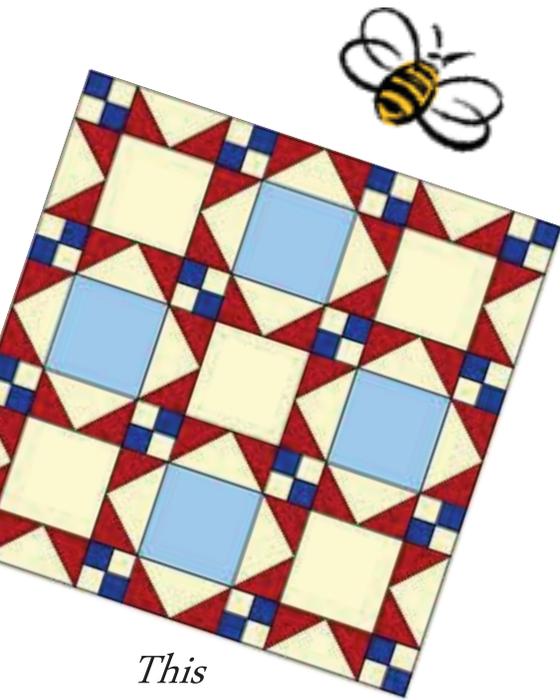


JANUARY 2011

Unichord

THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF ELGIN



Bee there

All are cordially invited to join the qUUilters of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Elgin on the first Saturday of the month ... excepting January, when the date is January 8th. Stop by any time between 9:00 a.m. and noon: arrive when you can, leave when you must.

The qUUilters cut up perfectly good fabric, iron it, and sew it back together. Beginners are welcome; the skills are at tween level. Typically the group consists of about half a dozen people. The fellowship is light, warm, and easy-going. Sometimes afterward we share a bit of lunch.

This year we are making blankets for Project Linus. These child-sized quilts are quick and easy to make. Police, hospital staff, firefighters and other emergency personnel then give these blankets to children who are in distress or are traumatized.

All are welcome, regardless of gender, so bring a friend or two if you wish, and if you feel like it, a snack to share.

For safety, the doors are locked, so when you arrive, you must call to be let in. Contact [Darla Musson](#).



Celebrate the Moon

Fellowship of the Pagan Spirit is open to finding new members. We are the only eclectic Pagan Covenant Group at UUCE. We engage in ritual once a month for the Full Moon or the New Moon. Members commit to meeting each month. Everyone is welcome to pick a month and lead the ritual. If interested, please contact any of our current members: Debbie Caruso, Diana Heizer, Jorie Von Ohlen, or Ron Williams.

By joining this group we share an appreciation for Mother Nature and her creatures. We celebrate the moon phases and work their energy for positive and peaceful means. We recognize the power of this planet and the responsibility we have for this planet. The rituals are personal and the individual spiritual choices of the ritual are respected. We hold everyone sacred.



From the Minister



These thoughts about the new year are adapted from a poem by the Rev. Kathleen McTigue.

The first of January is
another day dawning,
the sun rising as the sun
always rises,
the earth moving in its
rhythms,

Even though these rhythms remain the
same—
Bound in existence
as we ourselves are bound
in a continuing fabric of life—
our calendars name this day as the day of
new beginning,
arbitrarily separating the old from the new.

Yet there is in every new year
possibility
and further opportunity
to create from the unformed—
a stunning power in our hands.

What shall we do with this great gift of Time,
this year?

Let us begin by remembering that whatever
justice, whatever peace and wholeness might
bloom in our world,
Is created in
the hearts and minds, the hands and feet,
dreams and visions
of us.

The new year can be new ground for the
seeds of our dreams.

Let us take the step forward together, onto
new ground,

Planting our dreams well, faithfully, and in
joy.

A Month of Sundays JANUARY

1/2: Welcome, 2011

Paul Anderson explores the blank canvass that is the New Year. How can we avoid the pitfalls of resolutions and yet accomplish goals and make a difference in our lives and of those around us?

1/9: Celebrating the Darkness

We now inhabit a time of year which has more darkness than light. And we are once more reminded of our relationship with the dark. Service led by the Rev. Dan Brosier.

1/16: Liberal Racism

There are few faiths that have as much history as Unitarian Universalists do around the struggle against racism. The question is how are we doing? Service led by the Rev. Dan Brosier.

1/23: Ethical Eating

Ethical eating is the application of our principles to the food we consume. What and how we eat has broad implications for our planet and our human society. Service led by the Rev. Dan Brosier.

