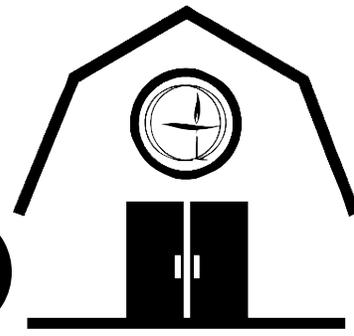


UNICHORD



March, 2010

CANVASS AS COMMENCEMENT, CELEBRATION

If this title surprises you, read on. The Canvass this year will constitute the beginning of a spiritual journey for our congregation toward becoming more generous persons. In the February canvass article, I invited you to envision some of the opportunities that could enrich our life as a congregation if we were to become a community of generous givers. In fact we have started on that path; we just intend to be more deliberate about it. Following the couple of years I was on a sabbatical during my husband's final illness and after his death, I noticed very generous responses to the Giving Tree project and the Village Bank project upon my return.

The September 2008 issue of the *Harvard Mental Health Letter* reported a brief summary of research, previously reported in the journal *Science*, entitled "Money can buy happiness—if you give it away." Research results suggest that "spending money on others makes people happier than spending it on themselves." Some of us have discovered this from our own experience; generosity is a win-win situation.

Here is how the Canvass will proceed. Since many will want to know what is considered "generous" with respect to a pledge, we are defining it as 3% of the gross income of the pledging unit

before taxes. No committee member will call on you to discuss your pledge; each of you will decide whether you are or can be a "generous" giver or possibly can work toward that goal in the future. Pledge packets will be given out March 7 immediately after the service. If you cannot be in church that day, your packet will be mailed to you right away. We are asking that you bring your completed pledge form to the special service on March 14, or mail it in the envelope provided as soon as possible.

On March 14, to express its appreciation for your prompt response, the Canvass Committee will put returned envelopes in a container for a drawing. Prizes in the drawing will be: a Gordon James CD, a Steve Askins CD, gift certificates for Starbucks and Barnes & Noble, a piece of Sandy and Gordon's jewelry, Fanny May chocolates, and a \$50 certificate for dinner at Villa Verone in downtown Elgin.

The committee does not think a long, drawn-out pledge drive is necessary. We believe the congregation's time and effort are better spent planning how we can use the resources pledged to further our Mission and our Vision of who we want to be.

—Roberta Nauman, Canvass chair

MARCH 21 FARMERS' MARKET

UUCE is hosting our Seventh Winter Farmers' Market on March 21 from 12 to 3 pm. There will be a variety of natural foods produced locally. Vendors will be selling products they grew, raised and/or made themselves. This is an opportunity to support family farming. Sales are on a cash basis only.

The market opens at 12 noon, immediately after the service. Because of parking constraints, the public is invited to arrive at 1:00. Please help spread the word by posting a market flyer at work, school, your favorite café, bookstore, library, etc., and by emailing it to friends and family. Thanks for your support and help in spreading the word!

For more information, contact [Mary Alice Masonick](#).

See the back of this newsletter for a list of Market offerings!



I grew up in a family that loved to fish. Excepting my mother and youngest brother, all of us fished the freshwater lakes and rivers of Michigan. My dad built his own fishing boat and annually held a fishing camp for a week or two. That passion continues in my siblings and some of their children.

Now as a young adolescent I too enjoyed fishing. I have many wonderful memories of being out in the evening casting for bass. But then high school came along and other pastimes captured my attention. It was that way for a period of 30 some years during which I could have cared less about spending any time trying to hook and land a fish. Fish stories about phenomenal catches did nothing for me, and I often left the room at family gatherings when the talk turned to fishing.

But then perhaps 5 years ago something happened and an interest in fishing returned. Almost out of nowhere it clicked on again but at a higher intensity. When I have the opportunity, I am up at 5 AM and on my way. I am not a very good fisherman and don't catch a lot, but time flies by when I am on the water.

The question I wonder about every now and then is why—why did my interest in fishing return. I am sure there are probably a number of factors like enjoying the beauty of the out-of-doors and the relaxation that it brings. But in addition there is something psychological—maybe spiritual—and it has to do with hope. Fishing for me is a hope-filled activity. Each time I head off I am filled with excitement and hope that this time I will catch something interesting. Even after hours of catching nothing often the hope remains—hope that this next cast will be the one—the next research program will find the solution, the next treatment will bring a cure, the next election will bring the change we need. It is an experience of hopefulness and that is worth cultivating.

