



JUNE 2012

Unichord



THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF ELGIN

Feed Thy Neighbor

“Wonderful!”

That’s what the staff at the All People’s Inter-Faith Pantry said about the arrival of all that cereal last month. At this time, the Pantry has a need for peanut butter, small jars of jelly, spaghetti, spaghetti sauce and canned meat. The Pantry can also use laundry detergent, toilet paper and face soap. Try to bring your donations on our Pantry Sunday, **June 10**, but, as always, your contributions are welcome any time during the month.

Hungry people—*all* people—need fresh food, too, and we are in the season of abundance. [Feeding Greater Elgin](#) (FGE), located at 1553 Commerce Drive in Elgin, has refrigerators to accept extra yield from your garden. This means that, for over 700 families per month, freshly picked vegetables can go from garden to plate on the same day.

Did you know there is a soup kitchen in Elgin every night of the week? In addition, one church serves breakfast for

the hungry Monday through Friday. These patrons would love fresh produce, too, and Feeding Greater Elgin serves them, along with fifteen food pantries. The Elgin Community Crisis Center is among these.

HOURS

Please **DO** [check the website](#) before you visit, but as of this writing, FGE’s hours are:

Monday	6:00pm - 8:00pm
Tuesday	9:00am - 11:00am
Wednesday	11:00am - 1:00pm
Thursday	6:00pm - 8:00pm
Saturday	9:00am - 11:00am

CONTACT INFORMATION

Feeding Greater Elgin
1553 Commerce Drive
Elgin, IL 60123
(847) 931-9330

www.feedinggreaterelgin.org



HUNGER is a critical, ongoing issue in the greater Elgin community:

- *More than 11,000 people live in poverty in Elgin and South Elgin, Illinois (a family of four earning less than \$22,350 per year.)*
- *More than half the children in Elgin schools participate in free or reduced-cost lunch programs*
- *A recent food insecurity study calculates that over 19,000 adults and children in the city of Elgin are food insecure.*
- *Each month, more than 1,500 Elgin families travel outside of Elgin to receive emergency food assistance.*

The good news is that we can all help. Whether you grow a row for the hungry, give extra yield from your garden, or simply buy and give away what food you can afford, all donations are gratefully received.

From the Minister

For quite a while I have believed that it would be very beneficial to have an Involvement Facilitator. This person would work with the minister, membership coordinator, and administrator to make sure that members and friends are being invited and encouraged to participate in the life of the church—to get involved. Some times this person will act as a Shared Ministry Coordinator, other times a Volunteer Coordinator, and at others a Social Coordinator. The basic goal is to help people get involved—to help them go from the outside of the circle of community to the inside. It is an important role and it is a significant role.

If you have a couple of hours a week to assist in the process of deepening the bonds of this community, please let me know.

—Dan



Summer
services begin
at 9:45 am:
June 24
July 8 & 22
August
5, 19 & 26

A Month of Sundays

6/3: FLOWER COMMUNION AND ALL-CHURCH PICNIC

Again this year, Suzanne and Paul Hanifl graciously open their home to us. The day begins with a short service during which we celebrate our community through a flower communion. All are asked to bring a live plant/flower to place in communion. At the end of the service, each member / family is encouraged to take a plant home to enjoy and nurture. Following the service we'll have a picnic, games, swimming, fishing and general fun. The Hanifls have again generously offered to supply the "meat" portion of the picnic. Everyone else is asked to bring a salad, dessert, vegetable, or other dish to share, and a beverage. Bring your lawnchair or blanket, and any gear you need to play: swimsuits, fishing poles, softball equipment, etc. See the map in this [Unichord](#) for directions to the Hanifls. Service led by the Rev. Dan Brosier.

6/10: COMMENCEMENT

This is the season of graduations and commencement services. Some of our graduating seniors have been invited to share a few "commencement" thoughts about life, meaning and what is important. The Rev. Dan Brosier will lead the service.

Services on June 3 and 10 begin at 10:45.

6/24: IMPROV: A SPIRITUAL PRACTICE

The skills learned in improv—trusting each other, living in the moment, being not afraid to fail—apply to daily life. Service led by Bridget Laflin. ***This service begins at 9:45.***

June Calendar

Worship Services

June 3 and 10 at 10:45
No worship service on June 17
June 24 at 9:45

All Church Picnic and Flower Communion

June 3 at 10:45 at the Hanifls' Directions: Those traveling from Elgin may wish to travel north on route 59 and turn west on County Line Road. Regardless of your point of origin, navigate to the intersection of Lake Cook / County Line Road where Old Hart Road is on the north and Oakdene is on the south.

