

NOVEMBER 2011

Unichord



THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF ELGIN

Labyrinth Comes Full Circle

"It's done!" The Earth Wisdom Labyrinth has now been completely resurfaced.

Many church members and friends came forward to assist in this giant undertaking. It took 72 tons of limestone—6 truck loads at 12 tons each. Of these, three truck loads were donated.

With the materials in place, the work began. Countless individuals worked to remove the layers of weeds and leftover mulch before the limestone could be spread. The rocks of the labyrinth itself had to be moved and put back. This



On October 15th at 9:41 a.m., long time church member Norm Wilkinson and prospective church member Anita Woloszynek worked together to push the last lunations brick into place. Lunations bricks are used to gather positive energy into the center of the circle.

summer was the final push. Volunteers labored every Saturday morning (except for one too-rainy day!). Wheelbarrows full of limestone were pushed and pulled all around the 93-foot diameter. Women and men wielded shovels and rakes, blessing the stones with their sweat.

One volunteer wrote: "The newly resurfaced Labyrinth is more beautiful than ever. The subtle pinks, grays and browns of the rocks that create the aisles are accentuated against the limestone backdrop. One has a feeling of peace and serenity now when walking the Labyrinth. You do not have to watch out for puddles, weeds or critters. The critters may come back and that is OK. Some weeds definitely will come back next Spring but they will actually be manageable for the volunteer force that loves the Labyrinth."

Another added: "As I reflect on the awesome amount of physical work that was accomplished, I am especially touched by the dedication of those who volunteered hours and hours of hard labor

under the hot sun. I'm so proud of our accomplishment and of every single person who donated an hour to help. While wielding those shovels and wheelbarrows, we were also weaving the web of fellowship and spiritual values. By raising up all the rocks, stones and boulders, we were strengthening the bonds of our community. In dedicating our time, money and labor to resurrecting the Earth Wisdom Labyrinth, we are leaving a legacy in stone to our children and grandchildren for meditation, healing and transformation."

The next Labyrinth Task Force meeting will be on Sunday, November 6th at 12:30 p.m. on the third floor. The agenda will include a wrap-up on the resurfacing; plans for next year's maintenance; what might be done to improve the Labyrinth space; and programming for next year. The contact for the Labyrinth Task Force is [Sandy Russel](#).

This article will continue next month, when the [Unichord](#) features the history of the labyrinth.

From the Minister

"If it is true that one of the greatest pleasures of gardening lies in looking forward, then



the planning of next year's beds and borders must be one of the most agreeable occupations in the gardener's calendar. This should make October and November particularly pleasant months, for then we may begin to clear our

borders, to cut down those sodden and untidy stalks, to dig up and increase our plants, and to move them to other positions where they will show up to greater effect. People who are not gardeners always say that the bare beds of winter are uninteresting; gardeners know better, and take even a certain pleasure in the neatness of the newly dug, bare, brown earth."

—Vita Sackville-West

We are all gardeners of some sort.

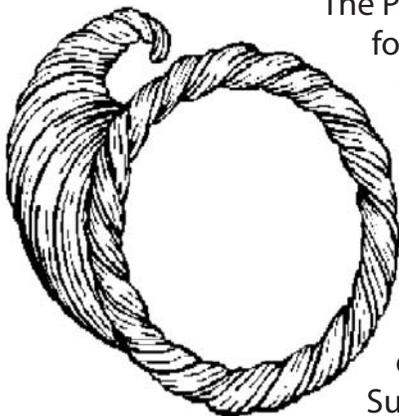
— Dan

Twelve Hundred People are Hungry

Can you afford to donate a jar of peanut butter? The number of people being served by the All People's Inter-Faith Pantry continues to increase. In September, 343 families with 1,206 family members received assistance.

The Pantry has a need for cereal (please, no oatmeal), peanut butter, jelly, and spaghetti along with spaghetti sauce. And, they can always use canned meats.

Try to bring your donations on Pantry Sunday, November 6.



A Month of Sundays

11/6: Understanding Occupy Wall Street.

