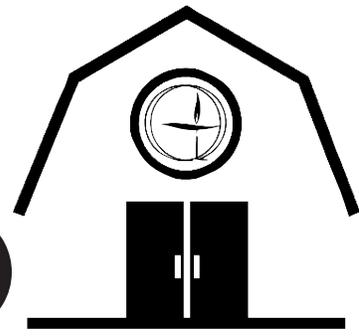


The Unitarian Universalist Church of Elgin

UNICHORD



May, 2010

CELEBRATE THE HEALING ARTS ON MAY 15

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC—Wisdom Rising: A Community Celebration of the Healing Arts will take place at the church on Saturday, May 15, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Spend the day with practitioners of the healing arts to learn, share and raise your wisdom of both new and ancient healing techniques for enrichment of mind, body and spirit.

Some of the presenters are:

- Yoga with Danae Moliter
- Ayurveda with Anne Clough
- Robin's Ramblings on Food with Robin Migalla
- Laughter Yoga with Julie Ostrow
- Awaken to the Power, Purpose, and Passion Within You with Alesa Burbach
- Tarot with Sandy Russel
- Beyond Belief: The Art and Practice of the Sacred Guide in the Unitarian Universalist Tradition with Michael J Murschel
- EFT with Valerie Howells
- Labyrinths with Ron Williams
- Health & Wellness with Anne Ward and Bob Sandidge
- Sweat Lodges with John Blank

The closing celebration will feature a Gong Meditation with Kenny Kolter. See a full schedule of workshops and presenters at www.uuceWisdomRising.com.

The Wisdom Rising program is one of several programs presented as a community service throughout the year by the Unitarian Universalist Church www.uuce.org. Free parking is available. Wisdom Rising has a suggested donation of \$5.00 at the door, cash or check. Lunch is available.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Susan Wiseshart, author of *Soul Visioning: Clear the Past, Create Your Future*, will be the keynote presenter at Wisdom Rising, the annual Community Celebration of the Healing Arts, held on May 15. Susan Wiseshart's groundbreaking book teaches you how to create a life of passion and purpose by following your Soul's wisdom. Using breakthrough methods such as Energy Psychology (acupuncture for the emotions without the needles), guided journeys, forgiveness practices, and past life and life-between-lives regression, you'll discover practical, step-by-step techniques to heal the unconscious beliefs that block the awareness of your true spiritual identity and life purpose. Learn more at www.SusanWiseshart.com



wisdom rising
A Community Celebration of the Healing Arts

FROM THE MINISTER



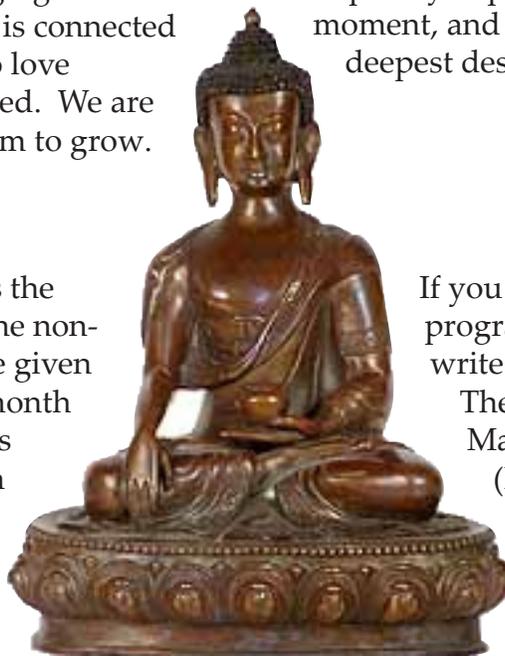
As another annual canvass draws to a close, I look over the results and by all measures it was successful. We currently have \$160,148 in pledges for the 2010 – 2011 fiscal year. That is an increase of about \$9,000 over last year—a 6% growth. The number of pledging units (people or families making a pledge) increased by five to 102. Of these over ¼ said they were giving at 3% or higher. This number of “fair-share” pledgers represents a good financial foundation with room for growth as others take steps to reach the 3% level.

