



JANUARY 2012

Unichord



THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF ELGIN

UUCE Service Auction 2012

—presents—

A Night at the IMPROV!

Next Show: February 11, 2012 at 5:30 p.m.

When you need a good laugh, spend an evening at the world-famous Improv Comedy Club at UUCE, featuring The Funniest & Most Creative Comedians in the Business™, appearing exclusively at Service Auction 2012!*

Doors open at 5:30pm on Saturday, February 11th, for beverages, Lounge

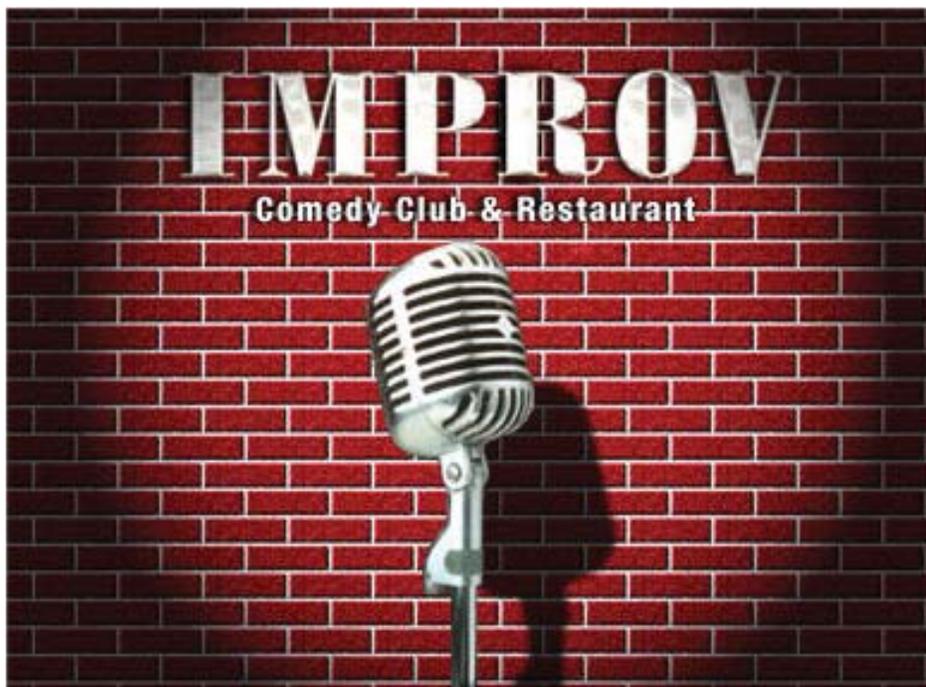
Entertainment and Silent Auction. Tapas will be served starting at 6:30 with the Live Auction and Sketch Comedy kicking off at 8pm.

Don't miss a minute of the festivities. The evening will include preferred seating for the Silent Auction, Tapas Bar and Live Auction. A cash bar will be available.

Please contact UUCE Improv Club Manager/Auction Host **Mike Moutrie** if you would like to help produce this year's Auction.

Look for additional details via email, during Sunday services, and in the February *Unichord*.

Be there!



*DISCLAIMER: While we do guarantee a night of laughter and aisle-rolling, please keep in mind that this event is a significant fundraiser for our church. Your participation will help to ensure that Unitarian Universalist Church of Elgin (UUCE) can continue to be a welcoming, spiritual community for all.

From the Minister

Jason Engel sent me this email recently. It sounded like a precious moment. He wrote:



“Just an FYI that I delivered the cookies from the youth groups to the Elgin Community Crisis Center (ECCC) around 1:00 this afternoon. [My son] Kai was with me because we went straight from church. We talked about what we were

doing the whole way there. I think he was trying to wrap his mind around the concept of making so many cookies and then just giving them away.