1/30: Immigration Stories

We'll hear stories about immigration to this country and discuss the implications of immigration for all of us, in the spirit of our "Standing on the Side of Love" campaign. Service led by Kim Cecil.

Services begin at 10:45

Calendar

Worship Services

Sunday mornings at 10:45

Adult Religious Exploration and Education

Sunday mornings at 9:00 in rooms 301 and 302

Board Meeting

January 19 at 7:00 in the Fellowship Hall

Book Group—Afternoon

January 24 at 12:30

(offsite)

Book Group—Evening

January 17 at 7:00

(offsite)

Buddhists

Thursdays at 7:00 in rooms 301 and 302

Choir Practice

Thursdays at 7:30 in the Sanctuary

Church Rental

January 8 at noon in the Fellowship Hall

Committee on the Ministry

January 5 at 7:00

Evening Covenant Group

January 11 and 25 at 7:00

(offsite)

Executive Team Meeting

January 4 and 18 at 1:30

Finance Committee

January 12 at 7:00

Green Sanctuary Committee

January 16 at 12:30 in room 302

Landscape & Grounds Meeting

January 9 at 12:30 in the bell room

Leadership Development

January 29 at 9:00

(offsite)

New U

January 9 and 16 at 12:45 in room 301

Pagan Unity Book Club

January 11 at 7:00 in the Fellowship Hall

qUUilters

January 8 from 9-noon in room 302

Sledding Outing at Randall Oaks

January 2 at 12:30

(Reschedule date: January 16)

Social Justice Council

January 26 at 7:00 in the Fellowship Hall

UNICHORD DEADLINE

January 23

Western Crescent Ministers Meeting

January 19 at 11:00 in room 301

New U

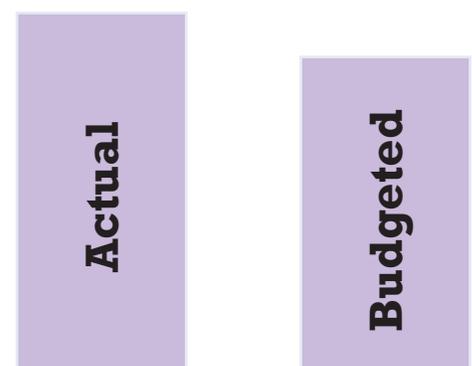
The New U program is a two-session workshop designed to give people new to Unitarian Universalism some basic information about the faith and this church in particular. The program is facilitated by the Membership Coordinator Kathy Hislip and the minister Dan Brosier. The next session will run two consecutive Sundays beginning on January 9 at 12:45 PM. All interested in learning a bit more about Unitarian Universalism are encouraged to attend. Please sign up on the designated clipboard at the first floor visitor's table. If you would like childcare please indicate this on the sign-up sheet by January 2. If you have any questions call Dan Brosier at the church at 847.888.0668.

Pledge Income

Through November 30:

Actual \$78,738.25

Budgeted \$67,558.25





From the Director of Religious Exploration and Education

Welcome to 2011! Now that the holidays are over, what is there to look forward to? How about some winter fun?

On January 2, all ages are invited to go sledding at Randall Oaks, and have hot cocoa. In case there isn't enough snow, we have a backup date of January 16. And if there is enough snow, maybe we'll do it twice anyway! Look for emails with more information.

For adults, we will start two new programs in January in Adult Spirituality. The first program is "Popcorn Theology for Mature Audiences." We will be looking at clips from movies (some are rated R, thus the title) to explore themes in theology, spirituality, and morality. This group will meet in Room 301, aka "the couch room" beginning January 9. Come for one session or all.

The second program is "Ethical Eating" and is sponsored by the Social Justice Council. This group will start January 2, in order for participants to provide feedback on the Ethical Eating Draft Statement of Conscience to the Unitarian Universalist Association. An email will go out soon to sign up for this class, since it requires purchasing a booklet.

At the end of the month, we will begin our intersession for the young people. Since they

have been learning about social justice and conflict resolution, our intersession will tie in with the increased attention around bullying. The young people will also be choosing social action projects to work on next semester.

