

MAY 2011

Unichord



THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF ELGIN

Annual Meeting is May 1

The Annual Congregational Meeting of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Elgin will be held at 12:30PM on May 1, 2011. The following items have been placed on the agenda by the board of trustees:

- Election of Board members
- Discussion and approval of Budget for 2011-2012

All members are encouraged to attend. A quorum of 25% of the church membership is required for voting on the budget and elections. All active members are eligible to vote

on the budget and officers. An active member is defined as a member who "has made a contribution of record of not less than \$100.00 during the first eleven months of the twelve months preceding the annual meeting."

Childcare will be provided and a delicious fund-raising luncheon will be served in Fellowship Hall before this year's Annual Congregational Meeting. A team of six students from South Elgin H.S. and Elgin H.S. (including Savannah Underwood from our congregation) won the Illinois

state Destination ImaginNation tournament at the high school level and are raising money to compete in the 2011 Global Finals Tournament. The luncheon will carry a suggested donation of \$5/person or \$15/family.

As a reminder, if you will not be able to attend the annual meeting on May 1st, you may give your written proxy vote to another member of the church who is qualified to vote at that meeting. Just complete the form below, and give it to your proxy before the meeting.



PROXY VOTE

I, _____ a member of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Elgin, delegate my proxy vote to _____ for the purpose of voting at the Annual Meeting on May 1st, 2011.

Signature

Printed Name

From the Minister

I write this in mid-April as our annual canvass comes to a close. The canvass team has not heard from a few individuals and families but most of the information is in.

At this point we have contributions from 97 pledging units. This is 10 less than we had last year and one more than we had the prior year. The average pledge is \$1,646, which is \$100 more than last year's average pledge. All totaled we raised just over \$160,000 which is more than we have ever raised before. Last year's total was higher, but that was the result of the mini-campaign we held to raise money to increase staff salaries.

Even though we raised a record amount of money through the canvass, when the Finance Committee sat down to build a draft budget, they found that our overall anticipated income for the coming year will probably be less than what it is currently. This was the result of two things. First, in the coming fiscal year we will not have the funds we raised through the mini-campaign. Second, we based our current budget on an inflated unpledged income figure which we have corrected for the next fiscal year. This means the creation of this year's budget began with a \$17,000 shortfall. Through the level of our pledging we reduced that shortfall to \$10,000, but we were still short. This meant that we needed to cut back on our expenses. The Finance Committee was able to do so without reducing salaries, but many other line items saw some sort of cut-back.

Overall it was a successful campaign and I am grateful to the Canvass Team, led by Tim Davis, for all the work they put into it. I am aware of other churches, other UU churches, that are facing similar if not more serious financial cutbacks than we. It is a sign of the times. It will get better.

A Month of Sundays

MAY

5/1: Sacred Waters

Unitarian Universalists (UUs) all over are thinking about water justice. In this morning's service we will examine some of the issues around water and what we can do to promote sustainable and just water usage. Service led by the Rev. Dan Brosier.

5/8: Confessions of an Imperfect Mother

There are significant taboos keeping many mothers silent about their experiences with real world motherhood. In this service we listen to some who have freed themselves to speak. Service led by the Rev. Dan Brosier.

5/15: So...What's Next?

A look at the afterlife, from the perspective of many of the world's great religious traditions. Service led by Tim Closson.

5/22: Universalism: Past, Present, and Powerful

Universalism has a rich history whose central message leads to equality, respect, love and dignity for all. Our guest speaker is the Rev Kalen Fristad who is a United Methodist minister with a passion for Universalism.

5/29: The Good News

On June 1, 2011, the Illinois law recognizing civil unions goes into effect. It isn't marriage equality, but it is a big step in that direction. This morning we will review the good news for LGBT folk and their allies. Service led by the Rev. Dan Brosier.

