

FEBRUARY 2012

Unichord

THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF ELGIN

Laughter Hits the Rafters on February 11

JOIN US FOR "A NIGHT AT THE IMPROV"!

Our annual Service Auction is a "funraiser" as well as a "fundraiser." It's a time for all of us to spend a fun night together making merry and making money for the many important educational and outreach programs of UUCE.

HOW DO I MAKE A RESERVATION?

Don't miss a minute of the festivities. Reserve the evening now at UUCEHoliday.com, or complete the form on [page 6](#) of this *Unichord*. For those who already have reservations, their bid numbers will be posted on February 5th. A bid number is the "ID" you use when you place a bid.

WHAT IS SCHEDULED FOR THE EVENING?

Doors open at 5:30 for cocktails, appetizers, and Silent Auction. A Tapas "Little Plates" Buffet will be served starting at 6:30, followed by dessert and the Live Auction and Sketch Comedy kicking off at 8:00. The suggested donation of \$15 includes all food and entertainment. There will also be a cash bar (donation).

HOW DOES THE SILENT AUCTION WORK?

The Silent Auction is a "UUCE Boutique" — members donate items of all kinds, large and small. See [page 3](#) for the lovely donation form; complete the form, and submit it along with your treasure to [Anne Ward](#). Take a few minutes today to find the really cool stuff in your house that is looking for a new home. Not sure what to donate? You can find examples of previous items at UUCEHoliday.com. Items will be accepted through February 8th, but the earlier the better so they can be displayed at the church and posted online. The silent auction bidding begins on Sunday February 5th and remains open through dinner on February 11th. Silent Auction bidding concludes

right before the Live Auction on February 11th.

WHAT ABOUT THE LIVE AUCTION?

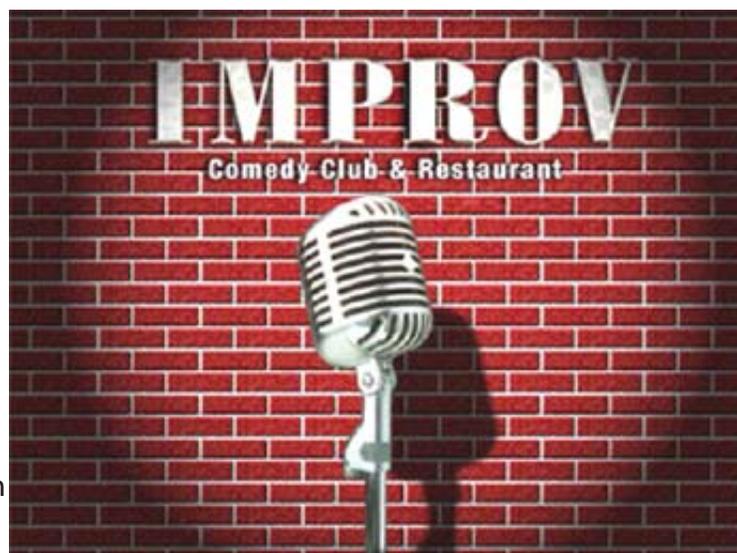
Following dinner and the silent auction is the Live Auction. This is a REAL auction with a REAL auctioneer, where the REAL fun begins! You will have an opportunity to bid on fun events such as dinners, an Oktoberfest party, and services such as handyman services, chauffeuring services, home baked bread for a year, and more. You can find examples of previous items at UUCEHoliday.com. Questions about the Live Auction? Contact [Bob Sandidge](#).

IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE?

Oh, yeah ... We still need volunteers. Sign up at UUCEHoliday.com or contact Auction Host [Mike Moutrie](#) if you would like to help.

Updates on this hilarious event can be found at UUCEHoliday.com.

Please note that the Service Auction is an "Adult Night Out." No childcare will be available at the church; however, offsite childcare is available. Contact [Andrea Schmidlin](#).



From the Minister

Forgiveness

by the Rev. Sara York

There is incredible power in forgiveness. But forgiveness is often undeserved. It may require a dimension of justice (penance, in traditional terms), but not always, for what it holds sacred is not fairness, but self-respect, and community. Forgiveness does not wipe away guilt, but invites reconciliation. And it is as important to be able to forgive as it is to be forgiven.