Everything you've been taught about the origin of money is wrong. When you look at the history of money, credit and debit there are several surprises. We'll be exploring the role of religion, war, and slavery in the history of money. Understanding that relationship provides a context for understanding the Occupy Wall Street phenomenon. It also sheds some light on the relationship of our UU principles and our own individual attitudes toward money. Service led by Doug Pratt.

11/13: All-Music Sunday. Come join us for our annual fall Music Sunday when we celebrate the music of this church. You are invited to sit back and let the spirit of the music move you. During the service we will have a special offering in support of the music program. The Fall Harvest Market follows immediately. Service led by the Rev. Dan Brosier.

11/20: What Goes Into Making a Dream Come True: Celebration of the Rebirth of the Earth Wisdom Labyrinth. Service led by the Rev. Dan Brosier.

11/27: On Gratitude. Once each year, Americans take a day to give thanks for all we have. We are glad to love and be loved. The next day, thankfulness seems to fade, as we spend a few million buying presents to make people happy. Reconciling these opposite-minded events is easier than you might think. Service led by Donna Askins.

All services begin at 10:45.

November Calendar

Worship Services

Sunday mornings at 10:45

Adult Religious Exploration and Education

Sunday mornings at 9:00 in rooms 301 and 302.

On November 6, Building Your Own Theology II will begin the second portion of the curriculum. If you missed the first six weeks, no worries! Jump in as we explore the following topics:

- *Justice and the Beloved Community: What Is Our Place in the World?*
- *Individualism and Community*
- *Suffering and Meaning*
- *Death and Immortality*

All are invited. Andrea Schmidlin, Lydia Larrabee and Kathy Hislip are co-facilitating this group.

All-Music Sunday

During the service on November 13 at 10:45 in the Fellowship Hall

Board of Trustees

November 16 at 7:00 in the Fellowship Hall

Book Group, Afternoon

November 28 at 12:30 (offsite)

Book Club, Evening

November 18 at 7:00 (offsite)

Buddhist Group

November 3, 10 and 17 (offsite)

Care Team Meeting

November 1 at 10:00 in the Fellowship Hall

Choir Practice

November 3 and 10 at 7:30 in the Sanctuary

Church Rental - Cynthia Glick, Motivational Speaker

November 5

Committee on the Ministry

November 2 at 7:00

Covenant Group

November 1, 15 and 29 at 7:00 (offsite)

Cynthia Glick - Joy seminar

November 4 at 7:00

Executive Team Meetings

November 2, 16 and 30 at 12:30

Finance Team Meeting

November 9 at 7:00

Eat Music, Hear Food

November 13 is a special day at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Elgin! The service this day is devoted to music, so sweet to the ear. Right afterwards, the Fall Farmers' Market offers many a sweet to the tooth, and then some. The Fellowship Hall will be filled with numerous artisans and local farmers.

This a rare chance to eat real food and support small, family-owned businesses at the same time. Even if you don't spend a dime, the walk-through is impressive.

Join us for a treat for both your body and soul!

Fall Farmers' Market

November 13 from noon - 3:00 in the Fellowship Hall

Improv Group

Sundays at 7:30 p.m. in room 301

Labyrinth Task Force Meeting

November 6 at 12:30 in room 301

Landscape and Grounds Work Parties

November 6 and 20 at 12:30

qUUILTERS

November 5 from 9 to noon in room 302

Western Crescent Ministers' meeting

November 16 at 11:00 in room 301



Lifespan Religious Exploration and Education



October was a busy month! We had a campout on a cool and windy night, but the fire and stars and company made it worth it. We also had an all-ages Halloween party and potluck – a very popular holiday at UUCE!

Our Adult Spirituality programming continues: Building Your Own Theology and Voluntary Simplicity. The latter program addresses the distractions of modern society that keep us from caring for ourselves, our relationships, and our environment. It will be facilitated by the Social Justice Council. Both programs are at 9am every Sunday on the third floor.