All services begin at 10:45

May Calendar

Worship Services

Sunday mornings at 10:45

Adult Religious Education: Speaking Peace

Sunday mornings at 9:00
in room 302

Annual Meeting and lunch

May 1 at 12:30

Beltane Ritual & Potluck

May 1 at 3:00 in the
Fellowship Hall

Board Meeting

May 18 at 7:00 in the
Fellowship Hall

Book Group—Afternoon

May 23 at 12:30

(offsite)

Book Group—Evening

May 20 at 7:00

(offsite)

Buddhists

Thursdays at 7:00 in rooms
301 and 302

Choir Practice

Thursdays at 7:30 in the
Sanctuary

⇒ CHURCH RENTAL ⇐

May 21 at 9:00 in the
Fellowship Hall, kitchen
and Sanctuary

Committee on the Ministry

May 4 at 7:00

Evening Covenant Group

May 3, 17 and 31 at 7:00

(offsite)

Executive Team Meeting

May 3, 17 and 31 at 1:30

Finance Committee

May 11 at 7:00

Green Sanctuary Meeting

May 15 at 12:30 in room
301

Landscape & Grounds Work Parties

May 8, 15, 22 and 29 at
12:30

Pantry Sunday

May 1

Pagan Unity Book Club

May 3 at 7:00 (off site)

Pagan Unity Chanting Choir

May 11 and 25 at 7:00 in
the Bell Room

Tend the Community Garden

May 9 at 5:30

qUilters

May 7 from 9 - noon in
room 302

R.E. Campout

May 20 at 6:00 in the
Fellowship Hall, kitchen,
and grounds

Social Justice Council

May 25 at 7:00 in the
Fellowship Hall

UNICHORD DEADLINE

⇒ May 22 ⇐

Welcoming Meeting

May 22 at 9:30 in the
Fellowship Hall

Western Crescent Ministers Meeting

May 18 at 11:00
in room 301

Youth Highway Cleanup

May 15 at 10:45

Pledge Income





From the Director of Religious Exploration and Education

Last month, we had a successful luau with 66 people staying for the event after the service! The “Aloha” Bingo game was a hit, and for those who were brave, the limbo and hula hoop contests were equally fun. A special “thanks” to members of the Religious Exploration and Education Team for coordinating the party: Vickie Kilgore, Ann Kremer, and Brandi Talaga.

Our next adventure will be later this month: a camp-out at UUCE! Join us on May 20 for a campfire, s’mores, stories and more. Bring a tent or sleep out under the stars. Look for more details in the order of service and in emails.

Adult Spirituality continues this month with “Speaking Peace,” facilitated by Bob Sandidge

and Anne Ward. We continue to learn and practice the 3 or 4 easy steps and how to integrate these patterns into our daily living to help us be more effective and satisfied communicators. This is an open program, so feel free to join us on any Sunday morning at 9:00 in room 302. We will be making plans for next year’s programming, so if you have an idea that you would like us to consider, let me know.

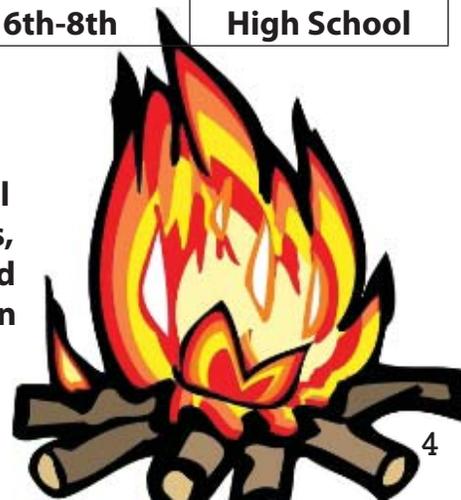
Before the church year comes to a close, I would like to fill as many teaching spots as possible. Please consider giving it a try if you have thought about it but were afraid to do so! It is amazing what we adults learn from the younger generation—they are often wiser than their years.

In Faith,
Kathy

	Preschool	K-2nd	3rd-5th	6th-8th	High School
May 1	People Love Me	John Murray	Daniel Chester French	Love and Equality	Recap the year; what has been useful?
May 8	People Help Me	Our Worship Home	Henry David Thoreau	The Black Box	Popcorn Theology
May 15	People Teach Me	Comings and Goings	Beatrix Potter	Creating Worship	Highland Avenue Cleanup
May 22	Nature Hike				
May 29	People Know Me	Mohammed	Web of Life – Visitor	The Golden Rule	TBA
	Preschool	K-2nd	3rd-5th	6th-8th	High School

UUCE Camp-Out

Join us on May 20-21 for a camp-out in our own backyard! We will have a campfire with s’mores, songs and stories, howl for coyotes, and a pancake breakfast in the morning. We’ll set up tents around 6pm, and plan to leave by 9am Saturday. Don’t like to camp? Then come for the campfire! Sponsored by the Religious Exploration and Education Team.