Go south on Oakdene and follow the curve around to the east, where it becomes Sandalwood. 41 Sandalwood is on the right.

Board of Trustees Meeting

June 20 at 7:00
in the Fellowship Hall

Book Group—Afternoon

June 25 at 12:30 (offsite)

Book Group—Evening

June 15 at 7:00 (offsite)

Buddhist Group

Thursdays at 7:00 (offsite)

Circle Supper Potluck

June 2 at 6:30
in the Fellowship Hall

Committee on the Ministry

June 6 at 7:00

CommUnity Garden garlic braiding and field fertilizing

June 14 at 1:00

Executive Team

June 13 at 1:00

Feed My Starving Children volunteer activity

June 2 at 9:00 (offsite)

Finance Committee

June 13 at 7:00

Improv Fundraiser

June 30 at 7:30 in the Sanctuary

Mens' Bike Trip

June 18 and 19 (off-site—way, way off-site)

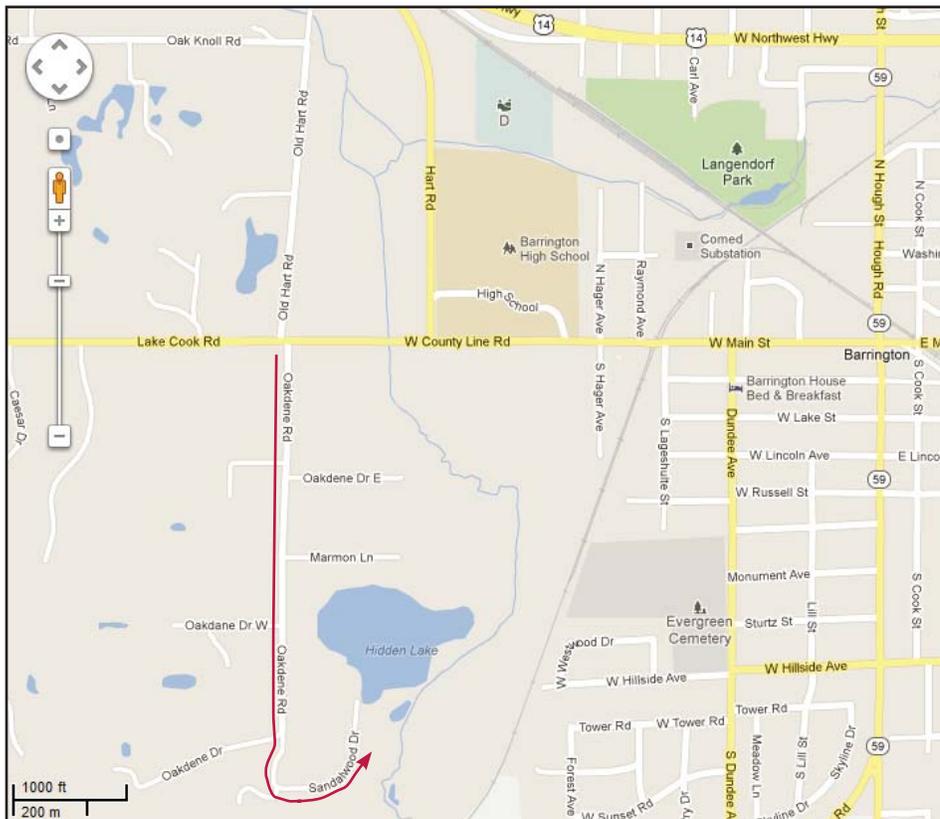
OWL Classes

June 1 at 6:00 and June 2 from 12:00-3:00 in the Fellowship Hall and in rooms 301 and 302

Unichord Deadline

June 17

Map to the church picnic at the Hanifls'



Angelic Organics CHURCH RENTAL

June 7 at 5:00
in the Sanctuary
and Fellowship Hall



Registration is Open for WomanSpirit 2012

Summer WomanSpirit 2012, *The Web of Sisterhood*, is set for July 27-29 at the [Ronora Lodge and Retreat Center](#) in Watervliet, Michigan.

