

MAY 2012

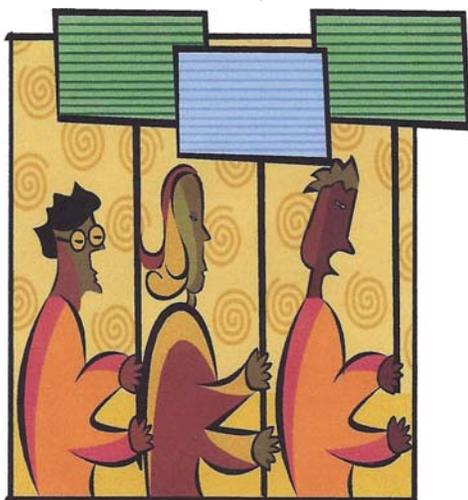
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THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF ELGIN

The Occupy Movement: Goals and Strategies

The Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice (UUSJ) will hold their spring quarter meeting on Sunday, May 13, 2012, from 2 to 5 p.m.



The featured program, from 2 to 3 p.m., is

“The Occupy Movement: Goals and Strategies”

Mark Banks, a biochemist and artist, and since the inception of the Occupy Movement a full-time activist in Chicago, D.C., and elsewhere, will be the guest speaker. Mark has worked extensively on Occupy Chicago’s Press Committee. An opportunity for questions and answers will follow Mark’s presentation.

The UUSJ Board meeting will follow the program from 3 to 5 p.m. Non-Board members are welcome to attend.

LOCATION AND DIRECTIONS:

People’s Church
941 Lawrence Avenue, Chicago, 60640 (near Broadway Avenue, also near the Lawrence Avenue stop on the Red Line)

The meeting is in Room 3 1/2, a.k.a. Molly’s Cafe.

Take the west elevator to the fourth floor, then walk down half a flight.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice
1448 E. 52nd St., Box 144,
Chicago, IL 60637
773-595-4921

UUSJ@sbcglobal.net

www.uusforsocialjustice.org

Why is Garlic Mustard a Problem?

Garlic mustard is an exotic invasive plant from Europe that invades woodland habitats in North America and impacts forest biodiversity. In some woodlands, dense stands of garlic mustard in the spring threaten showy spring blooming ephemerals like spring beauty, trilliums and trout lilies. Other research

points toward potentially negative impacts on timber species and forest health. Many land managers consider it to be one of the most potentially harmful and difficult to control invasive plants in the region.

Garlic mustard is in our backyard. Next time you see these plants, PULL THEM. Thanks!



From the Minister

The photo voltaic panels are up and the array is looking good. Most importantly it is generating electricity—at least 1/3 of the amount we use. In March that saved us about \$100 in electricity. It also meant that 1,903 pounds of CO2 did not have to be produced to meet our electrical needs. What's more, every day hundreds of people drive down Highland and see the panels sitting on the roof and some of those people are thinking that if we can do it then they can do it. The more people who see such sources of renewable energy actually in production in their towns and neighborhoods means the more people will see it as a viable alternative to carbon based electrical generation. We are helping to change the world by showing it is possible. I hope for even more. I hope we can install other forms of renewable energy generation, and that people come here to learn first hand about renewable energy and the prairie, and discover the labyrinth.

I thank Suzanne and Paul Hanifl for funding the solar panels. They have a long history of generosity with this church and once again they have made a difference. I also want to thank Alice Macy who donated the funds to replace our roof, which was a necessary step in the process of mounting the panels. The roof and the solar panels will serve several generations of Unitarian Universalists to come and hopefully will inspire other projects as well.

—Dan

A Month of Sundays

5/6: SMALL LOAN, BIG CHANGES

Bob Price from FINCA, the micro financing organization we work with, will speak about the problems micro financing tries to solve and how they go about doing so. A special collection will be taken in order to set up another bank in our name. Service led by the Rev. Dan Brosier.

5/13: ON MOTHERHOOD

Some reflection on motherhood and what it means to be a mother.

