

FEBRUARY 2011

Unichord



THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF ELGIN

Opening Night is February 19



This year's annual Service Auction is Saturday, February 19th. The suggested donation at the door is \$8 to \$15 per adult and \$5 per child.

This year's theme, Opening Night, hints at the intrigue and excitement of the launch of a new Broadway show.

Our Opening Night is going to be as glamour-filled as the

name suggests. Appetizers and beverages roll out at 5:30; then, Cheren's Ratatouille Grill will be followed by American Pie! And yes: the "Money for Nothing" 50/50 raffle is back! The evening will build in excitement to 8pm when the live Service Auction commences in the sanctuary with auctioneer Shawn Dunning presiding.

Bidding for Silent Auction items and the very popular "Buy It Now" table begin on Sunday, February 6th. If you have items to donate, please bring them to the church any time before the 6th if possible and by the 16th at the latest. Again this year, all items will be showcased on our website www.uuceHoliday.com. You may also pre-register for dinner at this website, as well as volunteer to be on the Opening Night "crew." For those new to the auction and those who just want to reflect back, photos from last year's auction are posted, too.

www.uuceHoliday.com is also the source for the full schedule of events, or take a look at the Program on page 3. If you have questions about the Silent Auction, contact Anne@CreativeCore.com or BobS@NewUU.com.

Doing good and having fun are a great combination, and our annual Service Auction is the perfect vehicle to do so. Don't miss this evening of celebration!

From the Minister



It is a relief to be done with January. Even though this one wasn't as bad as I thought it would be—still, the dark and cold slowly weigh on my spirit. We still have more than enough winter ahead, but February offers hope as spring

begins to slowly awaken.

This time of year I become more of a pagan than usual. What this means is that I pay more attention to the signs in the natural world of the changing seasons. Earth-Centered spirituality makes more sense to me as we wait for the sun to return in its full glory.

According to Wikipedia, January and February were the last two months to be added to the Roman calendar, since the Romans originally considered winter a monthless period. Historical names for February include the Anglo-Saxon terms Solmonath (mud month) and Kale-monath (named for cabbage) as well as Charlemagne's designation Hornung (antler shedding). In old English it was Fillibrook (brook-filling). In Finnish, the month is called helmikuu, meaning "month of the pearl"—when snow melts on tree branches, it forms droplets, and as these freeze again, they are like pearls of ice.

On January 1 the sun rose at 7:18am and set at 4:29pm and the average high temperature was 33 degrees F. On the first of February the sun will rise at 7:04am and set at 5:04pm—an increase of 49 minutes of daylight and the average high temperature is 34 degrees F. On the last day of February the sun will rise at 6:28 am and set at 5:38 pm—an increase of 70 minutes of daylight from the beginning of the month. The average high temperature will be 42 degrees.

Here comes the sun—again.

A Month of Sundays

FEBRUARY

2/6: What Do Dying People Want?

Service led by the Rev. Dan Brosier.

2/13: Dear Reverend Dan

In this service I will be reading and responding to a few of the many letters I imagine I receive asking deep questions. Service led by the Rev. Dan Brosier.

2/20: Specieism

Specieism is the assigning of different values or rights to beings on the basis of their species membership. Is that not the natural order of things? Service led by the Rev. Dan Brosier.

2/27: War Poet

Please come together in exploration of war poetry from two of the genre's most influential writers: Wilfred Owen and Siegfried Sassoon. The events of their era, that of WWI, have faded in public awareness, but the essence and consequence of war transcend time. Sadly, there is still need for poets to help us understand war—as the war-to-end-all-wars did not fulfill its pledge. Service led by Dave Zobott.

Services begin at 10:45

Ethical Eating Action Alert

Learn to grow local organic food from seed on February 5 at 2:00 p.m. at the Hawthorne Hill Nature Center (fee \$8). All ages are welcome, but parents/guardians must supervise their children. Register through City of Elgin Parks & Recreation. Class taught by Donna Askins.