“We arrived to find a woman who had obviously been recently beaten up, and apparently with her mother, sister, and young daughter there. Before we had a chance to turn over the cookies to the staff there, Kai got very very excited—he HAD to give cookies to that family RIGHT NOW. So the very first gift of cookies from our UUCE to the ECCC was hand delivered by Kai to that little girl his age, a Christmas tree cookie with frosting and sprinkles. I don’t think I can adequately share with words the reaction from everyone who saw that. I can only thank each of you, Dan, Kathy, and Amy, and our kids at church, for giving me the opportunity to see this happen.

“Thank you.”

— Dan

New Classes Begin January 15

Beginning January 15, the Adult Spirituality program will be offering two new classes: *A World of Health* and *Exploring the Roots of Religion*.

A World of Health explores the connections between human health, the environment, and how we can sustain both. This class will meet at 9am in room 302.

Exploring the Roots of Religion looks at the sacred secrets behind some of the world’s ancient locales, such as Stonehenge, Machu Picchu, The Acropolis, and The Great Pyramids at Giza. Some of the topics covered are the afterlife, rituals, Gods and temples, and communities of spirit. This class will meet at 9am in room 301.

Contact **Kathy Underwood** for more info.

A Month of Sundays

1/1: No service.

1/8: Myth, Belief, and Faith. Some of the hottest debates about religion center on the ideas of myth, belief and faith. Where does all that heat come from? Service led by the Rev. Dan Brosier.

1/15: Why Diversity? Diversity is mentioned a great deal in Unitarian Universalist circles. We say we want to be more diverse, but is that happening? Service led by the Rev. Dan Brosier.

1/22: Increasing the Odds. We are all gamblers. Moment after moment we roll the dice and hope that lady luck is on our side. One can not expect to always win, but it is possible to increase the odds. Service led by the Rev. Dan Brosier.

1/29: Love and Suffering. Why do these two emotions go hand in hand? Why does it happen in every intimate relationship—and what can we do about it? Service led by Donna Askins.

All services begin at 10:45.

January Calendar

Worship Services

January 8, 15, 22 and 29 at 10:45; no worship service on January 1.

Adult Religious Exploration and Education

January 15, 22 and 29 at 9:00 in rooms 301 and 302; no classes on January 1

Board of Trustees

January 18 at 7:00 in the Fellowship Hall

Book Group, Afternoon

January 23 at 12:30 — off-site

Book Club, Evening

January 20 at 7:00 (offsite)

Buddhist Group

Thursdays at 7:00 (offsite)

Care Team Meeting

January 10 at 10:30 in the Fellowship Hall

Committee on the Ministry

December 4 at 7:00

Covenant Group

January 10 and 24 at 7:00 (offsite)