This year, the Board of Trustees has been working towards implementing the Strategic Plan approved in 2010. We've been working with the Executive Team to determine which groups in the Church should be responsible for each goal.

There will be much work to be done in the coming years to meet all the goals that we've set, and we will need many members of the congregation to help out with one task or another. If you have free time and are looking for a new challenge, please let a member of the Board or the Executive Team know (and soon)!

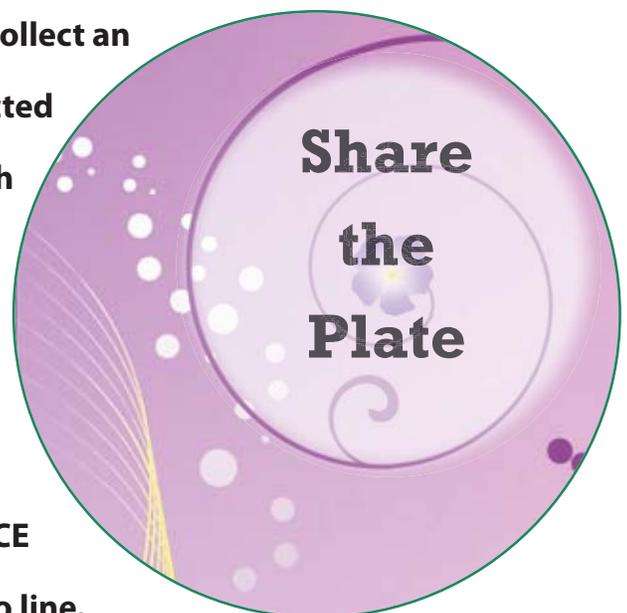
Our particular focus over the next year must be filling the leadership "pipeline" for our congregation. It is a constant struggle to find members who wish to fill the available positions on the Board and other committees. This means that we are either not doing a good job of preparing our members to fill these roles, or that the roles are not seen as rewarding enough with relation to the amount of effort required to fill them.

We will also need to decide how to best use our limited resources. It is unlikely that there will ever be enough money to do everything we want to do, so we will need to decide which things are a priority. We will also need to decide whether our trouble filling volunteer roles may be a result of having too many roles to fill. To this end, we will need to take a look at our activities, goals, and roles, and determine if any should be eliminated.

On a personal note, I am looking forward to new challenges after serving as your President for almost two years. I hope that you think I've done the job well enough, and would appreciate any feedback that you may have to give.

—Kevin

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 Youth Outlook, which is a regional organization serving Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer [LGBTQ] Youth in the Chicagoland area. 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.



Green Corner

Water Conservation at Home

1. Replace toilets built before 1992, the largest water user inside the home, with newer 1.6 gallon per flush toilets.

2. Unless you have a newer clothes washer that satisfies this standard, replace your clothes washer, the second largest water user in your house, with an Energy Star rated washer that has a Water Factor at or lower than 9.5. This saves both water and energy.

3. Check your indoor water using appliances and devices for leaks and have the leaks repaired. Check for unseen leaks by turning off all taps and other water using appliances and then look at

your water meter. If it is still turning, chances are you have an unseen leak somewhere.

4. Plant/cover your yard with plants and groundcover that are drought resistant, which will require little or no watering.

5. If you must water your landscape, use "greywater", i.e., reuse water after taking a bath, after washing dishes in something that holds the water, or by gathering water from a clothes washer just before it drains.

6. Install low-flow faucet aerators on all your household faucets.

7. If you use a dishwasher, run it only when it is full of dishes. Use air drying to save energy.

8. To maximize showering efficiency, make sure you have installed a low-flow showerhead in all your showers. All showerheads manufactured in the U.S. in recent years must restrict flow to 2.5 gallons per minute or less.

Sources:

- [The California Urban Water Conservation Council, in cooperation with the U.S. E.P.A.](#)
- [The Environmental Task Force of Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice](#)

Five Sundays in May

What do the 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th all have in common? They're our last chances this year to order scrip cards, be entered into a raffle, and support this church fundraiser! We're aiming to raise \$2000 this year through this program, and we're almost there, but we can only do it with your help.

1. Need to buy groceries?
2. How about gas?
3. Need to make spring gardening purchases?
4. Don't forget teacher's gifts, or Mother's or Father's Day gift cards.
5. Want to stock up for summer purchases?

