



OCTOBER 2012

Unichord



THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF ELGIN

Crop Walk 2012



Darfur, Paul Jeffrey/ACT Alliance

Please make plans to join us for the 30th Annual Elgin CROP Hunger Walk on Sunday, October 21, 2012. Registration this year is from 1:00 - 1:30 at the Civic Center Plaza on Symphony Way in Downtown Elgin. There will be plenty of family-friendly activities before the Walk: face painting, stroller/wagon decorating, and

children's games. The Walk itself begins promptly at 2:00.

Can't join us on the 21st? We need sponsors for our Walkers! Monies go directly to hunger relief, and 25% of these funds goes directly to Elgin Cooperative Ministries (ECM). ECM includes the Elgin Soup Kettle program and works with Food for Greater Elgin

(formerly known as Feeding Greater Elgin). The balance of the money goes to worldwide hunger relief. Last year our church raised nearly \$4,000! Donations to Walkers may be made **online**, or at the CROP Walk table on the Sundays leading up to the Walk. The donation table is located on the first floor of the church.

From the Minister

I find Halloween one of the most fascinating times of the year in terms of what we believe and how we celebrate. It is one of those holidays when multiple layers of religious beliefs and practices are laid upon one another. If you take the time to look you can often notice what all goes into this holiday rich in beliefs. For instance, you can find parts from the Egyptians, others from the Romans, a lot from the Celts, some ornamentation from the Christian Church, and a good dose from various national customs, works of Gothic and horror literature (such as the novels *Frankenstein* and *Dracula*), and classic horror films. It is a holiday that belongs to no one religion but is a rich “salad” of traditions.

I believe that is the case in general with religious belief. More than likely an individual’s set of beliefs are a mixture from different traditions. I took a class on Buddhism in seminary from a Catholic Monk who engaged in a Buddhist practice. According to a Pew Research Center’s Poll 22 percent of Christians believe in reincarnation – that people will be reborn in this world again and again. Twenty-three percent, meanwhile, believe in astrology. And 15 percent have consulted a fortune teller or a psychic.

As with Halloween, every one of us has a set of beliefs from disparate sources that have settled into our lives over time. We Unitarian Universalists think that this is great. We encourage people to seek out such an understanding—to create a system of beliefs which allow them to live more out of love than fear.

—Dan

We Hear You?

We still need one or two more people to run the sound board on Sunday mornings. Contact the Rev. Dan Brosier and he will see that you are trained.

A Month of Sundays

10/7: EPHEMERAL

What are we doing here? Service led by the Donna Askins.

10/14: BEHIND OUR BACKS

Gossip is idle talk or rumor about the personal or private affairs of others. It is one of the oldest and most common means of sharing facts, views and slander. It has benefits as well as violence. Service led by the Rev. Dan Brosier.

10/21: MYTH, BELIEF AND FAITH

Some of the hottest debates about religion center on the ideas of myth, belief and faith. Where does all that heat come from? Service led by the Rev. Dan Brosier.

10/28: WITCHES AND THE OPPRESSION OF WOMEN’S POWER

The list is very long. It has been estimated to be over 9 million, but we will never know the exact numbers. We are fairly certain, though, that approximately 80 percent of them were women. It was another holocaust—a holocaust against women. Service led by the Rev. Dan Brosier.

Services begin at 10:45.

Laugh Your Class Off

By popular demand, the UUCE comedy troupe *ImpromptUU* will be appearing at St. Thomas More School on November 3 at 7:00. One hundred percent of the money raised will provide assistance to the needy in West and South Elgin by providing food, gas cards, and more. Prepare to roll in the aisles—something your teacher would never have let you do.

October Calendar

Worship Services

Sundays at 10:45

Adult Religious Exploration and Education

Sundays at 9:00 in rooms 301 and 302

Board of Trustees Meeting

October 16 at 7:00
in the Fellowship Hall

The Board meets on the third Tuesday of every month. Meetings are open to the congregation.

Book Group—Afternoon

October 29, November 26, and December 31 at 12:30 (offsite)

Book Group—Evening

October 19 at 7:00 (offsite)

Buddhist Group

Thursdays at 7:00 (offsite)

Care Team

October 30 at 10:30
in the Fellowship Hall

Circle Supper Potluck

October 13 at 6:30

Committee on the Ministry

October 3 at 7:00

Covenant Group

October 1, 15 and 29 (offsite)

Crop Walk

October 21 at 1:00 (offsite)

Executive Team

October 10 and 24 at 10:30

Finance Committee

October 10 at 7:00

Handbells Rehearsal

Sundays at 12:30 in room 203

Improv Group

Sundays at 7:00 in the Sanctuary

Landscape & Grounds Mulch Party

October 14 at 12:30

The Landscape and Grounds team will provide lunch for those who help to spread mulch.



R.E.E. Overnight Church Campout

October 5 and 6
Under the stars

Social Justice Meeting

October 24 at 7:00

Solar Tour

October 6 at 10:00

UNICHORD DEADLINE

OCTOBER 21

Pagans Host Samhain Labyrinth Walk

On November 2 at 7:00, to celebrate Samhain, the Pagan Unity group will host a candlelight labyrinth walk to remember the beloved departed, honor the final harvest, and celebrate the Witches' New Year. It is a time to commune with those who have crossed over...to send and to receive messages. Ritual or costume attire is preferred, but due to the solemn nature of the event, this ritual is not for children.