5/20: UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHRISTIANITY

Service led by the Rev. Dan Brosier. A look at what it means to be a Unitarian Universalist Christian. Service led by the Rev. Dan Brosier.

5/27: BUT I CAN'T DRAW!

A look at art therapy: what it is, how it works, and how we can use it without obtaining an Art Therapy degree. Service led by Elizabeth Closson.

All services begin at 10:45

Meet at the Corner of Bitter and Sweet

The Afternoon Book Group will meet at 12:30 on May 28 at the home of Jane Kimball to discuss "[Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet](#)" by Jamie Ford. On June 25 the group will meet at the home of Dotty Carringi to discuss "[Infidel](#)" by Ayaan Hirsi Ali. For further information contact [Alice Macy](#).

May Calendar

Worship Services

Sunday mornings at 10:45

Adult Religious Exploration and Education

Sunday mornings at 9:00 in rooms 301 and 302

On May 6th, instead of the Enneagram class, Adult R.E.E. will offer a one-time class on EFT - Emotional Freedom Technique. This easy technique releases emotional and physical pain. To learn more, visit www.eftuniverse.com or watch an EFT video.

The "Mapping Your Life" class will conclude on May 27. If you missed out, you can still contact Jane Kimball. You might also read "Personal Geographies" by Jill K. Berry, which formed the basis of this class.

Board of Trustees Meeting

May 16 at 7:00
in the Fellowship Hall

Book Group—Afternoon

May 28 at 12:30 (offsite)

Book Group—Evening

May 18 at 7:00 (offsite)



Cinco de Mayo

May 5

Buddhist Group

Thursdays at 7:00 (offsite)

Care Team Meeting

May 1 in the Fellowship Hall

Committee on the Ministry

May 2 at 7:00

Covenant Group

May 1, 15, and 29 at 7:00
(off site)

Executive Team

May 9 and 23 at 1:00

Heartland Labyrinth meeting

May 5 in the Fellowship Hall

Improv Group

Sundays at 7:30 in room 301



Mother's Day

May 13



Memorial Day

May 28

OWL Classes

May 4 at 6:00 and May 5 at 12:00
in the Fellowship Hall and in rooms 301 and 302

qUUILting

May 5 from 9:00 to noon in room 302

Social Justice Committee

May 20 at 7:00

Western Crescent Ministers' Meeting

May 16 at 11:00 in room 301

Take Mom Out to Dinner for a Change

Mother's Day is May 13. You can use scrip cards to take Mom out for a meal at one of many popular restaurants, including Bonefish Grill, Bahama Breeze, Outback Steakhouse, Macaroni Grill, Shaw's Crab House, Ruth's Chris Steak House, or any of the Lettuce Entertain You restaurants. You can shop for gifts at Amazon, Bath and Body Works, Macy's, Barnes & Noble, Bed Bath & Beyond, or Fannie May Candies, which gives UUCE a 25% rebate. Or give Mom a scrip card for her favorite store. 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. Please support this UUCE fundraiser.

From the Director of Religious Exploration and Education

It's hard to believe that the end of the church year is almost upon us! With just six weeks left, there is still a lot happening!

On May 6, the Religious Exploration and Education Team in conjunction with the Social Justice Council, will be offering lunch at the Annual Meeting. All proceeds will go towards our involvement with Feed My Starving Children. More details will be announced in the order of service and the e-list.

We will also have our 8th grade recognition ceremony on May 20. We will honor these youth as they make the transition into high school. After the service, we will also have our last bake sale, with all proceeds going to Feed My Starving Children.

All ages will go for a nature hike on May 27- either to Burnidge Woods or Hawthorne Hill. It's a chance to connect with nature and our 7th Principle.

This is also the time to start planning for next year. We will be conducting surveys about our program and look forward to your feedback.

I know that I will be losing two teachers next year, so I will be calling upon you for help. We have a lot of flexibility in the program, and can work with pretty much any scenario! It helps me a lot if you voice your concerns, feelings, and hesitations, so please feel free to let me know them.