These are all great ways to use scrip cards and help our church community in the process. And, in doing so, you'll be entered into our raffle which will occur the first week in June. Every \$50 purchased earns one raffle entry, so the more you buy, the greater are your chances to win!

Back to Basics

The All People's Inter-Faith Pantry needs:

- packaged potatoes
- canned gravy
- vegetables
- cereal (even the sugary ones)
- juice
- peanut butter
- jelly

The Pantry can always use toilet paper, bar soap, toothpaste and dish detergent.

Try to bring your donations on Pantry Sunday, May 1.

Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

16 March 2011, 7:00pm

Attending: K. Sweeney, A. Budasi, B. Cooper-Zobott, B. Thrasher, J. Day, D. Clough, A. Schmidlin, S. Stultz, S. Smagatz, D. Brosier

I. Reports

a. Budget Report, Earmarked Funds Report – approved by consensus

b. Executive Team Report, Monitoring Report, Asset Management Report, Nominating Committee Report – reviewed by BoT

II. Unfinished Business

a. Task Force for Minister / Church Performance Measuring – task force to use canvass feedback for performance measuring. Dan may need to provide samples of his management, such as selections from reviews, to cover the administrative portion of this year's reviews.

b. Draft Budget from Finance Committee – none provided this month. Draft has been created, but they are waiting on the final canvass numbers before finalizing the figures.

III. New Business

a. Board Awareness – reviewed comments from congregation members

b. Strategic Plan Progress Review - reviewed

c. Database and Reporting Integration Task Force – discussion.

UUCE Readers

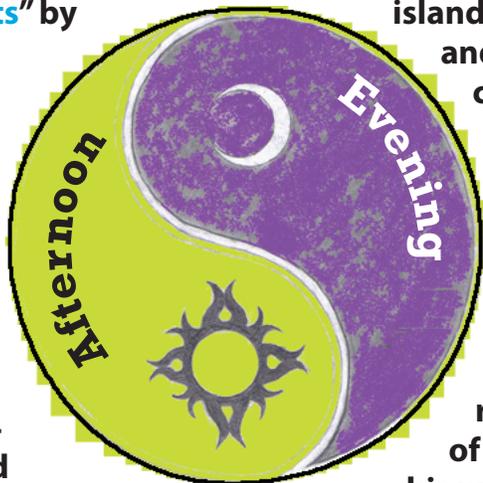
The **Afternoon Book Group** will meet at 12:30 on Monday, May 23, at the home of Betsy Thrasher to discuss "**The Imperfectionists**" by Tom Rachman.

The **evening book club** will meet on the 3rd Friday of every month at 7:00 PM at the Panera Bread located at 2484 N. Randall Road in Elgin (just north of I-90).

For those of you who would like to join us on May 20, the book we'll be reading is "**Getting Stoned**

with Savages" by J. Maarten Troost. The book is a laugh-out loud true story of the author's years on the islands of Vanuatu and Fiji, among cannibals and volcanoes, and realizing after many years of travel and living abroad, how remarkably out of place he and his wife Sylvia felt among the trappings of 21st century America.

If you have any questions, please contact Beth Cooper-Zobott.



Happy
Birthday!

- 1 Ron Gole
- 5 Dave Underwood
- 5 Benjamin Howells
- 9 Joe Masonick
- 11 Jameel Abdur-Rafia
- 14 Paul Masonick
- 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

Ways to Get in Touch

WEBSITE

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POSTAL MAIL

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Elgin, IL 60121

Construct: Building Lasting Contributions

Register for this young adult event on ConnectUU.com

Build up your community, your creativity and your spirit on May 20-22 at the UU Church of Stockton, IL. We'll focus on how we can build positive interpersonal relationships and creative energies, and elevate the conversations in our lives.



Bring sleeping bags, pillows, the snacks you love and the condiments you can't live without. For Saturday night's Coffee House bring your sheet music, violin, juggling gear, hula hoops and your best jokes. Pianos are supplied, so no need to haul your Steinway.

We are especially thrilled to have this Spring's Con in Stockton, as the church has recently called our own young adult chaplain Erik David Carlson as minister. This event is open to individuals ages 18-35 and registration fees are on a rolling scale from \$35-80. Super broke? Apply for a scholarship by May 20 at: <http://www.cmwd-uuyan.org/>



The Unitarian Universalist Church of Elgin

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