Participants will first create an Ancestor Altar, so it is important to bring pictures of deceased loved ones. Carved pumpkins with candles in them will be needed, too.

The central act of magick will be the candlelight Labyrinth Walk (bring your candle in a jar) and the lighting of the Cauldron of Rebirth. During this time, those who gather are asked to consider: What is it that you will let go of as the old year ends? What will you release into the Cauldron? What message will you send? What message will you receive?

A potluck feast will cap off the evening — please bring a dish to share. The suggested donation is \$5 per person.

From the Director of Religious Exploration and Education

I often hear parents say that they struggle with their children's commitments, and in particular, how it's difficult to come to church on Sunday mornings. It is a common dilemma! Every family has its own way of dealing with time management. When asked how to approach this, I gladly share my experiences, with an added "but each child is different, and so is each day!" One thing that I do know for sure: children and youth who attend irregularly miss the connections and community with their peers and adult leaders, and it's a challenge to come back into a group after a long absence or sporadic attendance.

The issue of making time for the things that are important to us is one we all have experienced. Perhaps starting out small is the way to go, as Tracey Hurd, Children and Families Program Director and UUA Lifespan Faith Development Staff Group writes:

"Time may be scarce and hard to find in the context of lives with increasing demands of work and productivity. But the cherishing and noticing of time has always been difficult to achieve. We can help our children by dedicating portions of a week or a day to slowing down. We can encourage them to reflect on their lives, all that they are doing, and all that they know. Like characters in wisdom tales, our children need someone to tell them that they are finding out what they need to know through the very unfolding of their lives. Mustard seeds and tiger's whiskers are not necessary. It is the opportunity to reflect on what is being gained during the seemingly ordinary moments of our everyday lives that will bring us closer to the wisdom and meaning we seek."

As parents, grandparents, or caregivers, we need to model how to make time, and encourage our youngsters to reflect on what is important to them. Bedtime can be such a moment: with hugs and kisses, ask your child "What did you do today that you're proud of? What do you wish you had done? How can you make tomorrow even better?" You may be surprised at some of the answers!

In October, we will be gathering prairie seeds from our grounds and saving them for springtime. Around Earth Day in April, we will scatter them in the prairie to start the cycle once again.

The R.E.E. will host an overnight church campout on October 5-6. There will be a campfire, and of course, s'mores! For those who camp overnight, there will be a pancake breakfast in the morning. Board of Trustees President Debbie Caruso adds,



"Get there when you can. Last year's event was a blast for the kids and the adults! You don't have to sleep over to share in the fun. A couple of families last year just stayed really late.

"It worked out very well last year with everyone bringing their own s'mores supplies. That way we did not run out and by the end of the night we were just combining what we had.

"If you have a wood source, please bring some.

"In the morning, the R.E.E. program will spring for breakfast. You can also join the solar tour in the morning starting at 10:00."

A group of children, youth, and adults are planning a Halloween party, but a date has not yet been announced. Look for more info in the order of service and on the e-list.

We will begin religious exploration classes this month, with our theme of Unitarian Universalist Identity. Some of our classes will be using new curricula from the Unitarian Universalist Association, and it is all online, so teachers and parents can view any lesson at any time. If you'd like to see what they have, the link is www.uua.org/tapestry.

The Adult Spirituality program will continue as well. At 9:00 on Sunday mornings, the Meditation Class meets in room 302, and the Myth in Human History class meets in room 301. Feel free to check them out at any time.

In Faith,
—Kathy

Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

August 21, 2012

Members Present:

B. Cooper-Zobott, B. Thrasher, D. Brosier (Executive Team), D. Clough, D. Caruso, L. Closson, M. Moutrie (Endowment Committee), S. Day, T. Davis.

Presentation: L. Closson reviewed vandalism event.

REPORTS

- A. Budget Report – Approved
- B. Earmarked Funds Report - Approved
- C. Executive Team Report – Program Report Review
 - Electrical Usage – **Thanks to our new solar panels, we have been saving an average of \$200 per month since April**
 - The Executive Team concluded that the vote at the general meeting was performed improperly and is therefore null. There is no need to schedule an emergency meeting. The vote likely will come up again in 2013.
- D. Endowment Committee Report
 - Can the Endowment Committee operate as usual without a new vote on the change in the bylaws? M. Moutrie will supply an answer as soon as possible.
 - There will not be a congregational meeting in September; the Endowment Committee will re-propose the bylaw changes at the annual meeting in May.
 - The Endowment Committee will be moving the entire endowment over to the UUA EF so that we can get a better return.
- E. Committee on the Ministry Report - Approved

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Trustee sign-up
- B. Strategic plan (not available for review)
The next meeting is scheduled for October 18.