Despite the increases, though, the Finance Committee presented to the Board a balanced budget that required some cuts from the previous year, and no raises for the staff. This odd outcome to a successful canvass is the result of two large decreases in income in other areas of the budget. First, there was a mistake last year in recording a pledge—a \$6,000 was recorded as \$600. This became part of the expected income and a budget was built with it. Correct the error and this year we start off \$5400 in the hole. The second decrease was due to a one-time gift of \$5,000 from a member. Again, we used it to fund last year’s operations and this as well causes us to start off this budget process with a deficit. All totaled, the canvass needed to raise an extra \$10,400 just to get us back to last year’s budgeted income level.

The goal remains to create a congregation of generous people because generosity is connected to compassion which is connected to love which is at the heart of a life well-lived. We are off to a good start with plenty of room to grow.

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 May this charitable organization is the Human Rights Campaign, which is the largest national lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender civil rights organization.



A MONTH OF SUNDAYS

2 THE STATE OF THE GAY UNION

A review of what is going on with the struggle for GLBT rights. Service led by the Rev. Dan Brosier.

9 MOTHERS DAY

Our annual celebration and examination of our relationships with our mothers. Service led by the Rev. Dan Brosier.

16 BUDDHIST WORDS WHICH I CAN'T PRONOUNCE BUT HAVE MEANING FOR ME

An attempt to understand a few of the core teachings of Buddhism. Service led by the Rev. Dan Brosier.

23 HOW WE DIE

Coming to terms with our mortality is essential to living well. Having an understanding of the dying process is one aspect of a life enhancing relationship with death. Service led by the Rev. Dan Brosier.

30 MOVING TO THE RHYTHMS OF YOUR TRUE SELF

Taking excerpts and ideas from *The Dance*, by Oriah Mountain Dreamer (also author of *The Invitation*), join us to consider the ways that we can risk being completely at peace with who we are in this moment, and still find the energy to follow our deepest desires. Service led by Kim Cecil.

All services begin at 10:45

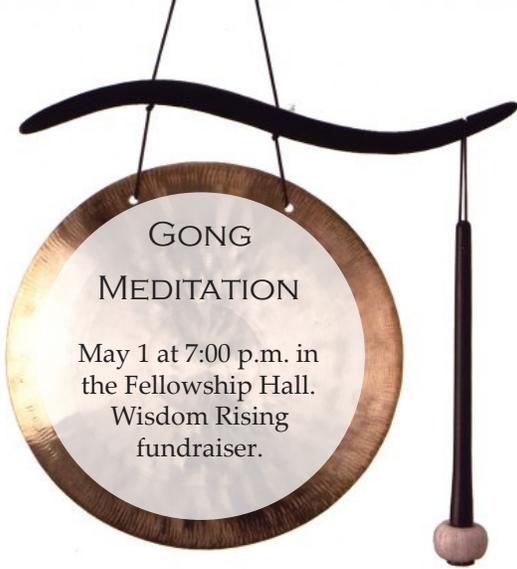
If you wish to write a check to support the program, make it out to the UUCE and write “Share the Plate” on the memo line.

The proceeds from Share the Plate in March were designated to go to PADS (Public Action to Deliver Shelter).

We raised \$499.10.

May, 2010

MAY CALENDAR



CHURCH RENTALS

- **May 16 at 1:00: Fellowship Hall and kitchen**
- **May 20 at 8:00 a.m: rooms 301 and 302**
- **May 22 at 2:00**

GREEN SANCTUARY MEETING
May 16 at 12:30 in room 301

LANDSCAPING WORK PARTIES
May 9, 16, 23 & 30 @ 12:15
Even 5 minutes of your time would help. Meet near the shed behind the church; tools will be provided.

CIRCLE SUPPER POTLUCK
May 8 at 6:00 in Fellowship Hall

PAGAN UNITY
Beltane Ritual
May 1 at 3:30 p.m.

WORSHIP SERVICES
Sundays at 10:45

COMMITTEE ON THE MINISTRY
May 5 at 7:00

ADULT R.E. CLASSES
Sundays at 9:00
in rooms 301 and 302

COMMUNITY GARDEN
May 16 at 12:15 — Seedling sale in the Fellowship Hall.
May 29 at 2:00 — Harvest lettuce and spinach; plant beans, carrots and onions.

