who has

designed diversity and leadership initiatives and training for clients around the world over the past 20 years. Ms. Digh will also be our guest speaker for the worship service on January 17.

Come join us at either of these new programs!

In Faith,
Kathy



Alexis Pullman and Delaney Underwood wearing the t-shirts they decorated in 6-8 class on 12/6/09. Teacher (not shown): Todd Underwood.

PROJECT LINUS WILL KEEP YOU IN STITCHES

Drop-ins are welcome on January 2 from 9:30-12 in room 302. Spend a few minutes or stay the whole time as we put together small quilts for children who are seriously ill, traumatized, or otherwise in need of love, warmth and comfort.

At this point in the Project we are starting to assemble the patches we have cut. No experience is necessary! These little blankets are very easy to make. Contact [Donna Askins](#). The qUUILters gather on the first Saturday of each month during the church year.

January 2010

SUMMARY OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES

November 18, 2009

Present: Kevin Sweeney, Kevin Webster, Shari Smagatz, Dennis Schwank, Andrea Schmidlin, Andrea Budasi and representing the Executive Team, Mila Brinker

The Board suggested that carpet cleaning expense should be moved from Routine Maintenance to the Major Maintenance line item.

Expenses will be moved into months when they are actually paid so that percentages on reports are more meaningful.

The Finance committee was directed to prepare a policy on how to close an Earmarked fund. Policies need to be developed to show money in an earmarked fund is tracked. The Financial Reporting Task Force was directed to look at this as part of the financial reporting.

A recommendation was made to Revise ET Policy IIE, "Compensation and Benefits."

Strategic Plan Task Force members were approved as follows: Andrea Schmidlin, Task

Force Chair, Kevin Sweeney, Dan Brosier, Anne Ward, Ann Kremer, Deb Caruso, Melissa Owen, Christine Conway, and Kathy Hislip.

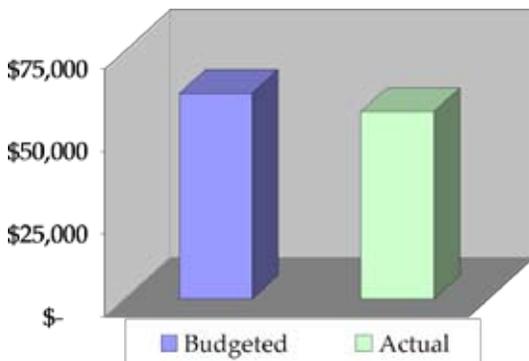
General Board Policy Task Force members are Kevin Webster, Kevin Sweeney, Beth Cooper-Zobott and Shari Smagatz. Work will proceed on reconciling General Board policies to our new policy governance framework.

The Financial Reporting Task Force reviewed process for creating reports. The Board should start the process to find a finance coordinator.

An Employee Compensation Task Force was created to address recommendations for next year. Dennis Schwank, Shari Smagatz, and Beth Cooper-Zobott will serve.

Nominating Committee Policy is being developed by Kevin Webster for review based on a previous version by Dan Brosier.

The Alcohol Use Policy is being finalized and should be ready by the December meeting.



MEMBER PLEDGES for the 2009-10 Fiscal Year as of the end of November, 2009:

Budgeted: \$62,202 Actual: \$56,749

The 2009-10 Fiscal Year 12-month budget requires \$149,285 income from pledges. Five months' worth of this figure (July-November) = \$62,202. We have received \$56,749 in member pledges. Please contact [Shari Smagatz](#), Treasurer, if you have any questions.

THIS MONTH IN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

	Preschool	K-2nd	3rd-5th	6th-8th	High School
Jan. 3	The Wonder of Snow	Midwinter Overnight	Comets & Constellations	Oh My Soul	Self-Hypnosis with Diana Jyoti
Jan. 10	Feeling Sad	Helping Others	Jell-O	Life As Mystery	Mandalas with Kathy Hislip
Jan. 17	Weddings and Unions	A Starr and a Bell	Treasure Maps	What To Believe	Attend the worship service
Jan. 24	Babies	My Church & How It Used To Be	P. T. Barnum	UU Me	Our UU Principles
Jan. 31	Intersession Starts				Wiccan Imbolg Ritual

BODY CARE TOXINS TO AVOID

From Green America

Many of the body care products we use on a daily basis--from make-up and hair care products to soap and baby wipes--contain known or probable carcinogens, hormone disrupters, and other potentially harmful substances. When you shop for body and hair care products, avoid the following problematic ingredients.

1. Mercury - also avoid the mercury preservative "thimerosal"
2. Lead - listed as "lead acetate"
3. Nanoparticles
4. Placenta
5. Hydroquinone skin lightener
6. Phthalates
7. Petroleum by-products
ex. 1,4-dioxane
8. Fragrance

NEW U

The New U program is a two-session workshop designed to give people new to Unitarian Universalism some basic information about the faith in general and this church in particular. The program is facilitated by the Chair of the Membership Committee, Kathy Hislip, and the minister, Dan Brosier. The next session will begin on Sunday January 10 at 12:30 following the service. The second session will be the following Sunday at the same time. All interested in learning a bit more about UUism are encouraged to attend. A light snack will be provided. If you are interested please sign up on the designated clipboard on the visitors' table on the first floor. If you would like childcare please indicate so on the sign-up sheet by January 5. If you have any questions call Dan Brosier at the church.