Workshops will include Egyptian Belly Dancing, Creating Your Bucket List, and Drumming, Chanting, & Gong Meditation. Participants may engage in rituals and ceremonies, take the stage at a coffeehouse, and engage in the Native American tradition of "Giveaway Blanket." The silent auction benefits the Women & Religion scholarship fund.

Early bird rates are available through June 15. Prices include lodging Friday evening through Sunday morning, meals for Friday evening, all day Saturday, and Sunday morning, and workshops. Participants are encouraged to [register online](#), but may print out the registration form and mail it in. Childcare is NOT available, and event organizers respectfully request that boys over five years of age not attend WomanSpirit.



The Mission of the Unitarian Universalist Association's Central Midwest District Women and Religion Committee is to support women in their search for the Inner Feminine Divine in an atmosphere of connectedness, safety, and joy.

From the Director of Religious Exploration and Education

As of this writing, we are gearing up for the end-of-the-church-year activities. For the young people, we will have ended the month of May with a nature hike, which is always fun.

With the Annual Flower Communion and Picnic a week earlier this year, our high school graduates will be speaking at the service on June 10. Come see what the next generation has to say about their future as young adult UUs!

Over the summer, I will be sending out emails about activities for all ages and families that we will be having, such as a campout and a visit to Randall Oaks. These will be fun ways to stay connected over the summer months.

Of course I will also be planning for the start of the new church year next fall. The Adult Spirituality Team will also be meeting to finalize plans for adult programming. If you have an idea for a topic to explore, let me know. We have so many talented people in our midst that we're sure to make it work!

I hope to see many of you during the summer, but if not, have a relaxing and fun one!

In Faith,
—Kathy

Board of Trustees (BOT) Meeting Minutes

May 16, 2012

Members Present: Andrea Schmidlin, Betsy Thrasher, Dan Brosier (representing the Executive Team), David Clough, Deb Caruso, Liz Closson, Shari Smagatz.

Prior meeting minutes: review of Dan's evaluation was missing from the minutes. Approved.

President's Reflections

The new UUCE governance slate elected at the Annual Meeting on Sunday May 6 will officially be seated on the Board of Trustees on



July 1. Between now and July 1, we will ask our new board members to attend a workshop that will offer training on our governance model.

The two board members who have just completed their terms,

Andrea Schmidlin and Andrea Budasi, will be missed. They both did a terrific job representing the interests of our members and community. I have worked with Andrea Schmidlin on several projects in the past, and this was my first opportunity to share a leadership role with Andrea Budasi. While they are no longer serving on the board, I'm confident they will share their talents with the community in other ways.

The Endowment Committee also has a new representative, Heike Spayne, who will be serving a three-year term. Kevin Sweeney served one year on the Endowment Committee, and his background in banking was a great resource to tap into.

—Tim

REPORTS

- A. Financial Report – Approved
 - Scrip is under achieving – currently at 47% of budget with 2 months to go
 - Electricity and phone questioned as being high and it was pointed out that these are paid every two months rather than every month
- B. Earmarked Funds Report - Approved
- C. Executive Team Report – Approved
 - Discussion about possible ways to celebrate the village banks that we have created
 - Solar water panels? - to heat lower level and assist water heater
 - Kitchen Tiling – Approved
 - Hallway door for hallway entrance – to maintain temp in offices– Approved
- D. Monitoring Reports – Endowment
 - An anonymous donation of \$7000 was made to the endowment fund
- E. Monitoring Reports – Executive Linkage
 - Andrea S. suggested that there be formal evaluations of the volunteers
- F. Strategic Plan Review – no report - deferred

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. Food Safety Topic – shelved until Beth returns
- B. Review data collected from the Board Survey –tabled to next month
- C. Vandalism Policy

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Schedule and plan for BOT retreat
- B. Discussion: objection made about order of process concerning notification to membership prior to bylaw vote

Next meeting scheduled for June 20th.