Executive Team Meetings

January 4 and 18 at 1:00

Finance Committee Meeting

January 11 at 7:00

Handbell Practice

January 8, 15, 22, and 29 at 12:30 in the bell room

Landscape and Grounds Work Party

January 8 at 12:30

Planning Your Memorial Service Workshop

January 22 at 12:30 in room 301

qUilters

January 7 at 9:00 in room 302

Social Justice Committee

January 25 at 7:00

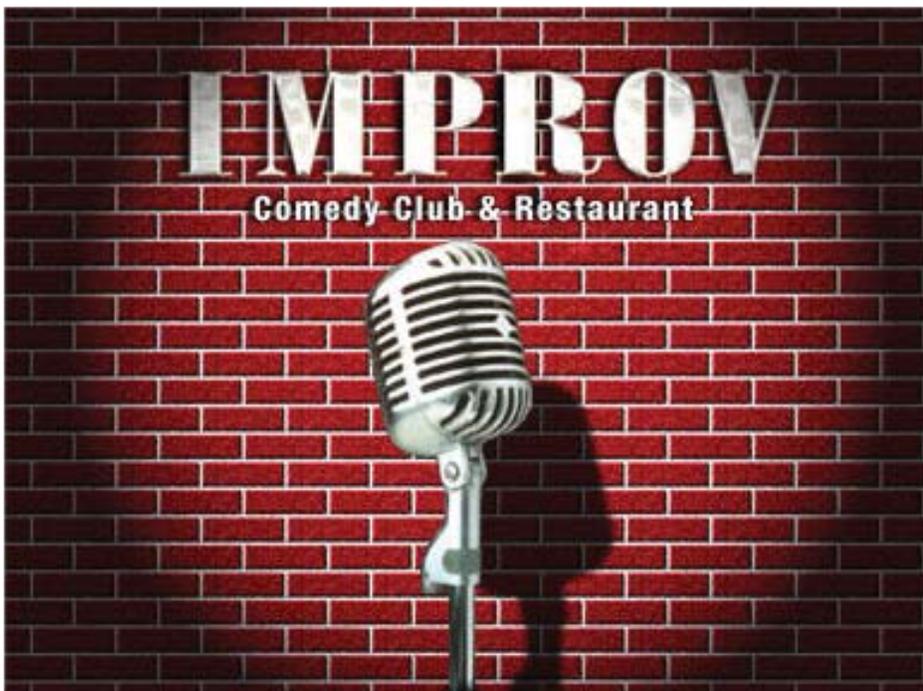
Unichord deadline

January 15

Western Crescent Ministers Meeting

January 18 at 11:00 in room 301

Mark Your Calendar for February 11



Don't miss this year's Service Auction, "A Night at the Improv!"

5:30—Doors open for beverages, Lounge Entertainment, and Silent Auction

6:30—Enjoy a yummy tapas buffet

8:00—Live Auction begins

Want to help out? Assist or pester Improv Club Manager **Mike Moutrie**. He would love to hear from you!

Lifespan Religious Exploration and Education



By the time you read this, the hustle and bustle of the winter holiday season will be behind you. Winter will still have its grasp, but the sun's light will slowly return. I find that as I get older, I notice the lengthening of the sunlight earlier and earlier. Perhaps I need to look for the hope it brings more as I get older.

We have some new opportunities for spiritual and educational growth during the winter though. Beginning January 15, the Adult Spirituality program will be offering two new classes: A World of Health, and Exploring the Roots of Religion.

A World of Health explores the connections between human health, the environment, and how we can sustain both. This class will meet at 9am in room 302.

Exploring the Roots of Religion looks at the sacred secrets behind some of the world's ancient locales, such as Stonehenge, Machu Picchu, The Acropolis, and The Great Pyramids at Giza. Some of the topics covered are the afterlife, rituals, Gods and temples, and communities of spirit. This class will meet at 9am in room 301.

All parents, teachers and others who may be interested are invited to a special workshop, Bullies2Buddies on January 8 at 9am in room 302. This is a unique approach to bullying based on the Golden Rule. It challenges some of the current thinking on how to approach this sensitive topic, and gives strategies on how to deal with bullying as a student, teacher, and parent.

For our youngest participants, the schedule below shows what is happening in their religious exploration and education classes this month.

In Faith,
—Kathy

FOR YOUR REFRIGERATOR

What Our Youth Are Exploring This Month

	Preschool	K-2nd	3rd-5th	6th-8th	High School
Jan 1	New Year's Day! No classes.				
Jan 8	Winter Brings Changes	What Is Religion?	Our New Year	Visiting a Mosque	Judaism: Birth of Abrahamic Tradition
Jan 15	Black Is Beautiful	Our Church	Chinese Dragon Celebration	Integrating Our Experiences	Judaism: Birth of Abrahamic Tradition, Part 2
Jan 22	We Can Be Angry Without Hurting Others	Our UU Principles	Chinese New Year	Buddhism & Zen	Judaism: People of Law
Jan 29	All Kinds of Families	Ideas of God	Chinese New Year, Part 2	Buddhist Visitor	Judaism: People of Law, Part 2
	Preschool	K-2nd	3rd-5th	6th-8th	High School

PRESIDENT'S REFLECTIONS

Leadership Reviews Strategic Plan



2012, a new calendar year is almost here, and I'm ready to look ahead. This coincides with the mid-point of our church calendar year, and this provides an opportunity to reflect on the vision and goals that we have established. The UUCE Board of Trustees and the Executive Team review our Strategic Plan every other month to make sure we are true to our vision and goals.