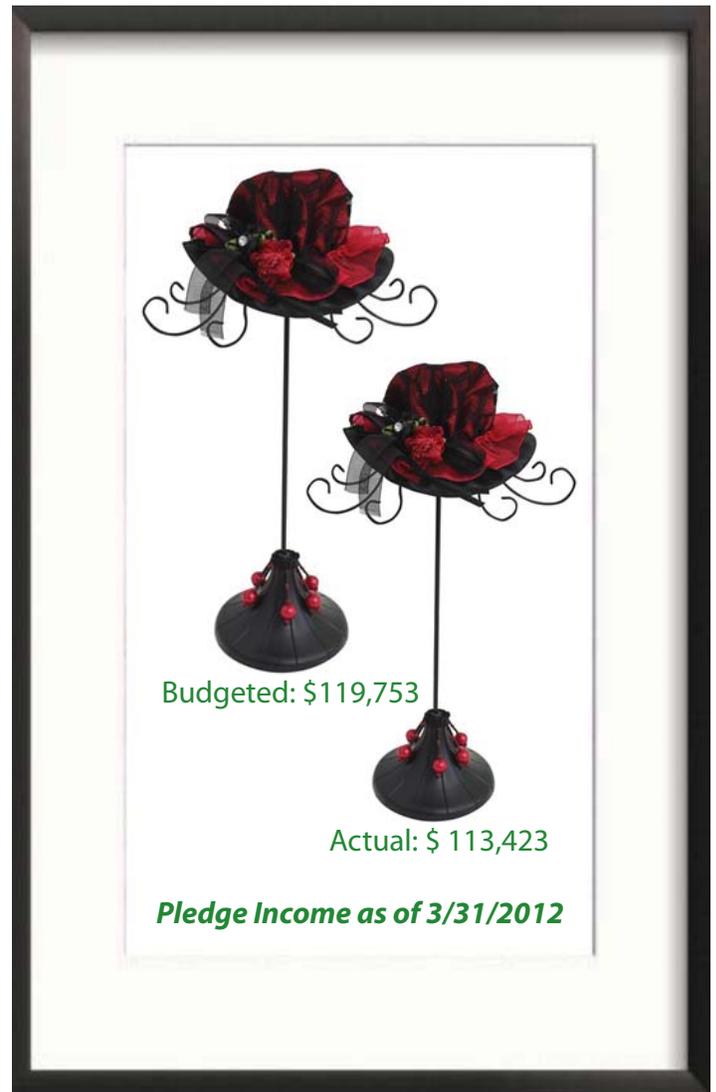
Here's what's happening in religious exploration and education classes this month:

MAY 6

Preschool: Spring Brings Changes
K-2: Buddha In the Garden
3-5: Mother's Peace Day
6-8: The Aztecs
High School: Judaism: Birth of Abrahamic Tradition

MAY 13

Preschool: We Give Flowers



K-2: Buddhism – Zen Shorts
3-5: Japanese Children's Day
6-8: The Mayans
High School: Judaism: Birth of Abrahamic Tradition

MAY 20

Preschool: We Give Thanks For Our Year
K-2: For Every Child
3-5: Our Own Celebration
6-8: Egyptian Mythology
High School: Judaism: Birth of Abrahamic Tradition

MAY 27

All ages nature hike.

Board of Trustees (BOT) Meeting Minutes

March 21, 2012

Members Present:

Stephen Day, Betsy Thrasher, David Clough, Deb Caruso, Andrea Budasi, Andrea Schmidlin, Tim Davis, Shari Smagatz, Sandy Webster (representing the Executive Team).