The Religious Exploration and Education Team is going to have several social action opportunities for children and youth, as well as the whole congregation. We will be telling you more about these in the order of service and the e-list. One of these will be Cardboard City – a favorite amongst the young people.

Of course, we also have religious exploration and education classes! Here's what's happening:

November 6

- Preschool: Differences Are Interesting
- K-2: The Responsible Expression of Feelings
- 3-5: Divali
- 6-8: Islam Part 2
- High School: Indigenous Religions: The Earth Speaks

November 13

- Music Sunday – no classes

November 20

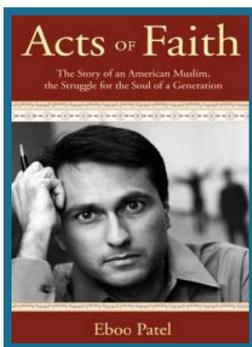
- Preschool: Both Girls & Boys Can
- K-2: Friendship
- 3-5: Wampanoag Thanksgiving
- 6-8: Islam Part 3
- High School: Hinduism: One God, A Thousand Faces

November 27

- Preschool: Native Americans Taught Us Many Things
- K-2: Making Peace With Our Worries
- 3-5: St. Lucia Day
- 6-8: Visiting a Mosque
- High School: Judaism Part 1

In Faith,
—Kathy

“We read to know we are not alone.”—C.S. LEWIS



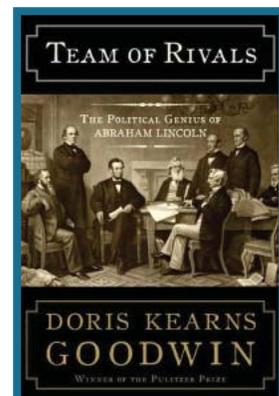
AFTERNOON BOOK GROUP

The Afternoon Book Group will meet at 12:30 on Monday, November 28, at the home of Jackie VanDeWarker to discuss the UU Common Read, "[Acts of Faith: The Story of an American Muslim, in the Struggle for the Soul of a Generation](#)" by Eboo Patel. The group will not meet in December. For more information contact Alice Macy.

EVENING BOOK CLUB

The next meeting of the UUCE evening book club will be held on Friday, November 18 at 7:00 PM at the Panera Bread located at 2484 N. Randall Road, Elgin, IL 60123. Tel: 847/426-7000 (just north of I-90, on the west side of the street). The evening book club will meet on the 3rd Friday of each month at this time and place.

The book for the November 18 meeting is: "[Team of Rivals: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln](#)" by Doris Goodwin Kearns.



PRESIDENT'S REFLECTIONS

UU Union Rescue



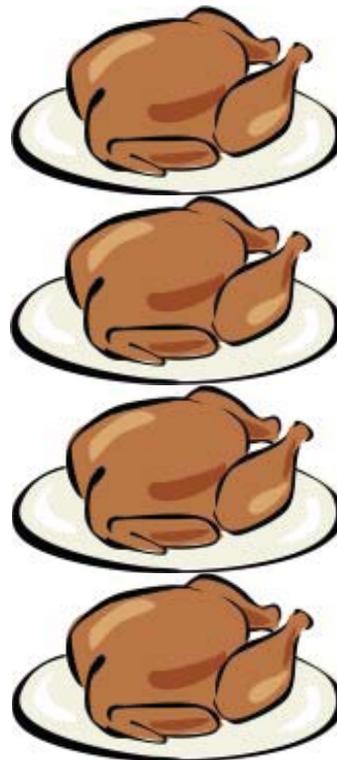
2011 marks the 150th anniversary of the start of the Civil War, and many newspapers, periodicals and authors are writing about the subject. I'm reading Adam Goodheart's book, "1861: The Civil War Awakening." Goodheart

has done a remarkable job of providing astonishing detail on the importance of the Confederate attack on Fort Sumter (Abner Doubleday served as a Union captain at the fort) to officially begin the secession of the Confederate States of America, and other aspects of the conflict between the North and South.