Learning more about our Strategic Plan may provide an avenue for you to take on a new challenge for 2012.

I hope the New Year holds great promise for you.

—Tim



Pledge Income as of 11/30/2011

The Mainstay of PB&J

Many people can afford champagne, but many more cannot. Therefore, a typical conversation in the home of the latter goes something like this:

“What’s for dinner?”

“PB&J.”

Peanut butter and jelly are constantly in demand at the All People’s Inter-Faith Pantry. However, **canned meats** are especially wanted. **Juice** is important, too.

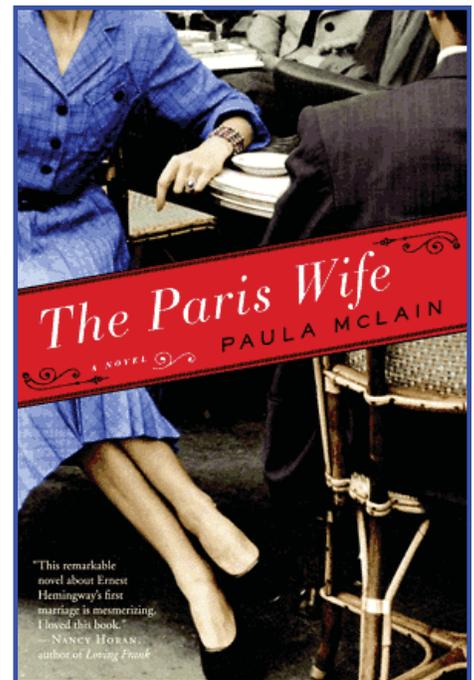
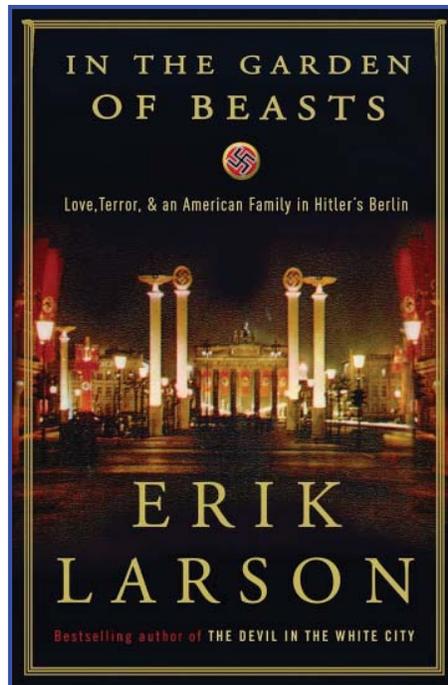
Also, there is a need for “those **cereals** the kids like.” You needn’t donate double-frosted chocolate sugar flakes. Think of the parents!

And finally, please remember **facial soap**. PB&J makes for messy faces.

Try to bring your donations on Pantry Sunday, January 8.

Beasts Follow Paris Wife

The Afternoon Book Group will meet at 12:30 on Monday, January 23, at the home of Bonnie Schwank to discuss "[The Paris Wife](#)" by Paula McLain. On February 27 the group will meet at the home of Betsy Thrasher to discuss "[In the Garden of Beasts](#)" by Erik Larson. For further information contact Alice Macy.



Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

16 November 2011

Present: Andrea Schmidlin, Beth Cooper-Zobott, Betsy Thrasher, Mila Brinker (Executive Team), Shari Smagatz, Stephen Day, Tim Davis.

Reports

—Monthly financial report line 4012: we had a large pledge paid in October

—Earmarked funds report: maintenance reserve & deficit reduction increases were due to payment for insurance for roof repairs

— Executive Team (ET)report: the ET would like to get the minutes earlier in the month so that they may follow up on action items

— Monitoring Reports: Compensation & Budgeting II E and F: Debbie Caruso has contacted the Unitarian Universalist Association. They are

updating their compensation data in December, so this issue will be tabled. A report is expected at the January BOT meeting.