QUILTERS / PROJECT LINUS
May 1, 9:30-12, room 302

ANNUAL MEETING
May 2 at 12:30
in the Fellowship Hall

R.E. COUNCIL
May 26 at 7:00
in the Fellowship Hall

BENEFIT LUNCH
May 2 at noon
in the Fellowship Hall

COVENANT GROUP
4 and 18 at 7:00 (offsite)

SOCIAL JUSTICE MEETING
May 26 at 7:00

BOARD MEETING
May 19 at 7:00
in the Fellowship Hall

EXECUTIVE TEAM MEETINGS
May 4 and 18 at 9:30

TAE KWON DO CLUB
Saturdays at 2:00 in the Fellowship Hall

BOOK GROUP
May 24 at 12:30 (off-site)

FINANCE COMMITTEE
May 12 at 7:00

UNICHORD DEADLINE
May 23

BUDDHIST GROUP
Thursdays at 6:30 in rooms 301 and 302

CHOIR PRACTICE
Thursday nights at 7:30
in the Sanctuary

Setup
May 14 at noon
Entire building



Festival
May 15 at 9:00
Entire building

wisdom rising

A Community Celebration of the Healing Arts

WESTERN CRESCENT MINISTERS' MEETING
May 19 at 11:30 in room 301

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



I can feel it in the air: the last big “hurrah” which is the end of the church year. It’s also the last big “hurrah” for most schools and some sports. And yet it is the beginning in so many ways: warm summer days and evenings with a slower pace; starting college or jobs; reconnecting with neighbors on the front porch. For me, it means a little bit of both.

There are several big “hurrahs” in religious education over these next five weeks. On May 2, the K-2 class will present a chalice banner they made to the congregation. After the service, the Religious Education Council will be coordinating a benefit luncheon for the Reynolds/Lesiewicz family.

On May 23, we will be recognizing our 8th graders, who will be making the big transition to high school and youth group next year.

On May 30, we will have our annual nature walk at Burnidge Woods. If any parents would like to join us, you are more than welcome!

Both Adult Spirituality programs will come to a close at the end of the month. There aren’t enough words that can express my gratitude for the many people who have facilitated this year. We have offered so many unique programs over the past few years!

Our final “hurrah” will be on June 6, when we will recognize our high school seniors. Each graduate will be given a chance to give a commencement speech. This service is a wonderful opportunity to see where the next generation of UUs is going, and how each views this next phase in life. This will also be the last day of religious education classes. Again, words cannot say how much the teachers and assistants are appreciated!

In faith,
Kathy

THIS MONTH IN R.E.

	Preschool	K-2nd	3rd-5th	6th-8th	High School
May	May Day	St. Francis	Moses and the Exodus	The Simpsons’ “Pray Anything”	Topic of their choice
May 9	Mothers / Fathers Day	A Time for Wondering About God	Jesus the Healer	The Simpsons: “When Flanders Failed”	Topic of their choice
May 16	Friendship	Shavuot	The Good Samaritan	The Simpsons: “Like Father, Like Clown”	Topic of their choice
May 23	Fixed!	Everyone’s Birthday	The Shema	The Simpsons: “Thank God It’s Doomsday”	Go out for brunch and recap last week’s service
May 30	Preschool through 8 th grades will go on a nature walk				Topic of their choice
	Preschool	K-2nd	3rd-5th	6th-8th	High School

NEW QUILTING QUEEN!

Everybody please thank Darla Musson when you see her! As of May 1, she will lead the quilt group.

On May 1, the group will finish assembling the child-sized quilt tops for Project Linus. These will be displayed at the annual church picnic in June.

If you’ve been meaning to stop by and play with fabric, May 1 is the last chance for the church year. Meet between 9:30 and noon on the third floor of the church. Quilting bees will resume in the fall — still on the first Saturday of each month.

Special thanks is also due to Frieda Anderson, whose gracious reign spanned greater than fifteen years.



May, 2010

SUMMARY OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES

March 17, 2010

In attendance: Dennis Schwank, Kevin Webster, Kevin Sweeney, Beth Cooper-Zobott, Andrea Budasi and representing the Executive Team, Sandy Webster.

Reports

Budget Report: Accepted

Earmarked Funds Report: Accepted

Executive Team Report: Discussion regarding re-keying of building doors to keep better track of who has the keys. The Board approved the appointment of Kim Cecil to the nominating committee.

Monitoring Report: Accepted

Strategic Plan Task Force: The Plan will be presented to the Board on 3/29.

General Board Policy Task Force:

Almost finished with review. Changes made so far were accepted by the Board.