February 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

February 16 at 7:00 in the Fellowship Hall

Book Group—Afternoon

February 28 at 12:30
(offsite)

Book Group—Evening

February 18 at 7:00
(offsite)

Buddhists

Thursdays at 7:00 in rooms 301 and 302

Canvass Committee

February 13 at 12:20 in room 301

Care Team Meeting

February 22 at 10:00 in the Fellowship Hall

Choir Practice

Thursdays at 7:30 in the Sanctuary

Committee on the Ministry

February 2 at 7:00

Elgin Sustainability Action Meeting

February 22 at 6:00 in the Fellowship Hall

Evening Covenant Group

February 8 and 22 at 7:00
(offsite)

Executive Team Meeting

February 1 and 15 at 1:30

Finance Committee

February 9 at 7:00

Imbolic Ritual and Potluck

February 5 at 6:00 in the Fellowship Hall

Landscape & Grounds Work Party

February 13 at 12:30

Pagan Unity Book Club

February 8 at 7:00 in the Fellowship Hall

Pantry Sunday

February 6 in the Fellowship Hall

qUilters

February 5 from 9-noon in room 302

Social Justice Council

February 23 at 7:00 in the Fellowship Hall

UNICHORD DEADLINE

February 20

Western Crescent Ministers Meeting

February 19 at 11:00 in room 301



Service Auction Set-up...
is February 15-18, Tuesday through Friday.
Stop by any day to help out! You may wish
to first call the church at 847.888.0668.

Opening Night Program

5:30 – 7PM – Silent Auction & Appetizers

7:00 – 8PM – Cheren's Ratatouille Grill

American Pie – Desserts

7:45 PM - Silent Auction Closes

8:00 PM - OPENING NIGHT !

Service Auction with Shawn Dunning



From the Director of Religious Exploration and Education

It is hard to believe that the year is half over now. On February 13, we will be starting our spring semester in Religious Exploration and Education.

The approaching start of a new semester has some anxiety for me. I usually need to find a lot of volunteers to keep the programs running. This year, however, I am happy to say that there are only two openings to fill! One is to lead the Kindergarten-2nd grade class, and the other is to be an assistant in the 3rd-5th grade class. Thanks to all of our returning teachers and assistants!

We start the month off with a special intersession on bullying. There has been a lot of attention to this in the media, and it is certainly something that affects most young people. Encourage your children to share what they experience in school and the neighborhood. Often, they do not want to talk about it because they are embarrassed. As parents, we need to ask them straight out two questions: "Do you get bullied/picked on?" and "Have you ever bullied/picked on someone?" Share your experiences too. Bullying produces the same feelings now as it did then—although the manner it is done now has changed some, in particular with cyber-bullying.

After the intersession, grades kindergarten through high school will be focusing on our Unitarian Universalist identity. We will also be doing social action projects, which will be voted on at the end of January. Look for more information on this in the order of service and email announcements.

The Adult Spirituality classes "Popcorn Theology" and "Ethical Eating" will continue through the month. We will begin our last trimester in March. If you have a topic that you would like us to consider for a class or program, feel free to talk to me. We try to mix things up as much as possible!

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

February 6

- Preschool: I Can Dance
- K-2: Bullying
- 3-5: Bullying
- 6-8: Bullying
- High School: Bullying

February 13

- Preschool: I Can Love
- K-2: On the Threshold
- 3-5: Sports in the Congregation
- 6-8: You!
- High School: Tolerance

February 20

- Preschool: My World Has Animals
- K-2: Symbols of Faith
- 3-5: Medicine: Saving Lives
- 6-8: Cyberspace Church Visit
- High School: Our Covenantal Faith

February 27

- Preschool: My World Has Fish
- K-2: Beehive
- 3-5: Medicine: A Special Doctor
- 6-8: Heresy Sunday
- High School: Speaking Faith

In Faith,
Kathy

UUCE Readers

Afternoon Book Group will meet at 12:30 on Monday, February 28, at the home of Jane Kimball to discuss "Major Pettigrew's Last Stand" by Helen Simonson.

President's Reflections



I am issuing a challenge to all members of our Congregation. We need leaders. We need people who are willing to step forward and do the work of ensuring our success. We need people to plan services and events. We need people

to count the money and stock the shelves. We need people to make the coffee, vacuum the floors and shovel the walks.

This work happens every week, and usually it is done by a small, committed group which has been doing it for years. Much of the work is done by volunteers. Our volunteers are generous individuals who are giving of their time and

energy. We heartily thank these generous people who make our church a nice place to be.