Goodheart writes about the interests of different factions in California as the war was starting in the east. The questions for the citizens of California were should the state remain neutral, form their own republic or support the new Union. Goodheart tells the story of an individual who was barely five feet tall, had a frail white hand, greasy hair, ill-fitting clothing and large bulging eyes.

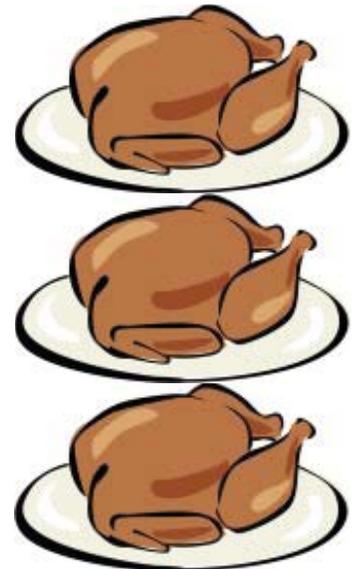
This person attended the salons sponsored by Jesse Fremont, daughter of Thomas Hart Benton, senator from Missouri, and the wife of John Charles Fremont (Fremont was the first Republican candidate for president in 1856 and opened many highways to the Pacific through exploration). This soon-to-be revealed individual made many inspiring speeches throughout the state that persuaded Californians to join the fight for the preservation of the Union. The individual who hobnobbed with Emerson, Philips, Beecher and the Adamses and was inspired by Thoreau before leaving the east was a Unitarian minister — Thomas Starr King. And our minister, Dan Brosier, attended the seminary in California that is named in King's honor.

—Tim



Budgeted: \$39,918

Member Pledges as of September 30



Actual: \$30,039

Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

21 September 2011

Attending: T. Davis, D. Clough, S. Day, A. Budasi, A. Schmidlin, B. Thrasher, S. Smagatz, A. Macy (ET), D. Caruso

Reports

- Budget Report – due to an error in the formula used to create the annual budget (page 4 of July budget report) the church is under budget by \$6,482.
- Earmarked Funds Report – June 2012 board meeting there will be determination

of what to do with Wisdom Rising Earmark fund.

- Executive Team Report – President T. Davis will discuss security policy with Reverend D. Brosier.

Unfinished Business

- President T. Davis reviewed most recent solar panels update.
- Nominating Committee/Committee of Ministry merger tabled.

New Business

None.

UUCE Hosts Fifth Fall Harvest Market

On Sunday, November 13th, UUCE will host our Fifth Fall Harvest Market from noon to 3 p.m. The market will open exclusively for the congregation from noon to 1 p.m., and will welcome the public from 1 to 3 p.m. The staggered timing will facilitate parking.

Our annual fall market is traditionally a combination farmers' market and artisan fair. Farm vendors will be selling high quality, sustainably produced goods. Artists from our congregation will be selling their work. Listed here are some of the goods and goodies we anticipate having at the market.

These off season markets help sustain local farmers who are committed to sustainable agriculture. Winter is a challenging time for them and these markets help them sell their products. Consumers like us benefit by being able to choose wholesome natural food products which are produced locally.

Church-based winter farmers' markets are organized through Faith In Place, a multi-faith organization headed by the Reverend Clare Butterfield, a Unitarian Universalist minister and friend of our church.

The farmers donate 10% of what they take in at the market (after a threshold amount) to the Illinois Farmer Crisis Fund. Modeled after Wisconsin's Harvest of Hope Fund, the Farmer Crisis Fund will give monetary gifts of up to \$1,000 to farmers in crisis due to illness or unexpected expenses. Through these markets, consumers continue to purchase farm-fresh items and cultivate relationships with local farmers beyond the summer farmers' market season.

The market is coordinated by Alice Macy and Mary Alice Masonick.

