

JANUARY 2013

Unichord



THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF ELGIN

Meet the Social Justice Council

The mission of the Social Justice Council (SJC) is to support, oversee and/or coordinate social justice programs at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Elgin (UUCE). The SJC helps turn the congregation's passions into effective actions like these:

- ⌘ Crop Walk: UUCE raised over \$1,000 for anti-hunger programs this year.
- ⌘ The 40/40 programs: This Unitarian Universalist Association initiative increases our awareness on various issues and suggest ways in which Unitarian Universalists can change their behavior.
- ⌘ Share the Plate: Each Sunday, half of the offering's non-pledged cash donations are given to agencies which serve social justice.
- ⌘ Village Bank: The Church engages in micro-banking through FINCA to establish lending institutions in countries where access to small amounts of credit is usually not available.
- ⌘ Fair Trade: UUCE sells coffee, tea, and chocolate through equal exchange, which respects fair trading conditions

and respects the rights of marginalized producers and workers. Fair Trade also promotes environmental awareness.

- ⌘ Elgin Community Garden Network: Throughout Elgin, this network of gardens raises fresh produce for the hungry. The CommUUnity Garden, located on our church grounds, is a charter member.
- ⌘ Pantry Sunday: Food that members donate is distributed to the Interfaith Food Pantry, which feeds the hungry and provides basic necessities such as toilet paper and soap.
- ⌘ Farmers' Market: Twice each year, UUCE hosts this market where vendors sell locally produced food and other items.
- ⌘ Giving Tree – Congregants have the opportunity to buy Christmas gifts for a Larkin Center group home.

As you can see from this long list, without your involvement, little could be done. And the church has done a lot! If you have an idea for a social justice project, please contact [Jane Kimball](#).

Coming soon:
⌘ Work party through the Rockford ministry
⌘ February is social justice month at UUCE

—Jane Kimball
Social Justice Council

February 9

**Service Auction
Theme:
MAGIC**

What is magic to you? ★ How about the mystery and wonder of our spiritual quest?
★ Is Gaia magical?
★ Pagan holidays are certainly magickal. ★
Did your first encounter with UUCE feel like magic? ★
Think of your own life's magical moments ...

They will all be here at UUCE on the night of **February 9** ... at the Service Auction.



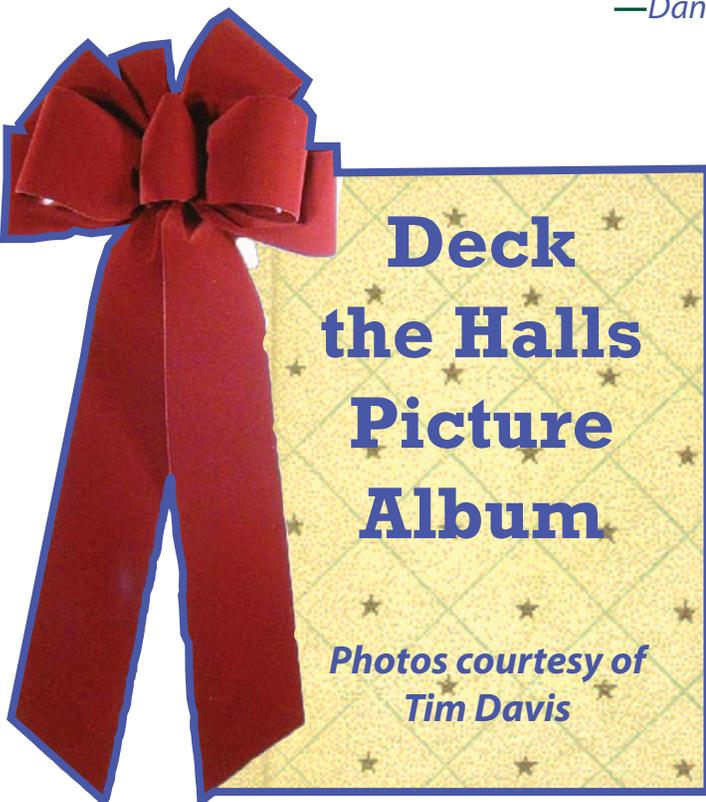
From the Minister

Just a reminder:

If you can recall the first, second or third time you walked into this church you will remember the fear you felt. Entering a new group is a challenging thing to do. Visiting a new church that is reported to be very different from the religion of your childhood is doubly challenging. That is why we need to be sensitive to what newcomers face and make extra effort to reach out to them in order to make connections. We need to find ways to communicate to our visitors that they are welcome and there is space for them at our table of companionship.

Visitors come through our doors looking for any number of things. These include religious education, freedom of belief, social justice, and community. It has been estimated that the number of people who identify themselves as UU but are not members of a church is four times our current membership. Some of these will be looking for a religious community that fits their beliefs. Let us help them find a home by greeting them with warmth and openness.