Are you one of these generous people? If not, what's stopping you? Have you not been asked? Do you not know what you have to offer? Do you not know what needs to be done or how you can help? We want to know how to better engage all of you to spread the load more evenly.

We need strong, generous people to step forward and help us do the work of running our Church. Can you be one of those people, or will you leave the work to be done by someone else? Give me a call, or send me an email, with your thoughts. You have something to offer, and we will help you find a way to contribute, if you are willing.

—Kevin Sweeney

Generosity, Love, and a Fabulous Prize Drawing!

The UUCE Annual Canvass will begin with the kick-off service on Sunday, March 6, after which members of the Canvass Committee will distribute pledge materials. Those who turn in their pledges on March 13 will be eligible for a fabulous prize drawing.

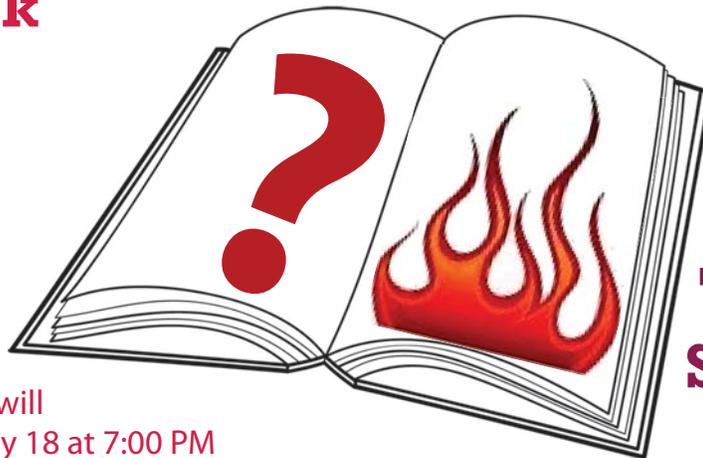
We are in the second year of organizing the campaign around the ideas expressed in the book *Creating Congregations of Generous People*. The book focuses on "What Kind of People Do We Want to Become?" through our stewardship. Members of the Canvass Committee have met several times since October to plan and organize the Annual Canvass. The Committee works year-round, developing the ways in which generosity and stewardship are connected to the mission and vision of the church—our church.

Pledging signifies ownership of financial responsibility for church staff and property, and links directly to accomplishing our spiritual, emotional and educational opportunities for our children, our community and ourselves.

--Tim Davis, Canvass Committee chair



Evening Book Club Ponders the Burning Question



The next meeting of the UUCE Evening Book Club will be held on Friday, February 18 at 7:00 PM at the Panera Bread on Randall Road, just north of I-90, on the west side of the street. The address is 2484 N. Randall Road in Elgin (telephone: 847/426-7000). The evening book club will meet on the third Friday of each month at this time and place.

At the February 18 meeting, we will decide on the books to be read for the rest of the year. If you are interested in joining a book club, and having a say in what is read, here is your chance. The "assignment" for the February meeting is to research all books you'd be interested in reading with the group. We will consider any genre. All in attendance will present their lists and we'll vote on which books we'll read. Please bring the name of the book, its author, and the formats in which it is available, e.g. hard cover, paperback, e-book (Kindle, Nook, etc.) audiobook, available at the library, and so on. You do not have to be a member of UUCE to participate, so feel free to bring a friend. If you have any questions about the UUCE Evening Book Club, please contact Beth Cooper-Zobott at bcooperzobott2002@yahoo.com.

Thank you!

Thousands and Thousands Served

The All People's Inter-Faith Pantry indicated that they served 3,258 families in 2010, which means they fed 11,536 people.

The Pantry has been running out of juice, large and small jars of jelly, and spaghetti sauce.