Reports:

- A. Budget Report—approved
- B. Earmarked Funds Report—approved
- C. Executive Team Report
 1. Building – Solar panels are operating – awaiting final inspection
 2. Finance – pledges are \$21,000 short of supporting Draft Budget
 - a. Discussion about how to increase pledge income
 - b. Figures are not complete yet.
 - c. We will discuss next meeting ways to close gap
 3. Strategic Plan
 - a. Seven new members since Sept.
 - b. What's going on with the Green Sanctuary hiatus?
 - c. Labryinth is holding up very well
 - d. #4 Stewardship-Leadership was "completed" rather than "planned"
 - e. #5 Community- (Andrea S) Dan needs help and all the functions need to be done – looks like record management system needs to be revamped – asked Sandy for job description for review
 - f. #4 Community – we need update on the website
 - g. #1 Social justice – Survey was completed in winter of 2011 – not 2012
 - h. #2 Stewardship/Financial – BOT wants to know what was done – currently assuming scrip
 - i. #1 Freedom of Belief and Spiritual Inquiry – what is the status of this? Has there been any random sampling?

The BOT applauds the effort put forth by the ET in following the Strategic Plan.

Unfinished Business:

- A. Food Safety Topic – shelved until Beth Cooper-Zobott returns
- B. Convene Task Force for minister/church performance measuring: online survey has been developed and will be launched by April
- C. Pastor Evaluation: T. Davis and D. Brosier will discuss.

New Business:

- A. Board considers Draft Budget from Finance Committee - reviewed
- B. Update on canvass results

Other:

D. Caruso would like an update on the vandalism policy and whether it should be an ET or BOT issue.

Next meeting scheduled for April 18

President's Reflections

On Sunday, May 6, the Unitarian Universalist Church of Elgin will hold its 146th Annual Meeting. The general membership of our congregation is the ultimate decision-making body of our organization. Members are strongly encouraged to attend, exercise their rights, and express their opinions. The meeting will include the making of motions, debate, points of order, amendments, voting, annual reports, and if all goes well, adjournment.



During the business portion of the meeting, congregants will vote on the new governance slate, the annual budget, and possibly a bylaw provision from the Endowment Committee.

Your participation is needed and appreciated!

—Tim

See Real Serial Cereal



This month, as she so often does, our own Henry Dubois published the list of needs of the All People's Inter-Faith Pantry. And, as is so often the case, cereal topped the list. An unusual thing happened. UUCE member Jason Engel was unexpectedly given some cash by an anonymous donor. He was told to put it all to a good cause — and further, to spend it all on cereal, not to simply hand out the money. Late at night, he went to a grocery, told the manager what he was doing, and requested a discount. The manager gave Jason almost all of the cereal at a two-for-one price.

On April 22, right before the service, the religious exploration and education leadership asked the children for their help. Without asking,

they all joined in, the big ones and the little ones. They stayed together, and when the project was revealed, they enthusiastically helped each other—without any prompting—to each carry as much of the cereal as they could into the sanctuary calmly, quietly and cheerfully. After Jason told the congregation what had happened, the children carried all the cereal back downstairs for delivery to the Pantry. He concluded, "Our church has amazing kids." And of course, we give thanks to that anonymous, generous donor!

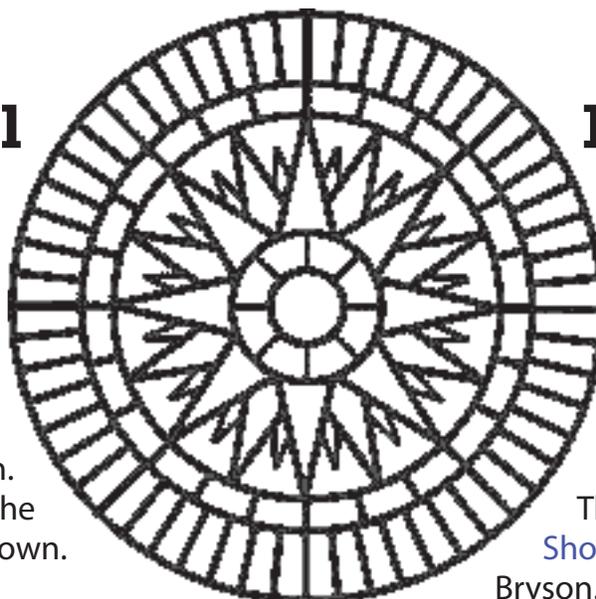
HOWEVER...

The All People's Inter-Faith Pantry still has needs for peanut butter, jelly, juice, corned beef hash, and chili. Let love be your guide.