—Dan



A Month of Sundays

1/6: IT ISN'T AS SIMPLE AS BLACK AND WHITE

Local historian Ernie Broadnax, and our minister Dan Brosier, will engage in a conversation exploring Elgin's history of relationships between people of different colors. Service led by the Rev. Dan Brosier.

1/13: THE RAINBOW OF STEEL: THE MULTIRACIAL TRADITION IN BLACK HISTORY

During this service I will bring out a historical narrative about the three so-called racial groups who form the black physical experience: European, African, and Native American. I will also focus on the role which multiracial unity played in the social, political, and economic survival of Afro-Americans. Finally, I will set forth the idea that the future of the UUA rests with recognizing that having racial diversity is secondary to having a commitment to multiracial Unitarian Universalism. Service led by the Rev. Dr. Finley C. Campbell.

1/20: THE RIVER

What does the metaphor of the river teach us of life? Service led by the Rev. Dan Brosier.

1/27: PRACTICAL ADVICE FOR MANAGING CONFLICT IN RIGHT RELATIONSHIPS

Service led by Jason Engel.

All services begin at 10:45

January Calendar

Worship Services

Sunday mornings at 10:45

Adult Religious Exploration and Education

Sunday mornings at 9:00 in rooms 301 and 302

Bells Practice

Sundays at 12:30 in the bell room

Board of Trustees Meeting

January 16 at 7:00 in the Fellowship Hall

Book Group—Afternoon

January 28 at 12:30 (offsite)

Book Group—Evening

January 18 at 7:00 (offsite)

Buddhist Group

Thursdays at 7:00 (offsite)

Canvass Committee

January 6 at 12:30 in room 302

Care Team Meeting

January 3 at 10:30 in the Fellowship Hall

Committee on the Ministry

January 2 at 7:00

Covenant Group

January 7 and 21 at 7:00 (off site)

Executive Team

January 9 and 23 at 10:30

Finance Committee

January 9 at 7:00

Improv Group

Sundays at 7:30 in the Sanctuary

Landscape & Grounds

January 6 at 12:30 in room 301

qUUILting

January 12 at 9:00 in room 302

Social Justice Committee

January 28 at 7:00

Unichord deadline

January 20

Western Crescent Ministers' Meeting

January 16 at 11:00 in room 301



New Year, New You!

5	Jan Underwood	16	Heike Spayne
5	Andrea Budasi	16	Diana Heizer
7	Louette Rogers	17	Olivia Leyba
11	April Swain	25	Jeremy Clough
12	Dave Segel	26	Elise Wall
13	Chris Leyba	29	Paul Anderson
14	David Yaeger	29	Koby Lesiewicz

Adult Spirituality Returns!

Beginning January 6, Lifespan Religious Exploration and Education will offer two new adult spirituality programs. Practicing Right Relationship looks at our hunger for relationship and connection within our spiritual communities, and in turn, within our families, our jobs, and our social circles. Participants will explore this

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topic and practice ways to develop right relationship. We suggest that participants commit to the entire program as best they can. Practicing Right Relationship will last for seven weeks.

Comparative Religions examines how we define religion and explores why religious traditions differ so much despite

their commonalities. At a time when religion is so prevalent in life, it's difficult to overstate the importance of our understanding of this powerful force and its impact on so many. This is a 12-week program in which participants may come and go as they wish—drop-ins are welcome. For more information, contact [Kathy Underwood](#).

From the Director of Religious Exploration and Education

LIFESPAN RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION AND EDUCATION

Now that the winter holidays are behind us, we have the long winter days and nights to sit back a bit and enjoy family time, and perhaps some inner reflection time.

Worship services offer an opportunity to do both. Adult Spirituality is another opportunity for reflection, as well as to learn new things and gain new perspectives.

Beginning January 6, there will be two new Adult Spirituality programs offered. Practicing Right Relationship will be a 7-week program that looks at our hunger for relationship and connection within our spiritual communities, and in turn, within our families, our jobs, and our social circles. Participants will explore this topic and practice ways to develop right relationship. We suggest that participants commit to the entire program as best they can.

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religious traditions differ so much despite their commonalities. At a time when religion is so prevalent in life, it's hard to overstate the importance of our understanding of this powerful force and its impact on so many. This is a 12-week program where participants can come and go as they wish.

I hope that many of you will take the opportunity to participate in these programs.

On January 21, the City of Elgin will host its annual **MLK Day of Service and Youth Conference**. This event is open to middle and high school students, and will start with a service project in Elgin, followed by lunch and workshops. If your youth is interested, let me know.