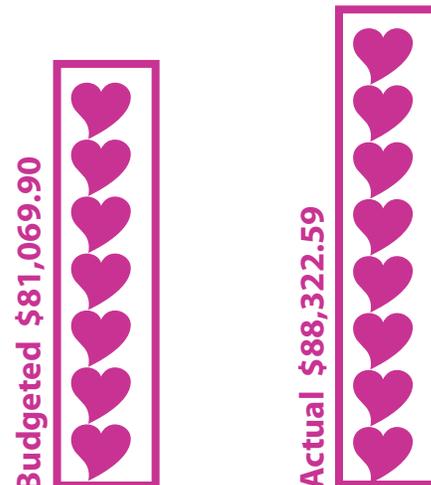
They also need laundry and dish detergent. Try to bring your donations on our Pantry Sunday, February 6, but, as always, your contributions are welcome at any time.

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 February this charitable organization is the Community Crisis Center

which provides emergency shelter for women and children and works to break the cycle of domestic violence. 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.

Pledge Income through December 30



BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES

15 December, 2010

Attending: Jennifer Day, Kevin Sweeney, Dave Clough, Beth Cooper-Zobott, Betsy Thrasher, Mila Brinker (Executive Team)

I. Reports

a. Budget Report – Church administrator to review Office expenses to determine that Quickbooks expense was allocated to the proper account code.

b. Earmarked Funds Report, Executive Team Report, Monitoring Reports (II. G.), and Nominating Committee Report all approved by consensus.

II. Unfinished Business

a. Staff Compensation Task Force Report – no updates

b. Updated policy documents – distributed to the BoT

III. New Business

a. Cell Tower Lease Discussion – taxes for 2007 have been paid. Kevin to check with Dan on updates with Unison for 2008 and 2009 taxes

b. Strategic Plan Progress Review – work needed on Shared Ministry/Volunteer Coordinator position. Michelle to transition out of role in January. Kevin to check in with Anne Ward on items due soon in section 4B.

c. Cusimano bells donation – Bells to be donated on a long term schedule by Joe Cusimano. General discussion regarded insurance coverage that may be needed for the bells. The Executive Team will review insurance needs. Documentation that may need to be on file with our bank box, as well as getting film of the bells.

d. Work calendar: January tasks to be divided up by BoT members, who will report back to Kevin by the first week of January with comments.

Social Justice Program Updates

FEBRUARY: FOCUS ON COMMUNITY CRISIS CENTER AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

This month, we're supporting the work of the Elgin Community Crisis Center in two ways:

1. The Community Crisis Center will receive our Share the Plate donations through which we donate half of all unpledged donations to a charitable organization. We try to help The Community Crisis Center at least once each year. The services they provide for our community are priceless.

2. We will educate ourselves about domestic violence and its effects in our community.

Founded in 1974, The Community Crisis Center meets the needs of individuals and families in crisis. Its mission is to provide Safety, Hope, Advocacy, Respite and Education for those impacted by crisis and violence in the Fox Valley Region and Illinois.

Employees provide comprehensive services to respond to domestic violence, sexual assault, or economic/financial difficulties. Specific services include a 24-hour crisis hotline and information and referral; emergency temporary shelter for 40 women and children who are homeless due to domestic violence or financial crisis; individual and group counseling; medical, legal and welfare advocacy; financial assistance to abate homelessness; emergency food pantry; batterers' intervention program; transitional living program; a distinct children's program; and community education. One of the oldest domestic violence shelters in the state, the Center was instrumental in organizing both the Illinois and National Coalition Against Domestic Violence.



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

Happy February Birthday to You!

- | | | | |
|----|-------------------|----|--------------------|
| 1 | Dotty Carringi | 13 | Aleks Lesiewicz |
| 2 | Lydia Larabee | 16 | Cheren Waller |
| 2 | Ben Holish | 17 | Bud Geister |
| 5 | Valerie Freeman | 17 | Kyle Brinker |
| 5 | Kathie Wachholder | 17 | Steve Stultz |
| 6 | Pat Segel | 22 | Sandy James |
| 6 | Gloria Yaeger | 23 | Savannah Underwood |
| 6 | Anne Bedard | 24 | Kai Engel |
| 7 | Bob Jackson | 24 | Leslie Sawyer |
| 8 | Tim Closson | 26 | Greg Schmidlin |
| 10 | Anne Branstrator | 27 | Kelly Wall |
| 12 | David Clough | 29 | Carl Deitrick |
| 13 | Taylor Kremer | | |



The Unitarian Universalist Church of Elgin

P. O. Box 1032 • Elgin, IL 60121