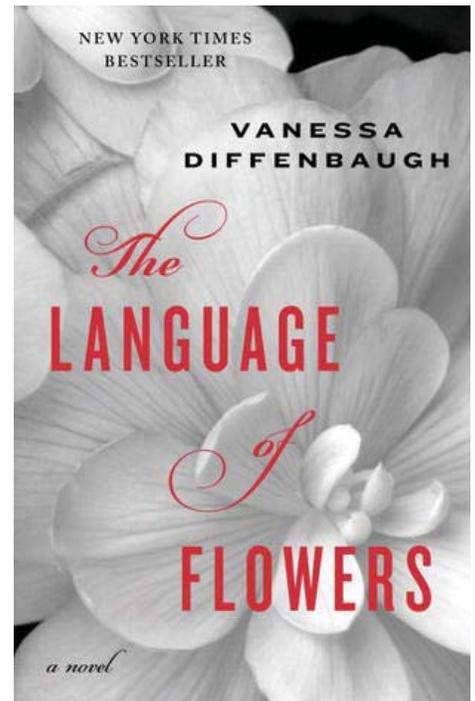
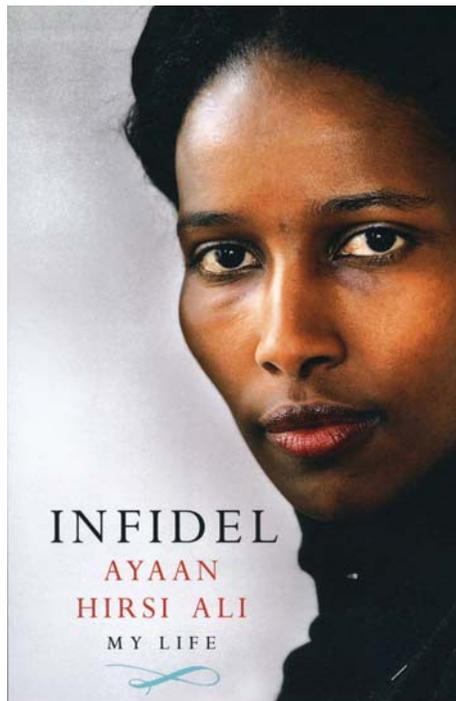
Does the church make a difference in your life? Put your dust rag where your heart is and mark your calendar for Saturday, August 25th, for the All Church Clean Up. Arrive when you can, leave when you must.

We're Booked

The Afternoon Book Group will meet at 12:30 on Monday, June 25, at the home of Dotty Carringi to discuss "Infidel" by Ayaan Hirsi Ali. For further information contact [Alice Macy](#).

The evening book club will meet at 7:00 on Friday, June 15, at the Panera Bread at 2484 N. Randall Road, in Elgin to discuss "The Language of Flowers" by Vanessa D. Diffenbaugh. For further information contact [Beth Cooper Zobott](#).

New members are always welcome.



GREEN CORNER

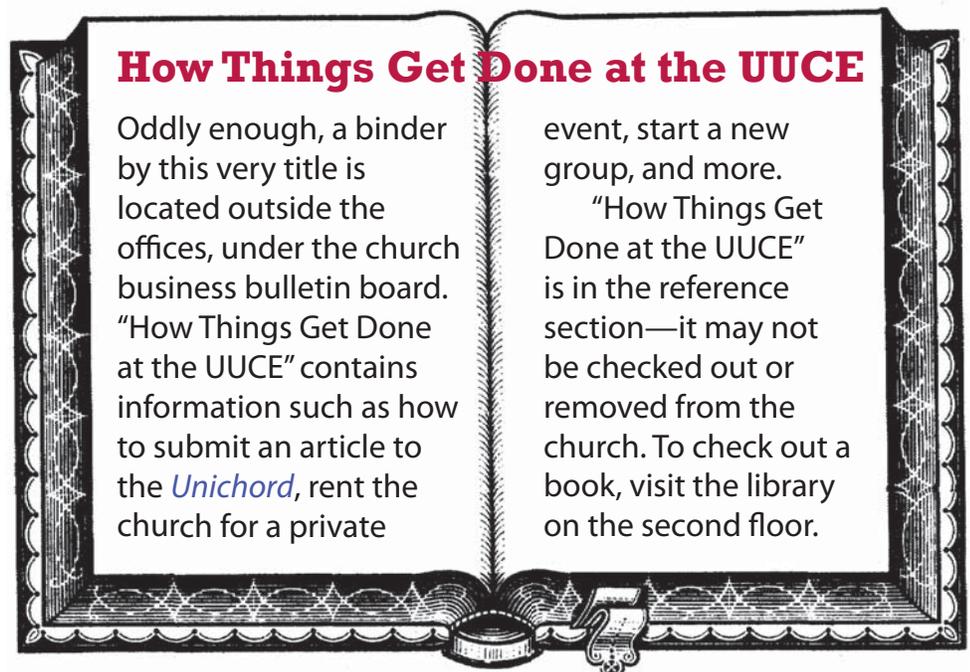
Paper Kills

Reading is a fine and wonderful thing ... excess use of paper is not. [Catalog Choice](#) is a free service which stops unwanted mail. Those who enroll opt out of catalogs, coupons, credit card offers, phone books, circulars and more. It works like this:

1. Unwanted catalogs, coupons, credit card offers, donation requests, and other junk arrives in your mailbox ("and every day, the paper boy brings more").

2. You log on to [Catalog Choice](#) and opt out of the mailings you don't want, simply by checking the box next to the sender's name.

3. [Catalog Choice](#) intervenes on your behalf, telling senders to remove your



name from their mailing lists.

Merchants can opt out, too. Ceasing to send spam saves them money, pleases their customers, reduces waste, and reduces pollution.

Similar benefits apply to communities who join [Catalog Choice](#). Wouldn't it be nice to stop creating unwanted

event, start a new group, and more.

"How Things Get Done at the UUCE" is in the reference section—it may not be checked out or removed from the church. To check out a book, visit the library on the second floor.

phonebooks, or even generate zero waste? These things really are possible.

[Catalog Choice](#) was recently acquired by [TrustedID](#), which will further increase consumer privacy. In addition, a new foundation will provide grants to help people save natural resources.

Laughter Eases Crisis on June 30

The UUCE Improv Comedy Troupe, ImpromptUU, has scheduled its very first full length performance! ImpromptUU will host a fundraiser for the Community Crisis Center of Elgin on Saturday, June 30, at 7:30 at the church. It is a family friendly show and children who are able to sit through a performance are welcome to attend.



Peace and Laughter,

—Bridget Laflin

Scrip Takes a Holiday

Scrip cards ordered on May 27 will be available for pick-up on June 10. Buyers may also make arrangements with [Sandy Webster](#) to pick them up at the church on Friday, June 1. The scrip program will continue on a reduced schedule throughout the summer.

June Birthdays

- 1 Kevin Sweeney
- 1 Serena Schnidt
- 3 Jane Kimball
- 5 Stephen Day
- 5 Marissa Burger
- 6 Rick Yucuis
- 10 Mollie Kiesewetter
- 13 Gordon James
- 13 Andrew Pratt
- 14 Todd Underwood
- 14 Mitch Kremer
- 16 Laura Masonick
- 21 Lydia Clough
- 30 Debbie Caruso

Even the Garden Will Take a Break

The UUCE commUUnity garden has been in continuous production since the spring of 2006. Members and friends of the church have grown and given away hundreds of pounds of food. It is time to give Her a rest.

On June 14 at 1:00, all are invited to pitch(fork) in and add several bags of alpaca poo to the garden. Once the poo is folded in, the garden will rest until next spring. This is called letting a field lie fallow, and it is an important practice for all who grow even a little food. Volunteers will not be lonely; the Nielsen Perishables Group will send helpers. Workers will be provided with cold water and refreshing snacks. Wear protective clothing and sunscreen, and please, if at all possible, bring your own water bottle.

Before the great poo-flipping, those in attendance will pull this year's crop of garlic and braid it. Garlic braiding is a kid-friendly activity, and it's educational, too. All unsupervised children will be given shots of espresso and a jar full of frogs to take home.

Wheels of Life

Congratulations to Shari Smagatz and Dan Kalkbrenner on the birth of another grandson
— Devin Len.



Elizabeth Olson and Doug Pratt are also grandparents again. Their newest UU is a baby girl. All are doing fine.

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

Kudos

Grateful thanks are extended to volunteers who recently greeted, made coffee, and cleaned up after church services:

Ashley & Zack LaMotte

**Bridget, Meg & Quincy
Lafin**

Diana Heizer

Elizabeth & Tim Closson

Norm Wilkinson

Roberta Nauman

Greeters, coffee makers, and cleaner uppers are always welcomed with gratitude; just call Church Administrator Mila Brinker at 847.888.0668.



The Unitarian Universalist Church of Elgin

P. O. Box 1032 • Elgin, IL 60121