Wheel of Life

Long-time friend of the church, Norm Hewitt, has died. The family is planning a memorial service for May 20th.

The location of the service is not yet known.



Livre de la Nuit

The next meeting of the UUCE evening book club will be held on Friday, [May 18](#) at 7:00 PM, at the Panera Bread store in Elgin (located at 2484 N. Randall Road, Elgin, IL 60123. Tel: 847/426-7000).

The May selection is: "[At Home: A Short History of Private Life](#)" by Bill Bryson.

Cooling the Planet While Saving Money

Regardless of the politics that surround global warming, a few facts are indisputable:

- Illinois summers are hot
- Many people who live in Illinois respond by turning on their air conditioners
- Air conditioning is expensive, because it uses a lot of energy
- The process of producing that energy is harmful to the environment.

A Unitarian Universalist who can't let go of A/C can still make her own home a little bit of a Green Sanctuary.

Commonwealth Edison (ComEd) invites the public to enroll in the [Residential Real-Time Pricing \(RRTP\) program](#).

The ComEd Residential Real-Time Pricing (RRTP) program is an hourly pricing program for residential customers. This program allows you to pay the hourly, wholesale market price for electricity. As a residential customer participating in RRTP, you will also receive customer support and services to help you manage your costs with hourly pricing. These services include predicted day-ahead high price notifications and real-time day-of high price alerts, an online bill comparison tool, and information to help guide your energy decisions. There is no cost to enroll in the program.

Basically, one receives an email alert when prices are about to spike. The email lets the customer know that, during the spike in pricing, one can save money by delaying energy-intensive tasks around the home, such as running the dishwasher or doing a load of laundry.

By choosing ComEd RRTP, you are helping the environment. By controlling and shifting your use of electricity to lower-priced hours, you'll help reduce electricity demand during peak times that can require greater use of older, less efficient generation facilities than needed during off-peak times. In this way, you'll reduce the release of emissions that contribute to global warming.

Ready to go a step further? ComEd offers two more programs for people who would like to lighten their environmental footprint a little more, and save money, too.

ComEd's Central Air Conditioning Cycling is demand response for central air-conditioners that allow homeowners to earn credits on their electricity bills. Once you enroll, ComEd will install a special switch on your central air conditioning unit that lets them cycle your compressor "off and on" during summer days with high electric demand.

In return, you will receive a monthly credit on each ComEd bill from June through September. Depending upon which option you choose, you can earn a total annual credit of either \$20 or \$40 by giving up a few degrees of cooling during a limited number of summer weekdays. If you select the 50% option, you will receive a \$5 credit / month for each month beginning June 1 through September 30. If you select the 100% option, you will receive a \$10 credit /month for each month beginning June 1 through September 30. These savings are guaranteed!

By participating in ComEd's Central Air Conditioning Cycling, you contribute to ComEd's ability to reduce peak demand on the electrical system. Every little bit helps in conserving energy and saving natural resources. Each summer that ComEd has used the switch, ComEd's Central Air Conditioning Cycling participants have reduced carbon dioxide, sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxides emissions. These elements contribute to global warming and acid rain. ComEd's Central Air Conditioning Cycling, and similar efforts, can also help defer the need for new generation resources that can add to the cost of providing electricity.

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

May Birthdays

| | | | |
|----|--------------------|----|------------------|
| 1 | Ron Gole | 20 | Kyle Underwood |
| 5 | Dave Underwood | 21 | Mary Gaston |
| 5 | Benjamin Howells | 22 | Frieda Anderson |
| 9 | Joe Masonick | 22 | Dennis Schwank |
| 11 | Jameel Abdur-Rafia | 23 | Hannah Day |
| 14 | Paul Masonick | 24 | Carol Schoengart |
| 16 | Jasper Spayne | 24 | Norah Emily Day |
| 17 | Bridget Laflin | 29 | Brandi Talaga |



The Unitarian Universalist Church of Elgin

P. O. Box 1032 • Elgin, IL 60121