January, 2010

DID YOU KNOW?

Our Village Banking program raised over \$5,000 in the month of November. This is enough to start a new bank.



DONATIONS DWINDLE

After the holidays, the donations to the All People's Inter-Faith Pantry decrease, but the number of people being served continues to increase. The Pantry needs all the old standbys, such as cereal, jelly and peanut butter along with one pound packages of rice, pancake mixes and syrup. Try to bring your donations on our Pantry Sunday, January 3.



SHARE THE PLATE

During each Sunday service we pass the baskets to collect an offering. Half the non-pledged cash donations collected are given to a charitable organization. In the month of January this charitable organization is the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee. If you wish to write a check to support the program make it out to the UUCE and write "Share the Plate" on the memo line.

THE ART OF RACING IN THE RAIN

A NOVEL

GARTH STEIN



BOOK GROUP

You are warmly invited to join the members of the Book Group at any of their upcoming meetings, which begin at 12:30 p.m.

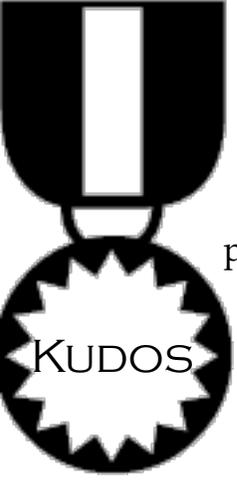
📖 January 18 - *Olive Kitteridge* by Elizabeth Strout. At the home of Jackie VanDeWarker.

📖 February 22 - *The Art of Racing in the Rain* by Garth Stein. Location TBD.

FAMILY FRIDAY

RETURNS!

All ages are invited to an evening of fun on January 15 at 6 pm. We will start with a potluck supper, followed by games and activities.



On Sunday, November 21, our Green Sanctuary Committee organized a litter pickup along Highland Avenue after church. All adults were invited to participate in this semi-annual event;

Chris Davis, Todd Underwood, and Mary Alice and Joe Masonick picked up four bags of trash. Our youth conduct a similar clean-up in the spring.

We give thanks for their stewardship of our Earth.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO...

- 3 Bob Sandidge
- 4 Tim King
- 6 Rusty Winchel
- 7 Linda Porter
- 7 Mike Moutrie
- 10 Kole Talaga
- 11 Paul Hanifl
- 11 Jim Bottino
- 12 Kurt Wachholder
- 14 Jennifer Day
- 15 Kassia Lesiewicz
- 15 Meg (TianTian) Laflin



- 19 Ethan Fincher
- 20 Roberta Nauman
- 20 Barbara Sugden
- 20 Maxine Saunders
- 23 Hannah Day
- 23 Linda Rodda
- 24 Teresa Stultz
- 24 David Nunes (Caruso)
- 27 Marilyn Hendry
- 27 Avery Bedard
- 30 Doug Pratt
- 31 Ed Wall

NEW CLASS OFFERING: LIFE IS A VERB

“Life is a Verb: 37 Days to Wake Up, Be Mindful, and Live Intentionally”. This twelve-week adult R.E. class begins January 10 at 9:00 AM. The 90-minute sessions work with excerpts from the book, “Life is a Verb: 37 Days to Wake Up, Be Mindful, and Live Intentionally” by **Patricia Digh**. Come prepared for insightful conversations, journaling exercises and more.

We are very pleased to announce that Patti will join us in person, on January 17. Patricia Digh (pronounced “dye”) has designed diversity and leadership initiatives and training for clients around the world for the past 20 years. Her first book, *Global Literacies: Lessons on Business Leadership and National Cultures* (Simon & Schuster, 2000) was named a “Best Business Book for 2000” by Fortune Magazine. Her second book was *The Global Diversity Desk Reference* (Wiley, 2003), and her most recent book, *LIFE IS A VERB*, is based on her award-winning blog (37days.com) and was published in September 2008 by Globe Pequot Press. *LIFE IS A VERB* was recently chosen out of 440 nominees as one of only five finalists for “Books for a Better Life” Award and was also a finalist for the “Book of the Year” award from the Southern Independent Booksellers Association.

Copies of “**Life is a Verb**” are available through Amazon.com, Barnes and Noble, Borders, Globe Pequot Press and “**The Present Moment**,” an independent bookstore in Libertyville, IL. We would like you to read pages i-10 before class. Please bring a small inexpensive, notebook for the journaling exercises. Loose leaf paper and index cards will also be provided should you care to use those, instead. This program is for everyone, and will be facilitated by Kathy Hislip and Beth Cooper-Zobott.



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Author Patti Digh will speak to the congregation on January 17.

WHEEL OF LIFE

On December 9 Bridget Lucas gave birth to her first child—a girl named Juliette Elizabeth. Long-time member, bell choir director, past board president, quilter, and



dear friend Margot Cusimano has died. She is missed.

WAYS TO GET IN TOUCH

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