No, we do not forgive and forget. But when we invite the power of forgiveness, we release ourselves from some of the destructive hold the past has on us. Our hatred, our anger, our need to feel wronged— those will destroy us, whether a relationship is reconciled or not.

But we cannot just will ourselves to enter into forgiveness, either as givers or receivers. We can know it is right and that we want to do it and still not be able to.

We can, however, be open and receptive to the power of forgiveness, which, like any gift of the spirit, isn't of our own making. Its power is rooted in love. The Greek word for this kind of love is agape. Martin Luther King, Jr., defined agape as "Love seeking to preserve and create community." This kind of love is human, but it is also the grace of a transcendent power that lifts us out of ourselves. It transforms and heals; and even when we are separated by time or space or death, it reconciles us to ourselves and to life. For its power abides not just between us but within us. If we invited the power of agape to heal our personal wounds and give us the gift of forgiveness, we would give our world a better chance of survival.

A Month of Sundays

2/5: THE NEED FOR PRAYER

In the relentless busy-ness of our daily lives it is easy to neglect our need for time to reflect upon the meaning of our days, what we are living for, and why. And so there is prayer. Service led by the Rev. Dan Brosier.

2/12: ON LOVE AND OTHER MISTAKEN IDENTITIES

The word "love" represents a powerful force in our lives. Unfortunately, too often, we mistake other emotions for love. Service led by the Rev. Dan Brosier.

2/19: LIFE LESSONS

Today we will look at some of the every day lessons we learn through the living of our lives. Service led by Tim Closson.

2/26: WHO IS TO BLAME?

In the face of tragedy, we often ask "Why me?" In a similar vein, many have asked, "Why do bad things happen to good people?" And others simply want to know "Who is to blame?" Service led by the Rev. Dan Brosier.

All services begin at 10:45

Don't Bring Food for the Pantry This Month

The City of Elgin's Day of Sharing on Martin Luther King Day supplied the All People's Inter-Faith Pantry with food. Therefore, the Pantry can use the following non-food items this month: dish and laundry detergent, face soap, deodorant, tooth paste, tooth brushes, toilet paper and even cat and dog food. Try to bring your donations on our Pantry Sunday, February 5.

February Calendar

Worship Services

Sunday mornings at 10:45

Adult Religious Exploration and Education

Sunday mornings at 9:00 in rooms 301 and 302

Bells Practice

Sundays at 12:30 in the bell room

Board of Trustees Meeting

February 15 at 7:00 in the Fellowship Hall

Book Group—Afternoon

February 27 at 12:30 (offsite)

Book Group—Evening

February 17 at 7:00 (offsite)

Buddhist Group

Thursdays at 7:00 (off site)

CHURCH RENTAL

February 4 from 10:00 to 6:00

Committee on the Ministry

February 1 at 7:00

Covenant Group

February 7 and 21 at 7:00 (off site)

Executive Team

February 8 and 22 at 1:00

Finance Committee

February 8 at 7:00

Landscape & Grounds Meeting

February 12 at 12:30 in room 301

Landscape & Grounds Work Party

February 5 at 12:30 in the great outdoors

Mardi Gras Party (Religious Exploration and Education)

February 26 at 12:30 in the Fellowship Hall

OWL Class

February 3 at 6:00 and February 4 at noon in the Fellowship Hall and rooms 301 and 302

qUUilting

February 4 at 9:00 in room 302

Social Justice Committee

February 22 at 7:00

Unichord deadline

February 19

Western Crescent Ministers' Meeting

February 15 at 11:00 in room 301

Improv is for Everyone

The Service Auction is not just an evening for the "deep pockets." There are many inexpensive treasures in the Silent Auction; and this year in the Live Auction, just \$10 could get you an amazing prize that is worth several thousand dollars—you must attend to find out what it is! And there are ways other than spending money to help: **donate a service item**. Complete the form at right and give or email it to [Anne Ward](#). Offer whatever you love to do - walk a dog, watch a house, guide people through a nature trail, show how to make jewelry, or really shine a car... You will not only help with fund raising, but also create opportunities for UUCE members to share time together.