Financial Reporting Task Force:

The backup file for Quickbooks could not be restored. QB will probably be updated to 2010 version.

Canvass Committee: The Board felt that the process used this year was

good and that the Committee did a good job.

Unfinished Business

Security Policy : No further action.

New Business

Proposed changes to Governance

Policies: Minor grammatical changes: Accepted

Proposed changes to personnel policies: Discussion of changes with a few more minor changes. Approved without objection.

Review of non-reviewed General Board Policies: Gift Acceptance Policy and Child Sexual Abuse Policy are the only policies that have not been reviewed by the Board. The Board will review for discussion at next meeting. General Assembly: The Assembly will be in June this year. We have 4 passes for delegates including the Minister. The Board will discuss it again in April. District Assembly: is in Wheeling this year but on the same weekend as our Annual Meeting.

Date of next Board Meeting (one week earlier than usual): April 14th

BOARD OF TRUSTEES GENERAL POLICIES

Space does not permit the posting of all policies in the *Unichord*. However, existing policies, listed below, may be accessed by contacting the church office. Contact administrator@uuce.org or call 847.888.0668.

Child Care Policy
Communications Policies
Conflict Resolution Policy
Disposal of Tangible Property Policy
Disruptive Behavior Policy
Facilities Use Policy
Fund Raising Policy
Permanent and Highly Visible Policy
Procurement and Reusables Policy
Alcohol Use Policy
Policy regarding Statements of Conscience
Nominating Committee Policy

PROPOSED CHANGES TO CHURCH BY-LAWS

At the annual meeting on May 2, the Board will present proposed changes to the by-laws; the congregation will be asked to vote on whether or not to accept these changes.

Text to be removed is shown below in ~~strikeout~~. Text to be added is underlined. Questions should be directed to the Board of Trustees. Email president@uuce.org or telephone 847.888.0668.

Article VI. BOARD OF TRUSTEES: ELECTION AND TENURE

~~Section 8. A nominating committee of three members appointed by the Board of Trustees not less than five weeks prior to the annual meeting shall present names of all Trustees to be voted upon. The Board of Trustees shall appoint a Nominating Committee according to its policies.~~ Publication of the nominations from that Committee shall be made in the notices of the annual meeting. Additional nominations may be made from the floor.

Article VII. BOARD OF TRUSTEES: POWER AND DUTIES

~~Section 3. The Board of Trustees shall create whatever committees it deems necessary for the operation and well-being of the Church. These shall include a Nominating Committee and a Committee on the Ministry which shall meet periodically with the Minister. The Chair of all Board created committees, not appointed by the Board, shall be selected by the committee may be appointed by the Board. To assist the Board of Trustees, The Religious Education Council, consisting of six members who are elected at the Annual Meeting for a term of three years, shall act as liaison to the Board of Trustees and the Religious Education Staff.~~

GREEN CORNER

ELGIN'S GREEN EXPO: FOR THE BEAUTY OF MOTHER EARTH

Elgin's Green Expo

Solutions for a Sustainable Community
For the Beauty of Mother Earth
at the Centre in Elgin - 100 Symphony Way
Saturday May 8th, from 9 am to 4 pm
www.ecco-foxvalley.net

Experience Elgin's Premier Green Event. It is free and family-friendly. Celebrate and explore new ideas to live green, save green and earn green. Take in the remarkable cornucopia of sustainable living ideas, services and products in our community.

The focus at this year's event will once again be on all things green & energy efficient, but with

special emphasis on older home retrofits, sustainable gardens, landscaping, new technologies, and innovative products for your home, business or community.

There will be hundreds of exhibitors, a farmers' market, native Illinois plants for sale, activities for kids, and much more. It is shaping up to be a wonderful event!

This event is a partnership of the Elgin Sustainability Master Planning Committees, Elgin Heritage Commission, Elgin Climate Change Organization, and the City of Elgin.

—Mary Alice Masonick
Green Sanctuary Committee

SOCIAL JUSTICE

UUCE MEMBERS TAKE THE 40-DAY CHALLENGE: 40/40/40

40 YEARS of Earth Day

40 DAYS of commitment

40 UUs from UUCE stand up for the Earth

UUs all across the country are doing something special for Earth Day's 40th anniversary on April 22nd. They're making a 40 day commitment to small (and large) lifestyle changes for the good of the Earth. In an acknowledgement that our personal choices affect environmental justice as they ripple through the social and economic landscape, UUs are choosing one behavior to "test drive" for 40 days. When 40 people in one congregation make the commitment, that congregation receives special acknowledgement from the UUA's Ethical Eating: Food and Environmental Justice Core Team.