Unfinished Business

—Volunteer (Shared Ministry) Coordinator update: Dan Brosier is waiting for volunteer data, which he hopes to have ready in the next week or two. We requested an update from the ET in December.

— Software for membership, web & pledges: Stephen Day & Mike Moutrie have been working on this separately. Stephen will contact Mike to discuss what they each have learned & where to go from here.

New Business

—Endowment Committee: Tim will research options for where the Endowment income can be used (does it have to go into the operating fund?)

—Greenhouse: Donna Askins has requested to erect a small portable greenhouse in connection with the Community Garden. The ET has discussed this & has concerns that the structure won't withstand the winds we have. The ET will turn down the request. The BOT discussed the matter because the change would be permanent and highly visible. The BOT agreed with the ET's response.

—Volunteer coordinator needed
—Committee formed to identify software for membership, web and pledges

November agenda: The Strategic Plan will be reviewed and we will have a Service Auction update.

Next meeting: 21 December 2011.

Let's Twist Scrip Again Like We Did Last Summer Year

Scrip cards will be on sale again beginning January 8. For those new to the program, it works like this:

1. At the church scrip table, buy a gift card for something you would buy anyway, like groceries or gasoline. There is no difference in the price; for example, to buy a \$25 gift card, you pay \$25, and the card buys \$25 worth of stuff.
2. The grocery store, gas station, or whatever, pays the church for selling the card.

That's basically it. Thanks for your support!

January Birthdays

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

WORKSHOP

Planning Your Memorial Service or Funeral

Sunday, January 22

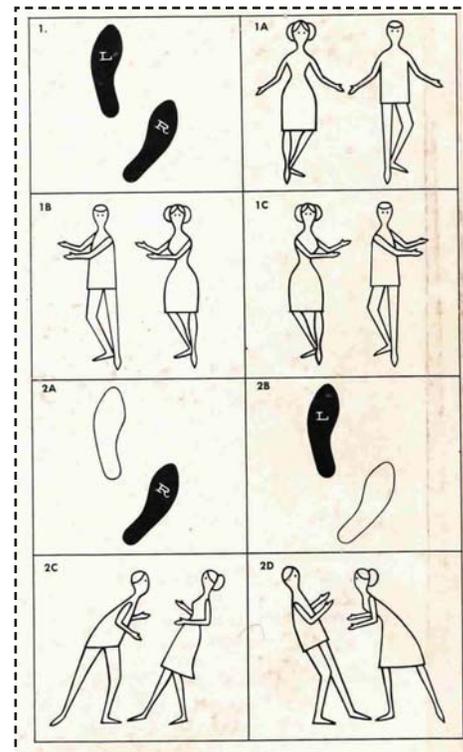
12:30 – 2:00

Room 302

It is never too early to prepare for death. Forethought and planning are extremely helpful to those who survive you. In this workshop each participant will create their own memorial service. Workshop led by the Rev. Dan Brosier.

If you plan to attend, please RSVP to minister@uuce.org.

The Unichord



Evening Book Club Reads Again

The next meeting of the UUCE evening book club is Friday, January 20, at 7:00 PM at Panera Bread (located at 2484 N. Randall Road, Elgin, 60123. Tel: 847/426-7000). The January selection is "**Bossypants**" by Tina Fey.

Kudos

...to Henny DuBois for decorating
the front door planters for fall

...to Sheena John for
decorating the front door
planters for winter

...to all who volunteer to
greet visitors, make coffee,
and clean up every Sunday.



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

Anti-Bullying Workshop



All parents, teachers and other interested adults are invited to a special workshop. "Bullies2Buddies" will be presented on January 8 at 9am in room 302. This is a unique approach to bullying based on the Golden Rule. It challenges some of the current thinking on how to approach this sensitive topic, and gives strategies on how to deal with bullying as a student, teacher, and parent.



The Unitarian Universalist Church of Elgin

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