--Dan

7 THE BLESSING OF GENEROSITY

It is a rather simple concept that may lead to profound living—be generous. Service led by the Rev. Dan Brosier.

14 THE JOURNEY TO HOME

A celebration of the journey many of us made to find a home in this faith community. We will call forth the spirit of UUism that informs our lives and gives us home. Service led by the Rev. Dan Brosier.

21 ALL-MUSIC SUNDAY

Twice a year we devote a service to celebrating the music of this church. As usual we have a full line-up of members willing to share their musical gifts with us. Service led by the Rev. Dan Brosier.

28 REMEMBERING THOSE WE HAVE LOST

Acknowledgment of life events is essential to any spiritual community. In this service we will recognize those who have completed the circle of life on this earth. In a water ritual to honor the dead, we will pay tribute to those who no longer live among us. Service led by Elise C. Wall.

All services begin at 10:45

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 March this charitable organization is PADS—the local homeless shelter. 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 proceeds from Share the Plate for January were designated to go to the UU Service Committee—we raised \$285.50. Our special collection for Haiti Relief raised \$1851.00.

March, 2010

MARCH CALENDAR

WORSHIP SERVICES

Sundays at 10:45

ADULT R.E.

CLASSES Sundays at 9:00 in rooms 301 and 302

ALL MUSIC

SUNDAY!

March 21 during the service



BOARD MEETING

March 17 at 7:00
in the Fellowship Hall

BOOK GROUP

March 22, at 12:30 (off-site)

BUDDHIST GROUP

Thursdays at 6:30 in rooms 301 and 302

CANVASS LUNCHEON

March 14 at noon in the Fellowship Hall



CHOIR PRACTICE

Thursday nights
at 7:30

in the Sanctuary



CHURCH RENTAL

March 15, 22, 29 at 5:30:

Fellowship Hall and classrooms

COMMITTEE

ON THE MINISTRY

March 3 at 7:00

COMMUNITY

GARDENING

March 21 at 1:00 in room 302
and, weather permitting, in the garden

COOKING FOR

CHAKRAS

March 27 at 4:00

COVENANT GROUP March 9 and 23 at 7:00 (offsite)

EXECUTIVE TEAM

MEETINGS

March 2, 16 and 30 at 9:30

FAMILY FRIDAY

March 19 at 5:30
in the Fellowship Hall

FINANCE COMMITTEE

March 10 at 7:00

PAGAN UNITY:

SPRING EQUINOX

RITUAL AND POTLUCK

March 20 at 6:00
in the Fellowship Hall.

The Ostara Ritual will feature the story of Demeter and Persephone.

PARENTING

BOOK CIRCLE

Friday evenings.

Contact [Diana Jyoti](#)

QUUILTERS /

PROJECT LINUS

March 6, 9:30-12, room 302

R.E. COUNCIL

March 24 at 7:00
in the Fellowship Hall

SOCIAL JUSTICE

MEETING

March 24 at 7:00

SANCTUARY SETUP

March 27 at 3:00

TAE KWON DO CLUB

Saturdays at 2:00 in the Fellowship Hall

[UNICHORD DEADLINE](#)
[March 21](#)

WESTERN CRESCENT

MINISTERS' MEETING

March 17 at 11:30 in 301

WINTER FARMERS'

MARKET!

March 21 from 12:00-3:00



WORSHIP COMMITTEE

March 7 at 9:15

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



With the excitement of the Mystery Match program behind us, we begin the last 12 weeks of the church year. The K-2, 3-5, and 6-8 classes will begin a unit on Judeo-Christian heritage, where they will learn some of the stories from the Old Testament, which is one of our Unitarian Universalist Sources, and some of the Jewish and Christian holidays.

The 6-8 class will take a unique approach to learning about the Bible and topics of spiritual and philosophical interest: they will be viewing specific episodes of The Simpsons to encourage them to think about things such as the Bible, souls, and prayer.

Also happening this month is Family Friday, which will be held on the 19th. We will start at 5:30pm with a potluck dinner, followed by some springtime activities and games. All ages are encouraged to attend.

In Adult Spirituality, our two programs will continue through March: "The Transcendentalist Movement" and "Life Is A Verb: 37 Days to Wake Up, Be Mindful, and Live Intentionally". Both programs start at 9am on Sunday mornings and end at 10:30am. We will begin two new programs on April 4: Ayurveda and Popcorn Theology for Mature Audiences.