We will also have a family event this month – either sledding or a movie, depending on the weather. Look for future announcements.

In Faith,
—Kathy

	Preschool	K-2	3-5	6-8	High School
Jan. 6	Chalice Cookies	A Peaceful, Fair World	Listening	Leaving	Topic of Choice
Jan. 13	Helping Others	In Nature	Humor	When Bad Things Happen to Good People	
Jan. 20	Feeling Sad	Caring For the Earth	Love	Faith and Reason	
Jan. 27	Imagination	UU Principles	Justice	Little Sins, Big Sins	
	Preschool	K-2	3-5	6-8	

President's Reflections

I hope everyone will have a safe and enjoyable New Year's! Yeah, we are all still here, the end of the world did not happen. But in December some of the worst aspects of evil human nature occurred. I hugged my first grader extra tight the night of the 14th. When I hear about or experience acts of evil I really try to counter the negative energy with positive. What can I do to help someone, anyone? There by putting positive energy into the universe to try and at least balance the negative. As a Pagan, for me it is all about striving for balanced energy in my life, balance in all aspects of life. So for 2013 I wish to strive for even more balance and to raise a child that will put positive energy out into the universe whenever possible. Speaking of positive I so look forward to the Service Auction on Feb. 9th! Let's raise some

positive cash for all the positive that UUCE brings to us and the universe!

—Debbie

Calling All Middle and High School Youth!

On January 21, which is a no-school day, the City of Elgin will host its annual [MLK Day of Service and Youth Conference](#). This event is open to middle and high school students, and will start with a service project in Elgin, followed by lunch and workshops. If your youth is interested, contact Kathy Underwood. She will serve as the adult presence if enough tweens and teens would like to participate.

Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

November 20, 2012

Present:

B. Cooper-Zobott, B. Thrasher, D. Caruso, D. Clough, D. Yaeger, K. Flanagan, S. Day, T. Davis.

Absent: Representative of Executive Team (ET).

Prior meeting minutes: In the September minutes, in the Executive Team Report section, internal audit of finances should be internal review.

Reports:

- A. Financial Report – Budget reviewed, ET not present to answer questions. Financial report reviewed.
- B. Earmarked Funds Report – Reviewed and approved
- C. ET Report –
 - 1. ET conformance with Compensation and Budgeting II E&F: ET is in compliance.
 - 2. Water test came back without issue.
 - 3. Shared ministry report reviewed.

4. PowerChurch software has been purchased and is being rolled out.

5. No report from the Endowment Committee.

6. Internal Review Committee is being formed and is scheduled to start in January.

Unfinished Business:

- A. Deficit Discussion – the events of the deficit meeting were discussed.
- B. Tim presented Interest Based Problem Solving results from meeting
- C. UUCE Review Committee will be formed and will be chaired by Tim Davis. Tim is looking for people to make up the committee.

New Business:

- A. Convene Task Force on Staff Compensation
 - 1. New recommendations from UUA have been delayed until July 2013
 - 2. A new Task Force will be formed

The next meeting is scheduled for Dec. 19th.

Massachusetts: “No More Superhighways”

During a press conference in October of 2012, Massachusetts Secretary of Transportation Richard Davey stated, “I have news for you. We will build **no more superhighways** in this state. There is no room.”

He aims to triple the number of people traveling by foot, bike, or public transit. Granted, that’s an 18 year goal, but Davey walks his talk. As reported by *The Republican*, Davey said he’s the only state-

level transportation secretary in the country who doesn’t own a car. Instead, he rides the bus to work.

The goal will be accomplished via a \$78 million transit rehabilitation of Springfield’s Union Station. At the November 20th **reconstruction project** kick-off, Springfield Mayor Domenic Sarno said the Union Station revitalization will spur economic development in the

region. Governor Deval Patrick was also on hand to endorse the project.

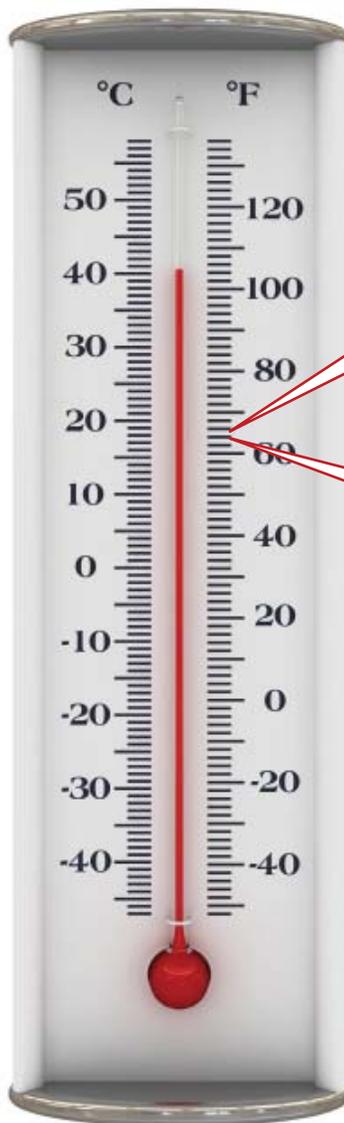
If you’re wondering whether it’s still worth contacting your local officials to support alternative transit, let this be your ray of sunshine. States can take a strong stance on light rail, bike, bus, and pedestrian infrastructure in spite of Congress’ lack of vision. Check out [America Bikes](#) for ideas on how to get involved.