President's Reflections

Most of the income we use to support our church and its mission comes through our annual canvass. The church seriously counts on people coming through on their pledges. We create each year's budget based on the good intentions of every member. We passed a balanced budget back in May for this 2012-2013 church year based on everyone's good intentions. But we still have a \$10,000 deficit from last year that needs to be dealt with. Across the board, from small to medium to big pledges, people have not been able to fulfill their commitment from the 2011-2012 church year. If everyone got caught up on their pledges from last year, we would be in much better shape! If you are not sure if you are caught up on last year's pledge, then please contact [Sandy Webster](#), our volunteer Financial Secretary. So with that all said, don't forget to vote in the General Election on November 6th. If you still need to register to vote, you have until October 9th. We have four Deputy Registrars in the church, including myself. If you need to register to vote please [contact me](#). For your local election information, go to your county's Election Commission website:

- [Cook](#)
- [Kane](#)
- [DuPage](#)
- [McHenry](#)

Happy Voting!

Thanks,
—[Debbie](#)



Free Money for the Church— at No Cost to You!

Lands' End, L.L. Bean, the Gap and Old Navy will give the UUCE a whopping **16%** rebate to the church, — *if* you make your purchases with a gift card you buy from the church! Other scrip retailers include Burlington Coat Factory, J. Crew, JCPenney, Kohl's, Macy's,

Marshall's, and T.J. Maxx. Scrip (gift) cards come in denominations of \$25, or \$100 for many. Yes: it's the same gift card you can buy anywhere else, at the same price, and you get from it the exact same amount of money. The only difference is that the church gets a

commission for making the sale.

Order your 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. Contact: [Alice Macy](#).

Cheer! Cheer! Cheer! Your Birthday! Is Here!

1	Richard (D.J.) Jensen	17	Shirley Wolin
3	Nikolas Spayne	18	Jason Engel
3	Joe Imhoff	18	Amy Schmidlin
6	David Zobott	19	Betsy Thrasher
8	Charlie Schmidlin	20	Anne Clough
12	Laurie Kiesewetter	30	Emma Brosier
13	Todd Owens		
16	Chris Davis		

Paging All Book Lovers

The Afternoon Book Group will meet at 12:30 on Monday, October 29, at the home of Jane Kimball to discuss "Shanghai Girls" by Lisa See. For further information contact [Alice Macy](#).

The October meeting of the UUCE evening book club is Friday, October 19 at 7:00 at the Panera Bread store in Elgin (located at 2484 N. Randall Road, Elgin, IL 60123 Tel: 847/426-7000). The October selection is "The Grapes of Wrath" by John Steinbeck. This group is open to all members and friends of UUCE. Feel free to bring a friend! All are welcome. For more information, please contact [Beth Cooper-Zobott](#).

Pledge Income



Thanks for Your Generous Support!

The All People's Inter-Faith Pantry served 372 families with 1,200 family members in August. They really appreciate your generous support of the Pantry. Since the Pantry has been receiving donations of meat, they can use mashed potatoes, canned gravy, and hamburger helper. They also

need small containers of dish and laundry detergent. As always, peanut butter, jelly and juice are welcome.

Try to bring your donations on our Pantry Sunday, October 7, but your contributions can be dropped off any time during the month.



Circle Suppers

Sign up now to join our 2012-2013 Circle Supper group. The annual Circle Supper program rotates participants so that, as often as possible, church members have dinner with a different group of their fellow UUs, typically on a Saturday night. This is an excellent way to get to know one another

beyond brief conversations at the church.

The Circle Supper season kicks off with a potluck in the Fellowship Hall on Saturday, October 13, at 6:30. All UUCE members and friends are invited to attend as well as to participate in Circle Suppers, which are held once a month

at host members' homes from November through April. Single people, couples, hosts and alternates are all welcome. To sign up or for more details contact [Kathie Wachholder](#). Ongoing members, please contact Kathie to reconfirm your participation.

Food for Thought

This semester, on Sunday mornings at 9:00, Adult Religious Exploration and Education offers two programs: Myth in Human History, and a meditation class entitled "The Journey Inward."

Myth in Human History will explore myths from around the world, revealing ways that beliefs are passed on from generation to generation, and how it helps us make sense of how ancient people, or people with whom we're not familiar,

built the cultures in which they lived. This class meets in room 301 (the couch room).

The meditation class, "The Journey Inward," includes both meditation and discussion. The goal is to learn to live more harmoniously through meditation. This adult spirituality class focuses on the ancient traditions of the Kriya Yoga tradition. Each week the class will investigate different meditation techniques and discuss yoga philosophy from

the Bhagavad Gita and Yoga Sutras. Drop-ins are welcome. This class meets in room 302.



Ways to Get in Touch

WEBSITE

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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

From Church Administrator Mila Brinker:

Thanks to Henny DuBois, Norm Wilkinson, Kyle Brinker, Mary Gaston, Valerie Howells, Debbie Caruso, Dotty Carringi, and Karen & Stan Forrester for helping with hospitality, and to Donna Askins for the beautiful monthly newsletter.



From Minister Dan Brosier:

Thanks to our sound board operators: Todd Underwood, Joe Masonick, Mike Moutrie, Lydia Clough, Bob Jackson



The Unitarian Universalist Church of Elgin

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