Already, over 40 members of our congregation have chosen to take the 40 day challenge!



It's not too late to start the program. You can sign up online at <http://NewUU.com/40Days>. You can also go there to read updates about our progress and for resources to



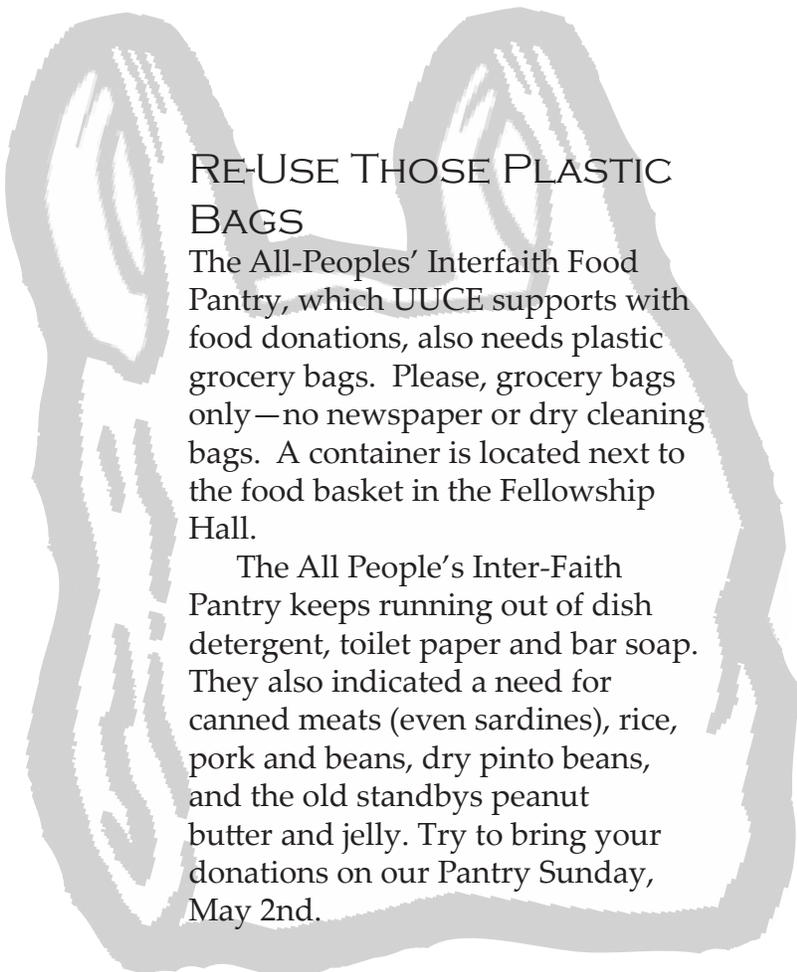
help you. You will find a list of 40 sample action ideas to get you started, links to the UUA program, local resources, and help from your fellow UUCE members.

We're celebrating with a drawing on May 30th to win a Fair Trade gift basket. For further information, contact Anne Ward.

RE-USE THOSE PLASTIC BAGS

The All-Peoples' Interfaith Food Pantry, which UUCE supports with food donations, also needs plastic grocery bags. Please, grocery bags only—no newspaper or dry cleaning bags. A container is located next to the food basket in the Fellowship Hall.

The All People's Inter-Faith Pantry keeps running out of dish detergent, toilet paper and bar soap. They also indicated a need for canned meats (even sardines), rice, pork and beans, dry pinto beans, and the old standbys peanut butter and jelly. Try to bring your donations on our Pantry Sunday, May 2nd.



May, 2010

GARDEN OPPORTUNITIES

Would you like to learn to grow some of your own food? Come on out to the church's community garden, located midway between the labyrinth and the meditation garden.

Meet Thursday nights at 5:30 to practice basic tending skills (weather permitting). Contact **Donna Askins**.

May 16 after church (about 12:15)—Support the garden by patronizing the annual SEEDLING SALE. All plants are reasonably priced, and



grown from organic seed using only dirt, sunshine, and water. May 29 at 2:00 p.m.—Our first big harvest! The lettuce and spinach we planted on April 23 will be distributed to Elgin's soup kettles, shelters and food pantries.