Service Auction Donation	Donation for: <input type="checkbox"/> Service Auction <input type="checkbox"/> Silent Auction
	Donor Name:
	Email:
	Phone:
	Item Name:
	Quantity:
	Approx Value: (The Describable Amt.)
	Description: <input type="checkbox"/> Same As Last Year—Item # _____

From the Director of Religious Exploration and Education

LIFESPAN RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION AND EDUCATION

Our Adult Spirituality program continues to offer two new classes: A World of Health and The Sociology of Death. Both classes meet at 9:00 on the third floor.

The Religious Exploration and Education Team is sponsoring an all-ages **Mardi Gras party on February 26** after the service. It will be a fun way to gather and cheer up on a winter's day! We will have a potluck lunch and activities. Look for more information in upcoming emails and orders of service.

Some of our 7th-9th grade youth are now participating in the Our Whole Lives (OWL) sexuality education program. This is a very comprehensive program that requires a big commitment: we run four or five 90-minute sessions one weekend a month! I am so thankful for our volunteer facilitators, Mila Brinker and Kevin Sweeney. And I'm sure the parents are too!

This month, each religious exploration and education class will be sponsoring a bake sale to raise money for our congregation to participate in Feed My Starving Children. This organization has a site in Schaumburg where volunteers help pack food that goes to children all over the world. Visit their website at www.fmssc.org and look for more information at the bake sales.

For our youngest participants, here's what is happening in their religious exploration and education classes this month:

Elgin Community Crisis Center Tour is February 5

Please mark your calendars for 1:00 on February 5th. Lisa Winchel will be leading our tour with discussion and questions/answers about the Crisis Center's programs and history. The Community Crisis Center is in downtown Elgin, east side, near Villa Street and Chicago Avenue. No additional RSVPs are needed. Children are welcome. Allow 30-45 minutes for the tour. Contact [Bob Jackson](#) with any questions.

The Unichord

FEBRUARY 5

Preschool: We Need Our Families
K-2: Creation
3-5: Huichol Indian Day
6-8: Visiting a Buddhist Temple/lunch
High School: Intro to Eastern Religions

FEBRUARY 12

Preschool: We Belong to the Family of the Earth
K-2: Sacred Places
3-5: Maulid al Nabi
6-8: Unitarianism and Universalism
High School: Intro to Eastern Religions, Part 2

FEBRUARY 19

Preschool: Cooperation
K-2: Hinduism: Rama and Sita
3-5: Mardi Gras
6-8: Unitarian Universalism – Principles and Purposes
High School: Taoism

FEBRUARY 26

Preschool: Celebrating a New Year
K-2: Hinduism: Sivitri
3-5: Pawamu
6-8: Paganism
High School: Buddhism – Waking Up

In Faith,
—Kathy



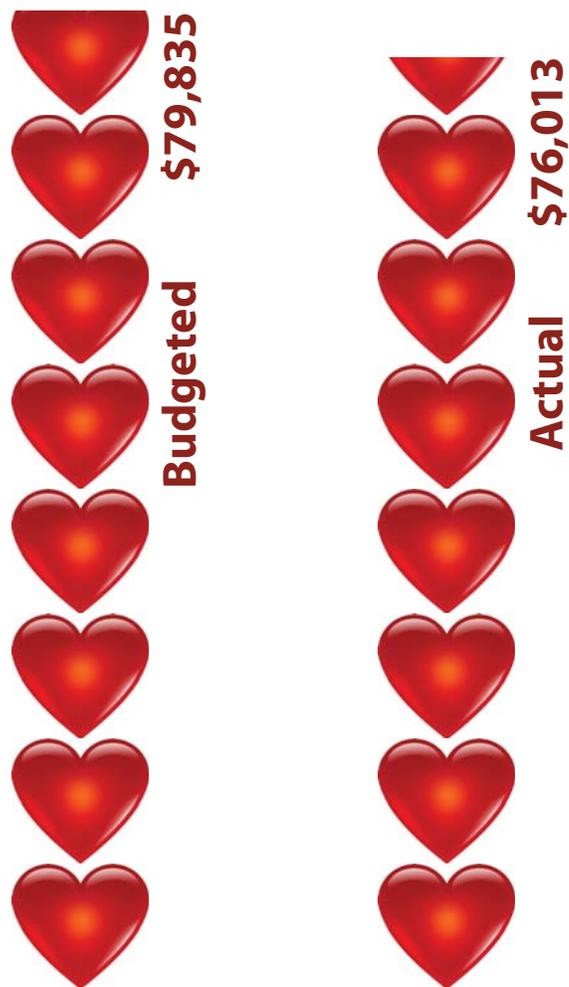
President's Reflections

Two major UUCE fundraising events will be taking place in February and March. First up in February is the Service Auction, which will be followed by the UUCE Annual Canvass in March. I want to acknowledge the important work being done by these two committees. While reading the UU-Money List, I came across this posting that summarizes the importance of being generous:

"Remember that UUCE offers us all a place to learn and act upon our liberal faith, gives us a chance to take action on social issues, and lets us connect to community. UUCE offers a place to nurture our children as they reach out to the wider world, knowing others will be there when important steps occur in our lives.

"All these things and more happen because our faith community has created a structure whereby we give and receive one another well."

—Tim



Pledge income as of 12/30/2011

Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

21 December 2011

Present: Andrea Budasi, Andrea Schmidlin, Beth Cooper-Zobott, Betsy Thrasher, Shari Smagatz, Stephen Day, Tim Davis

Reports

- Budget Report approved by consensus
- Earmarked funds: RE registration fees went into the youth earmarked fund
- Executive Team (ET) Report regarding Solar Panels: We need to have a structural engineer check the roof. The cost will be \$1300 which is currently scheduled to come out of the major maintenance earmark fund. The Board consensus was to leave the decision up to the ET.
- Monitoring Report on Financial Activities and Execution of Contracts Policies: Tim gave

an update on compensation data collection activities. The Board discussed whether the church is in compliance with limiting indebtedness to an amount that can be repaid within 3 months.

Unfinished Business

Software for membership, web and pledges will be tabled until May.

New Business

- The Endowment Committee will present a bylaw revision request to the Board.
- Beth will draft a food safety policy. There is a question regarding whether the church needs one.
- Tim will provide the master Service Calendar.

If You Still Haven't Made Your Reservation...

...do it now! You can register online at uceholiday.com. Or, if you prefer to write instead of type on the internet, you can use the handy form shown here. Fill it out and drop it in the basket on the Auction table.

MORE GOOD NEWS

The Service Auction offers one-stop shopping. Simply provide your credit card number ahead of time, using the form at right, or when you make your reservation online. Eat and bid to your heart's content. All of your bid purchases, plus your donation at the door (which includes food and entertainment), will be charged to your card at check-out. The staff can speed you on your way, making the end of the evening MUCH faster ... easy for the church, and easy for you!



RESERVATIONS SERVICE AUCTION

**UUCE Service Auction
Reserve NOW.
Pay at the Auction.
Come for The FUN of IT.**

**Suggested Donation | \$15
Includes Dinner & Non Adult Beverages**

Number of Meals _____ Donation _____

Name(s): _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Charge my Card I'll pay at the auction

Please hold my Credit Card On File.

It will not be charged until after the auction.

Card on file speeds you through registration and check out.

Circle Card: Visa - MC - AMX - Discovery

Name on Card _____

Billing Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

_____ exp ____/____ CID _____

Sig: _____

A Sweet Deal on Scrip

It's not too early to be thinking about Valentine's Day. When you purchase Fannie May Candies with scrip cards, UUCE gets a 25% rebate! Or there are a great many dining options available with scrip cards, such as Bonefish Grill, Red Lobster, Macaroni Grill, and Outback Steakhouse. You can order scrip cards at the scrip table in the downstairs lobby every Sunday after the service from 12:00 until 12:30, and pick them up the following Sunday.

Annual Canvass Begins March 4

We are members of a very unique and important organization. Unlike any other religious organization in the world, we open our fellowship to all people. We reach beyond our doors to promote peace and justice in our community and in the world.

In our church family life we are blessed with strong education, music, and community life programs, led by talented and dedicated people. We have all been enriched and strengthened spiritually and intellectually.

This is all possible because of you! Each and every one of us makes this magic happen through our participation and financial support of our church.

So the canvass committee asks: "What's it worth to you?"