UUCE ARTISANS

Henny DuBois - Pottery * Claire Dassy - Nature photo cards, bookmarks, magnets, mirrors
Jane Kimball - Decorative pieces * Sandy and Gordon James - "Of Nature" copper jewelry
Ann Kremer - Hand knit cotton dish cloths * Frieda Anderson - Quilted art, hand dyed scarves
Stephen Day - "Be Clean" handmade soap * Children's table - Handmade holiday cards

FARMERS' MARKET PRODUCTS

Cheeses
Ice Cream
Vegetables
Beauty Products
Beef, Pork, Chicken
Pasta Sauces, Salsas
Vinegars, BBQ Rubs
Teas, Herbal Infusions
Honey, Beeswax, Soaps
Breads, Cookies, Cakes
Candles & Spa Products
Tarts, Croissants, Baguettes
Apples, Dried Fruits, Preserves
Fair Trade Coffees, Teas, Chocolates

Kudos

...to EVERYONE who helped renew
the labyrinth. It's done!



Social Justice Rocks! (and walks, too)

First, a huge thanks to our CROP Walkers: Dan Brosier, Bob Jackson, Phil Webster, Anne Ward, Jane Kimball, Dave Segel, and Valerie Howells; and another big thanks to everyone at UUCE for supporting the Walkers so generously. We raised over \$3,000 for this year's Walk, which is phenomenal! We had a beautiful afternoon for walking the 5K through Elgin, in company with lots of other Walkers. We would love to have you join us next year!

The Social Justice Council is now focusing our efforts on researching the cost and funding of a multi-generational trip in partnership with Youth Service Opportunity Project (YSOP) this coming summer, as mentioned in the September *Unichord*. To take part in this

service opportunity, please contact any member of the SJ Council: Jane Kimball, Anne Ward, Melissa Owens, Dave Segel or Dan Brosier. Information on YSOP can be found at www.ysop.org.

It's time for a new church website. Drupal is installed on the church server. Interested? Contact administrator@uuce.org.



happy birthday

2	Henny DuBois	20	Bonnie Schwank
2	Kerry Lantau	24	Jeff Burger
6	Mary Alice Masonick	25	Manish Jyoti
7	Kay Kummerow	25	Michelle Sweeney
7	Miles Anderson	26	Norm Wilkinson
11	Phil Webster	26	Helen King
13	Betsi Waldron	27	Elizabeth Olson
15	Andrea Schmidlin	27	Mara Jade Clough
16	Camilla Rose Hussein	28	Krista Flanagan
16	Zachary Burger		

Holiday Gifting with Scrip Cards

It's not too early to be thinking about holiday gift giving, and scrip cards make ideal gifts — no shopping, wrapping, or shipping, and one size fits all. Kids love to get cards for iTunes, and UUCE gets a 5% rebate. For the book lovers on your list, Barnes & Noble offers a 9% rebate. Everyone can find something with an Amazon gift certificate, and some may appreciate a gift card for Starbuck's, Dunkin' Donuts, Applebee's, Panera, or Chili's. And who wouldn't welcome a gift card for Fannie May Candies, which offers a whopping 25% rebate for UUCE?

You can order scrip cards at the scrip table in the downstairs lobby (except on November 13, when it will be upstairs) every Sunday after the service from 12:00 to 12:30, and pick them up the following Sunday. Please support this UUCE fundraiser.



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.

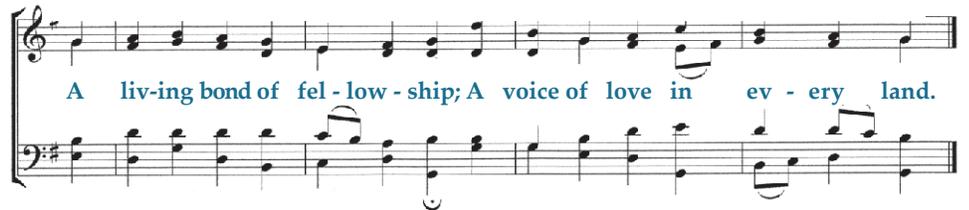
POSTAL MAIL

P. O. Box 1032

Elgin, IL 60121

Our Closing Circle

attr. to Louis Bourgeois, pub. 1551



The Unitarian Universalist Church of Elgin

P. O. Box 1032 • Elgin, IL 60121