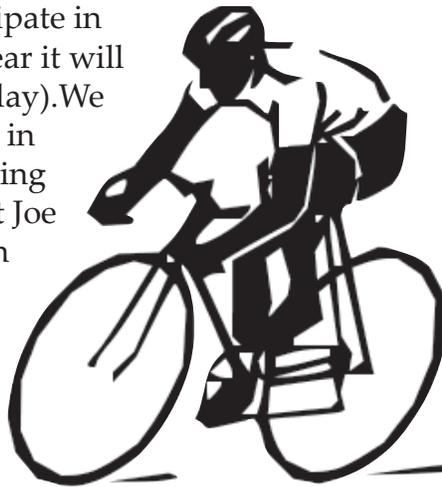
Also on May 29, we'll plant beans, carrots and onions.

As a charter member of the Elgin Community

Garden Network, we support other community gardening events around Elgin. Here are a few:

2010 MEN'S BIKE TRIP

All UUCE men are invited to participate in the annual Men's Bike Trip. This year it will be June 21 – 23 (Monday – Wednesday). We will be riding the Sparta-Elroy Trail in Wisconsin and there will be a canoeing option. If you are interested contact Joe Masonick, Todd Underwood or Dan Brosier.



🕊 ...to the Howells family for making their "Simpsons" DVD available to the Religious Education classes



🕊 ...to Tom Scott, Mary Gaston, Vickie Kilgore, Jane & Ben Holish, Kyle Brinker, Jack Redfearn,

Kathy Underwood, Susan Swing, Joe and Mary Alice Masonick, and Leslie Yoshitani for helping with the Landscape & Grounds April Work Parties

🕊 ...to EVERYONE who planted lettuce and spinach for the hungry on April 23. Well done!

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.

📖 May 24 - *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao* by Junot Diaz. At the home of Alice Macy.

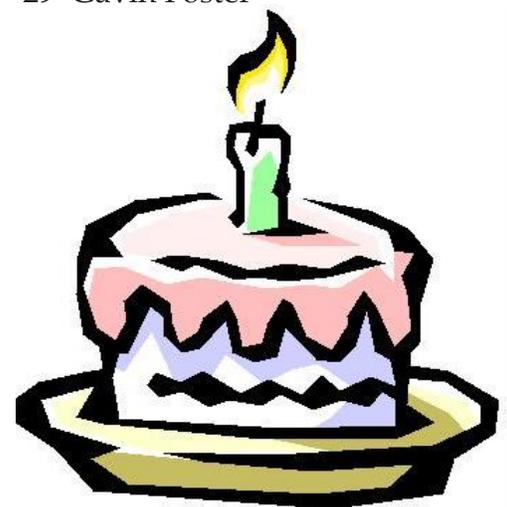
📖 June 21 - *The Saffron Kitchen* by Yasmin Crowther. At the home of Jane Kimball.

May 8 at 2:00 p.m.—Plant beets and carrots at the Gail Borden Public Library. Kids get to plant earthworms! Meet on the south lawn.

May 22 at 1:00 p.m.—Elgin's first ever GREAT PUMPKIN PATCH will appear at Hawthorne Hill Nature Center. Kids get to plant pumpkin seeds, then come back in October to harvest the pumpkin they grew. Organic seeds are provided!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO...

- 1 Ron Gole
- 5 Dave Underwood
- 5 Benjamin Howells
- 7 Lea Isabel Stecker
- 7 Eve Angelynn Stecker
- 9 Sarah Davis
- 9 Joe Masonick
- 11 Jameel Abdur-Rafia
- 14 Paul Masonick
- 16 Esther Hermann
- 16 Jasper Spayne
- 17 Bridget Laflin
- 20 Kyle Underwood
- 20 Babette Colburn
- 21 Mary Gaston
- 22 Frieda Anderson
- 22 Dennis Schwank
- 23 Hannah Day
- 24 Carol Schoengart
- 24 Norah Emily Day
- 29 Emily Waldron
- 29 Brandi Talaga
- 29 John Foster
- 29 Gavin Foster



WAYS TO GET IN TOUCH

www.uuce.org

minister@uuce.org

administrator@uuce.org

newsletter@uuce.org

847.888.0668

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Elgin, Illinois 60121



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