In Faith,
Kathy

JUST THREE QUILT DAYS LEFT!

Yep, that's all!

- * March 6
- * April 3
- * May 1

This means that March 6 needs to be our very last day of cutting fabric. April 3 and May 1 will be devoted to assembling the child-sized quilt tops for Project Linus. We will "show and tell" our results at the annual church picnic in June.

If you've been meaning to stop by and play with fabric, these are your last chances for the church year. Meet on any of the above dates between 9:30 and noon on the third floor of the church. Contact: [Donna Askins](#).

FAMILY FRIDAY FUN!

All ages are invited to an evening of fun on March 19 at 5:30pm. We will start with a potluck supper, followed by games and activities. Please [RSVP to Kathy](#) by Thursday evening.



	Preschool	K-2nd	3rd-5th	6th-8th	High School
Mar. 7	Rainbows	Lent	The Creation Story	The Simpsons: "Mr. Plow"	Begin planning for their spring worship service
Mar. 14	Music Sunday Intergenerational Service- no classes				
Mar. 21	Pussy Willows	Pesah/Passover	The Burning Bush	The Simpsons: "Marge vs. The Monorail"	Continue planning for their spring worship service
Mar. 28	Passover	Palm Sunday	Samuel's Call	The Simpsons: "Last Exit to Springfield"	
	Preschool	K-2nd	3rd-5th	6th-8th	High School

March, 2010

SUMMARY OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES

Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes Summary
20 January 2010, 7:00 PM

In Attendance: Kevin Sweeney, Kevin Webster, Dennis Schwank, Steve Stultz, Andrea Schmidlin, Shari Smagatz, Beth Cooper-Zobott, and Kathy Underwood representing the Executive Team

- Executive Team Report: Discussion regarding a person who has been asked not to return to Church grounds while an employee is present, due to a restraining order. Report accepted without objection.
- Strategic Plan Task Force: Should be ready to report by the February 18th Board Meeting.
- Canvass Committee: Asked if board members would be willing to say whether they are contributing 3% of their respective gross incomes. Board is in agreement that this would be appropriate.
- Endowment Committee Report: Discussed whether and how to approach the congregation to solicit donations to the endowment fund.
- Employee Compensation Task Force: The Board agreed to suggest the same compensation increase that was proposed last year. No raises were given last year due to the economy and the church's finances.
- Nominating Committee Policy: The Committee will forward the policy to the Board after minor changes; to be presented at the next meeting.
- Social Justice: Presented the policy regarding Statements of Conscience. The policy was approved unanimously. The policy is:

Policy regarding Statements of Conscience
“The Social Justice Council, Board of Trustees, and the Green Sanctuary Committee may make public statements of conscience, but any such statement must be identified as coming from one of those bodies.

“The Social Justice Council and the Board of Trustees may make a public statement of conscience representing the church if that statement is consistent with the official UUA position on that issue or is approved by the majority of voting members at a duly called congregational meeting. An individual from the Social Justice Council or the Board of Trustees shall be appointed to act as spokesperson; only s/he will answer questions about the matter. Church members shall refer all questions and/or concerns to said spokesperson.”

*—Adopted by the Board of Trustees,
January 2010.*

- Financial Co-coordinator: The Board will engage the Executive Team to change wording of the Executive Team job descriptions regarding paid staff and volunteers. The Executive Team will recommend what volunteers should do and describe what volunteers the ET needs.
- Request for Earmarked Fund: Request for an earmarked fund was denied because the existing Temporary Fund will work for this purpose. The Treasurer will see whether Sub-Ledgers can be set up in Quick Books.

PRESIDENT'S REFLECTIONS



The Strategic Plan Task Force has been busy setting goals and making a plan for our future. They're almost done, and will present the Plan to

the Board of Trustees in March.

It's time to think about nominations for open positions on the Board of Trustees and other committees. Have you thought

about serving on the Board or a committee? If so, please contact me or a member of the Nominating Committee; we'd be happy to discuss your plans and how you can help.

Michelle Sweeney was recently appointed as our Shared Ministry Facilitator. The Shared Ministry Facilitator is a volunteer who oversees the process through which members and friends are channeled into the shared

ministry of this church. Shared ministry happens when a congregation is intentional about defining its ministry, educates all members of the congregation that they share in that ministry, and helps them find meaningful ways to participate. Are you looking for a way to provide meaningful service to your congregation? Michelle is the person to call.