Is it worth your financial support again this year? Is it worth closing the gap between your current level of giving

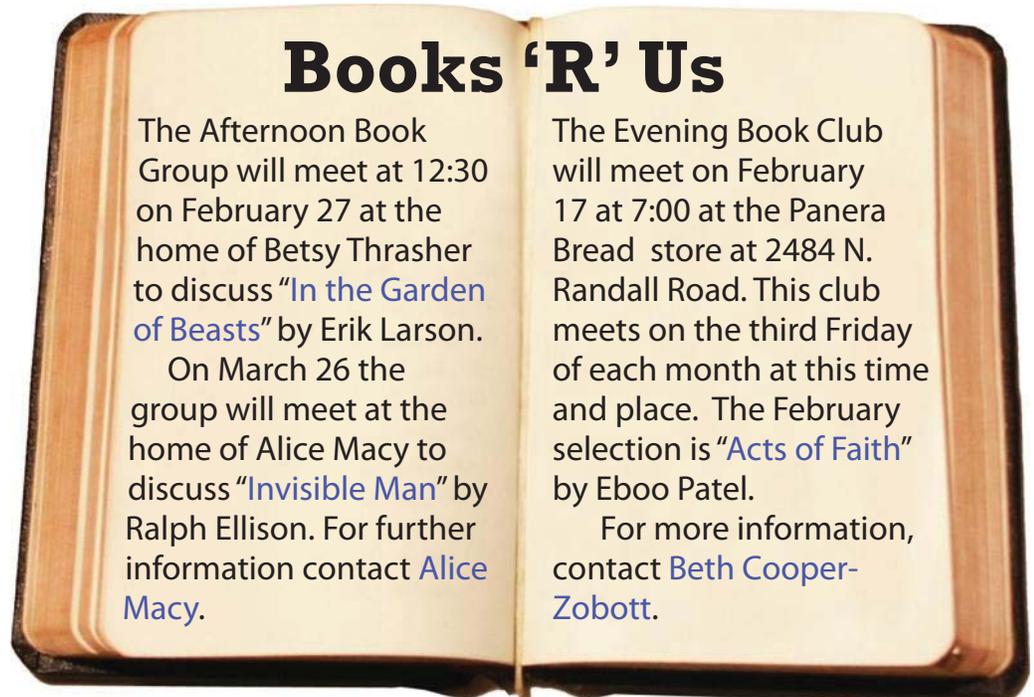
and the 3% of your annual gross income? Three percent is recognized by Unitarian Universalist Association as a generous level of support. Might you even go on to exceed that 3%, as many already do?

On March 4th we will kick off the UUCE Annual Canvass. On that Sunday the Canvass Committee will hand out pledge materials. Those who

return the pledge forms by March 11th will be eligible for a "fabulous" prize drawing.

Between now and March 4th, take a look at the many ways your church enriches your life and allows you to reach out and enrich the lives of others. Then ask yourself, "What's it worth to you?"

We trust your response will be both heartfelt and generous.



Happy  Day, You February Babes!

- | | | | | | |
|---|-------------------|----|------------------|----|--------------------|
| 1 | Dotty Carrangi | 8 | Tim Closson | 17 | Steve Stultz |
| 1 | C. Susan Hedke | 10 | Anne Branstrator | 22 | Sandy James |
| 2 | Lydia Larrabee | 12 | David Clough | 23 | Savannah Underwood |
| 2 | Ben Holish | 13 | Taylor Kremer | 23 | Diana Kremen |
| 5 | Kathie Wachholder | 13 | Aleks Lesiewicz | 24 | Kai Engel |
| 6 | Gloria Yaeger | 16 | Cheren Waller | 24 | Leslie Sawyer |
| 6 | Anne Bedard | 17 | Bud Geister | 26 | Greg Schmidlin |
| 7 | Bob Jackson | 17 | Kyle Brinker | 29 | Carl Deitrick |

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

SERVICE AUCTION VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Every show has a bunch of people you never see out front. They are the back stage people who handle all the details that make the show roll flawlessly. They are the people who handle decorating the stage, prepping food, purchasing and pouring the beverages, and after the show, sweeping up the crumbs (in this case, food crumbs) and dealing with leftovers. If you find you like to work behind the scenes, as so many of us do, join us. Sign up at the auction table or contact Stage Manager [Mike Moutrie](#).



The Unitarian Universalist Church of Elgin

P. O. Box 1032 • Elgin, IL 60121