Here's what is happening for the young people this month:

January 2

- Preschool: I Can Share
- K-2: Feelings About Nature
- 3-5: Local Conflict Resolvers
- 6-8: Hearing From Our Own
- High School: Nurturing the Spirit

January 9

- Preschool: I Can Help
- K-2: The Web of Interdependence
- 3-5: Earth Awareness
- 6-8: Politics and Protest
- High School: Reason

January 16

- Preschool: I Can Listen
- K-2: Partners With Nature
- 3-5: Earth Interdependence
- 6-8: Beginning a Project
- High School: Freedom

January 23

- Preschool: I Can Pretend
- K-2: Local UUs
- 3-5: Earth Stewardship
- 6-8: Field Trip
- High School: Tolerance

January 30

- Intersession Begins



President's Reflections



As we begin 2011, it's time to get to work on the goals we've set for ourselves. Do you want to be involved in finding, and possibly visiting, a sister congregation on another continent? Do you have a program you've wanted to offer? Do you

have an idea for a service project for our high school youth? These are all some of the goals that are set forth in our 2010 Strategic Plan. Are you willing to help us get there?

The Nominating Committee is working to identify leaders in our congregation who may be willing to serve on the Board of Trustees beginning in July. If you have any questions about what this position requires, or have a suggestion about who might be a good candidate, please let me know.

The new year brings opportunity, and is also sure to bring new challenges. Are you prepared to take advantage of both? Will you do the things you've promised to do year after year, or let another year go by without fulfilling your dreams? My goal for the year is to make healthy choices and spend more time with family. What's yours?

Opening Night is February 26

Service Auction 2011 is not just another night or any old auction. IT IS OPENING NIGHT! Wear your bling to celebrate this spectacular opening. You'll be hobnobbing with other elites who have assembled to feast their eyes on priceless treasures from around the globe (and some terrific home made things too). The Red Carpet will be rolled out on Saturday, February 26th around 5:30 for beverages and Hors d'oeuvres.

Dinner is served at 7pm with the Opening Night Auction kicking off at 8pm. Don't miss a minute of the festivities. Reserve the evening right now. This is a once in a lifetime event. You'll want to see and be seen at this scene. We promise an evening that you'll be talking about for at least a day or two.

Please contact the producers, **Bob Sandidge** and Anne Ward if you would like to help produce this annual spectacular. See your name in lights and have your work admired by at least one hundred or so of the industry's most in-demand party-goers. Check in at www.uuceHoliday.com for the updates on this nearly exclusive event.



Kudos

—to Mary Alice Masonick and Mary Gaston for mulching

—to Norm Wilkinson for delivering the Giving Tree gifts



Green Corner

Recycling Center at Church

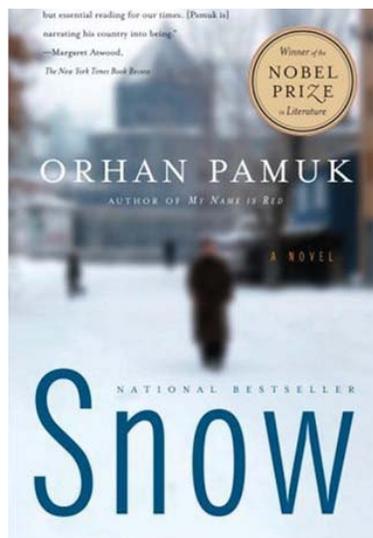
This is a reminder that rather than throwing them in the garbage, you can recycle used CFL light bulbs, printer cartridges, and batteries at church. CFLs are taken to ACE Hardware where the materials are recycled. UUCE receives money back for printer cartridges taken to OfficeMax and Staples. Batteries are recycled through the City of Elgin's battery recycling program. Just place these items in the Recycling Center in Fellowship Hall by the Green Sanctuary table. Please wrap CFLs in paper and then put in a plastic bag before bringing to church. Also place printer cartridges in plastic bags to protect against leakage.

Thanks!

- The Green Sanctuary Committee.

Evening Book Club “Snowed In”

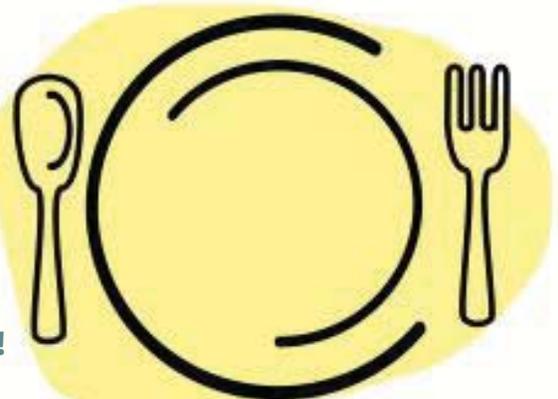
The next meeting of the UUCE Evening book club will be Friday, January 21 at 7:00 PM. For your planning purposes, the Evening Book Club will meet the 3rd Friday evening of each month. The location is still to be determined. The book for January is called “Snow” by Orhan Pamuk. Copies were distributed at the December 20 book club meeting, or feel free to pick up a copy on your own. All members and friends of UUCE are welcome!