—Kevin

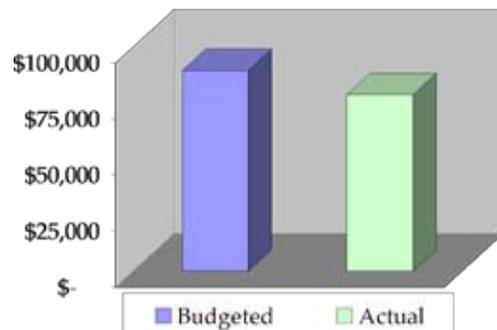
5 THINGS YOU SHOULD ALWAYS BUY GREEN

1. Paint - Look for: Low or, ideally, no-VOC paint.
 2. Paper - Look for: Paper products with a high post-consumer recycled content.
 3. Light bulbs - Look for: Compact fluorescents.
 4. Appliances - Look for: Appliances with the Energy Star label.
 5. Fruits and Vegetables - Look for: Organic, local, in-season produce.
- Most important to buy organic to avoid pesticide residue: apples, bell peppers, celery, cherries, imported grapes, nectarines, peaches, pears, potatoes, raspberries, spinach, strawberries.

—from *Green America*

And...

Mark your calendar for **Earth Hour**, Saturday, March 27, at 8:30 pm. Join hundreds of millions across the globe in sending a powerful message that climate change is a priority that must be dealt with now. Turn off non-essential lighting for one hour and show your support for lasting action to protect Earth's natural resources, environment and climate, now and into the future.



MEMBER PLEDGES

As of 1/31/10 we have received \$78,711 of the \$89,604 budgeted to date. Our pledge goal for the 2009/2010 fiscal year is \$149,285. Questions? Contact Treasurer **Shari Smagatz**.

VILLAGE BANKING NEWS

UUCE has started two new banks. With the money collected in the month of November, and with our generous anonymous donors making up the difference in funding, UUCE was able to send a \$5000 check to FINCA for a new Village Bank in Haiti. After the announcement of the new bank being started in Haiti, Jason and Jennifer Engel gave another \$5000 to fund a bank in Zambia. Thank you to all who donated to the Village Banking fund.



THANK YOU

A thank you to everyone who has been donating to the All People's Inter-Faith Pantry.

This month the Pantry staff indicated a need for bar soap, cereal, jelly and peanut butter. Please try to bring your donations on our Pantry Sunday, March 7th.

WHICH LISTERV DOES WHAT?

There are three ways to contact the church as a group via email. Each has a specific purpose. The address uus@uuce.org is reserved for official church announcements only. Those wishing to engage in political discussion may communicate via freespace@uudialogue.com. Finally, the Community Bulletin Board at bulletinboard@uuce.org exists to provide members and friends with a means to share information about:

- Items they wish to give away or sell
- Things they are looking to buy or borrow
- Employment opportunities or needs
- Requests for or assistance with social justice activities they are involved in
- Requests for advice/recommendations about companies or contractors they might hire to do some type of work.

SPECIAL EVENT FROM WISDOM RISING

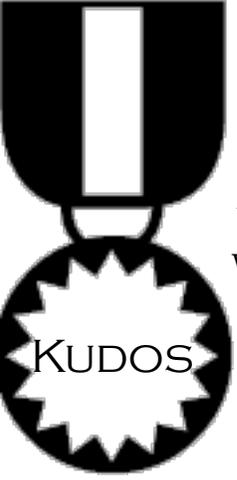
COOKING FOR YOUR CHAKRAS

Help support Wisdom Rising by reserving your spot ASAP for "Cooking for Your Chakras" with Chef John Biank from **The Angel Center** in Oswego. On Saturday, March 27th at 6pm, at UUCE, learn if you are eating too much or too little for each individual chakra.

The menu will be vegetarian with bananas foster as dessert; BYOB. To reserve your spot, please e-mail **Deb Caruso** with subject line: WR Cooking for Your Chakras. To find out more about Wisdom Rising and see pictures from 2009, visit www.uucewisdomrising.com.



March, 2010

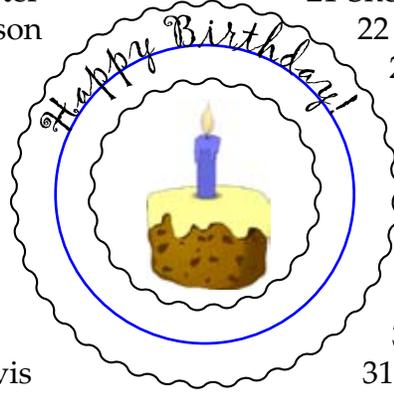


☪ ...to Jason and Jennifer Engel for their generous donation to the Village Bank fund which allowed the church to write a check sponsoring a Village Bank in Zambia

☪ ... to Brandi Talaga for making Teacher Appreciation gifts
 ☪ ... to Chris Davis for making the Mystery Match gift bags
 ☪ ... to Jessica Frost for coordinating Mystery Match.