Inter-Faith Pantry Gives Thanks

The All People’s Inter-Faith Pantry’s staff thanks you for your generous donations last year.

The number of people the Pantry serves continues to increase. The pantry needs the following items since everyone receives these items when they visit the pantry: pork and beans, bags of rice, cans of fruit jelly and toilet paper.

Try to bring your donations on our Pantry Sunday, January 6. If you forget to bring a donation, you can always write a check made out to *All People’s Inter-Faith Pantry* and give it to Bob Jackson or Henny DuBois.



Pledge Income

As of November, 2012

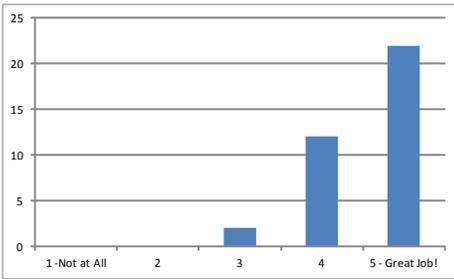
**Actual:
\$65,887**

**Budgeted:
\$65,250**

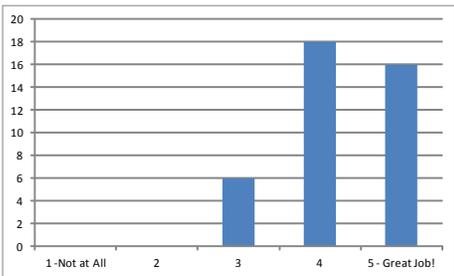
Hot Enough For Ya?

The Afternoon Book Group will meet at 12:30 on Monday, January 28, to discuss “**Fahrenheit 451**” by Ray Bradbury. Place TBD. For further information contact [Alice Macy](#).

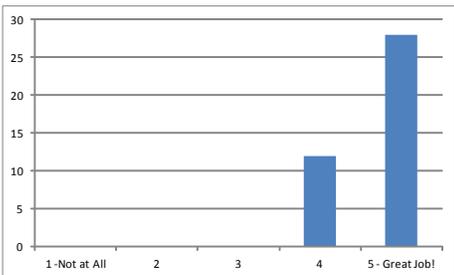
Leadership Shares More Survey Results



The religious education and fellowship spaces are adequate and well kept



Our infrastructure (roof, offices, computer, kitchen, parking, etc.) is adequate.



Our worship space is beautiful, well-maintained, and large enough to accommodate our congregation.

Of those completing the annual survey, here is what church members said about church facilities:

- Eventually the parking lot surface will need some attention.
- Carpeting in Fellowship Hall is starting to show its age.
- The dirty areas on the carpet are a problem but replacing the carpeting would be costly.
- Kudos to the team that re-surfaced the Labyrinth! It's beautiful.
- While some of our facilities are showing their age, I think we do a pretty good job of upkeep. We will need to spend money to replace fixtures and appliances and also on maintenance in the near future in order to keep things looking good.
- I don't think it would hurt to have a few people from our congregation get together to visit various other churches in the area to note how they are

decorated, discuss what we liked, and decide if we could incorporate any of those ideas into our own spaces without unduly changing our character or presentation. We have stuff. We put it here and there. I've been generally more impressed at other UU churches with how that is done.



Wheel of Life

On December 7, 2012, Bob Jackson's older brother died peacefully after years of chronic illness.

Paul Jackson, 83, was a highly respected newspaper and wire service photojournalist. He died in a healthcare facility near his home in Park Ridge. Bob was at his bedside.

Memorial donations may be made to [Rainbow Hospice](#).



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

The Next Book is a Mystery

The January 2013 meeting of the UUCE evening book club will take place on **Friday, January 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). Panera is located north of I-90, on the west side of the street (the left side, if you are headed north). The book club meets on the 3rd Friday of every month at this time and place.

The January selection will be announced in the near future during a Sunday morning service.

The UUCE evening book group is open to all members and friends of UUCE. Feel free to bring a friend! All are welcome.



The Unitarian Universalist Church of Elgin

P. O. Box 1032 • Elgin, IL 60121