Start the New Year Right

Start the New Year right! Donate to the All People's Inter-Faith Pantry. The Pantry can always use the old standbys of peanut butter, jelly, juice and canned meats along with canned gravy and packages of mashed potatoes. Toilet paper, bar soap and dish detergent are also needed.

Try to bring your donations on our Pantry Sunday, January 2, but, as always, your donations are welcome any time during the month.



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 our Village Banking Program. 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.

Social Justice Program Updates

SAVING THE WORLD: ONE TINY BUSINESS AT A TIME

Since we started our Village Bank program, the church has fully funded four microcredit Village Banks in Haiti, Guatemala, and Zambia. Our banks lend money to small entrepreneurs who use the funds to start or grow their businesses. Micro Finance has proven to be a powerful antidote to poverty.

In January, we will again connect our financial giving with Micro Finance. Share the Plate funds will be donated to our microcredit partner, FINCA. The Village Bank program offers an excellent return on your investment: one bank will fund many small businesses through our donations and the loan repayments from funded businesses.

FOCUS ON ETHICAL EATING

The UUA has prepared a Draft Statement of Conscience on Ethical Eating and they are soliciting our feedback. Four years and many resources have gone into the making of this major statement of what we believe.

You may offer your feedback on the statement in several ways:

1. Visit www.newuu.com/ethicaleating.
2. Get a copy of the statement in Fellowship Hall along with a feedback form.
3. Join the Adult Religious Education Discussion Group on Ethical Eating. This six-week program will use a new resource from the Northwest Earth Institute: Menu for the Future. At the end of each week's session, we will read a section of the Ethical Eating Statement of Conscience



Wheel of Life

We are saddened by the news of the death of Steve Stultz's father. Our thoughts go out to the Stultz family.

and gather feedback on the document.

To participate in the Ethical Eating Adult RE program, sign up so we can order a book of readings for you. If you would like to keep your book after the program is over, you can purchase it for \$20. Otherwise, the Social Justice Council will purchase the books and donate them to the church library.

The Social Justice Council will collect feedback until Sunday, January 23, and deliver it to the UUA by February 1.

Contact **Anne Ward** to participate in the program on Ethical Eating. It starts on Sunday, January 2 at 9:00 am.

UUCE Readers

Afternoon Book Group will meet at 12:30 on Monday, January 24, at the home of Jackie VanDeWarker to discuss *Stones Into Schools* by Greg Mortenson.

Happy Birthday
to You!

JANUARY

- 5 Jan Underwood
- 5 Andrea Budasi
- 7 Louette Rogers
- 12 Dave Segel
- 13 Chris Leyba
- 14 David Yaeger
- 16 Heike Spayne
- 16 Diana Heizer
- 17 Olivia Leyba
- 17 Joe Conway
- 19 Lenya Schug
- 25 Jeremy Clough
- 26 Elise Wall
- 29 Paul Anderson
- 29 Koby Lesiewicz
- 31 Diya Marie Jyoti

Ways to Get in Touch

WEBSITE

www.uuce.org

E-MAIL

minister@uuce.org
administrator@uuce.org
newsletter@uuce.org

PHONE

847-888-0668

PHYSICAL LOCATION

39W830 Highland Avenue
three miles west of Randall Rd.

POSTAL MAIL

P. O. Box 1032
Elgin, IL 60121

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES

17 November, 7:00pm

Attending: Jennifer Day, Kevin Sweeney, Dan Brosier, Shari Smagatz, Andrea Schmidlin, Beth Cooper-Zobott, Dave Clough, Steve Stultz

- I. Reports - The following reports were approved by consensus: Budget, Earmarked Funds, Executive Team, Monitoring. There was no report from the Nominating Committee this month.**
- II. Unfinished Business**
 - a. Security Policy Changes Review – general discussion.**
 - b. Staff Compensation Task Force Report – general discussion. Dan is going to review the information and will report back to the Board.**
- III. New Business**
 - a. Cell Tower Lease Discussion – situation is resolving itself, AT&T will be paying the taxes due by the end of November.**
 - b. Photovoltaic project – general discussions and update from Dan Brosier.**



**The Unitarian Universalist
Church of Elgin**

P. O. Box 1032 • Elgin, IL 60121