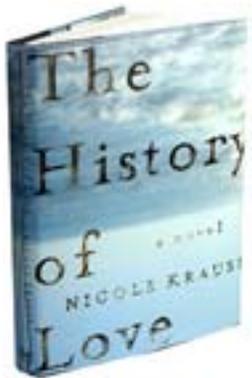
HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO...

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| 3 Jackie Van De Warker | 16 Pat Pecho |
| 3 Ethan Engel | 19 Carol Ovelmen |
| 5 Trisha Dean | 19 Christina Conway |
| 6 Sharon Fincher | 19 Jessica Thompson |
| 7 Sandy Webster | 21 Sherman Ovelmen |
| 8 Robin Peterson | 22 Carey Schug |
| 8 Amy Hill | 22 Danielle Foster |
| 9 Derek Bedard | 23 Bruce Kiesewetter |
| 9 Olivia Grace | 23 Jim Howells |
| 9 Grace Husseini | 24 Diana March |
| 10 Mila Brinker | 27 Jamie Kiesewetter |
| 11 Melanie Davis | 28 Cassandra Howells |
| 15 Joe Cusimano | 30 Suzanne Hanifl |
| | 31 Olivia Abdur-Raffia |
| | 31 Sarah Seiberlich |



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

In the month of February Beth Peterson, Austin Kremer, Jane Kimball and Mary Gaston signed the membership book. Also recently signing the membership book were Bridget Laflin, Debbie Caruso, Jamie Flentge, Rick Yucuis, Todd Owens, Melissa Owens, Jorie Van Ohlen, Jason Engel, Jennifer Engel, and Susan Stillinger. Check out the New Member board near the library book cart in the Fellowship Hall. Welcome to each and every one!



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.

☪ March 22 - *The History of Love* by Nicole Krauss. At the home of Bonnie Schwank.

WHEEL OF LIFE

We are saddened by the news that Bill Metzger, former minister to the UUCE, died the end of January. He served the church from 1979 – 1986.

Robert Shanahan, the son of long-time member Kristy Shanahan who moved out of the area some years ago, has died at the age of 27.

The families would probably appreciate hearing from old friends from the church.

OUR GROWING COMMUNITY GARDEN

In October of last year, the UUCE commUUnity garden joined forces with the Lords Park Zoo Community Garden to embark on a two-fold mission: to teach sustainable skills, and to feed the local hungry.

This new mission replaces the old mantra of “If you work a lot, take a lot ... if you work a little, take a little.” Instead, at every garden party we aim to teach people how to grow food, engage in composting, and use resources in a sustainable manner. All of the harvest goes to Elgin’s soup kitchens, shelters, food pantries, and other outlets which feed the hungry.

All are welcome to participate! The next planning meeting will be Saturday, March 13, at 2:00 at the Elgin Museum on the grounds of the Lords Park Zoo. On March 21, weather permitting, we’ll plant lettuce and spinach here at the UUCE. Questions? Contact [Donna Askins](#).



WAYS TO GET IN TOUCH

www.uuce.org

minister@uuce.org

administrator@uuce.org

newsletter@uuce.org

847.888.0668

Physical location:

39W830 Highland Avenue

three miles west of Randall Road

Postal mail:

P.O. Box 1032

Elgin, Illinois 60121

BOUNTY AVAILABLE AT THE
MARCH 21 FARMERS' MARKET:

Honey

Tilapia

Cheese

Basil vinaigrette

Fresh organic greens

French pastries and breads

Organic whole grain breads, cakes, cookies

Reusable bags made from recycled material

Shares in Community Supported Agriculture farms

Spa & beauty products made with home-grown herbs

Salsas, pasta sauces, soups, preserves, Bloody Mary mix

Grass-fed & grain-fed beef, pastured pork, free-range poultry, eggs

Goat milk soap, body butter, sugar scrub, lavender sachets, fibers

Fair trade, organic coffees, teas, & chocolate from small farms in Latin America

Be there!



The Unitarian Universalist Church of Elgin

P.O. Box 1032

Elgin, Illinois 60121