



FEBRUARY 2013

# Unichord



THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF ELGIN

## Do You Believe in Magic?

The theme for the 2013 Service Auction is "Magic." The Auction is a "FUN-RAISER" as well as a "FUND-RAISER" for the UUCE. Members and friends spend a fun night together making merry and making money to maintain and grow our cherished UUCE community.

### REGISTER NOW!

Reservations may be made at [UUCEHoliday.com](http://UUCEHoliday.com). Online credit card registration will expedite purchases and checkout. The suggested donation of \$15 per person includes appetizers, tapas-style buffet with plenty of options for vegetarians, and dessert. A cash (donation) bar will be available during this special evening. [UUCEHoliday.com](http://UUCEHoliday.com) also showcases items up for bid.

**Important: This is an adults-only event, and no childcare will be available at the church.**

### SPECIAL GUEST!

Master Illusionist Ron Clayton (Ron The Wizard) will perform close-up table magic from 6:00 to 8:00. Don't miss this awesome spectacle!

### SILENT AUCTION

The Silent Auction is a special UUCE Boutique starring treasures from members and friends. Please take a few minutes today to find the really cool and magical stuff in your house that is looking for a new home. Donated items will be accepted through February 3, but earlier is better so staff can get them on the web and on display for would-be bidders.

### LIVE AUCTION

This is a live auction with a real auctioneer! You will have an opportunity to bid on many fun events such as dinners, game parties, and other social and educational outings, as well as

services – handyman, chauffeur, baking, tutoring, and more. Visit [UUCEHoliday.com](http://UUCEHoliday.com) for examples from previous years.

### SHARE YOUR MAGIC

The team needs volunteers to help make the evening a success, so please sign up at [UUCEHoliday.com](http://UUCEHoliday.com), add your name to the list on the Auction Forms and Volunteer table at church, or contact Auction Coordinator Mike Moutrie. Many volunteer activities only take a few hours to complete. This is what makes the Service Auction a success on an annual basis. Share your magic this year!

### DISAPPEARING CHECKOUT

If you provide your credit card information when you register, there is no need to check out after the Auction. A receipt with a list of items you donate and purchase will be sent to you. If you prefer to pay with cash, however, you must check out and pay before leaving for the evening. Those who have already registered can still add credit card information during check-in on the night of the Auction.



# From the Minister

SHARED MINISTRY by ROBERT W. KARNAN

What makes my experience in the ministry so hopeful for me is that I am not alone in this careful hearing of both pain and excitement. This is not something reserved for only one ordained and robed. It is something we all do for and with one another.

Ours is a shared ministry, a giving and receiving. We tell one another our stories, our myths, our innermost thoughts—and we seek to listen (if we can) with sensitivity and purpose and love.

We live lives. We do not live creeds or theologies or even values. We are engaged with real events and people, and we are related, torn, and isolated together. We are at odds and we are sometimes very close.

The spiritual center of our lives is not to be found in a faith, no matter how cherished or revered. It comes, rather, out of the openness and honest engagement, the courage and pain, and the love we experience with one another. Sometimes that openness is searching and doubting, confused or serene, ambivalent or empowered. But it is an openness nonetheless. And out of it comes a vision of a world made new by the reality of our lives, lived in the service of love and justice, of gentle goodness and forgiveness.

A minister seeks to live in the struggle of each and every one of us as we seek to come to an understanding of who we are, where we are, how we are. A minister seeks to help us raise up the vision of where we must go as a people, and invites us if we need the invitation to join hands and hearts with one another to get there.

—Dan

## Library Turns Over New Leaf

Diana March is replacing Jackie VanDeWarker as library coordinator. The full story will appear in next month's Unichord.

# A Month of Sundays

## 2/3: ALL ABOUT FINCA

FINCA International provides financial services to the world's lowest-income entrepreneurs so they can create jobs, build assets and improve their standard of living. We have created several FINCA banks over the last four years. We will examine the difference our contributions have made and look to the future. As part of our ongoing social justice efforts we will hold a special collection in order to create another bank. Service led by the Rev. Dan Brosier.

## 2/10: PSALM 8: AN ECOLOGICAL MANDATE

What are our responsibilities to the natural world and how are we doing? Service led by Tim Closson.

## 2/17: FAMILY VIOLENCE: LEARN THE FACTS

Gretchen Vapnar, Executive Director of the Community Crisis Center, and Anna Whitmer, Director of Abuse Intervention Services, will give a presentation on family violence. Service led by Jane Kimball.

## 2/24: THE GREATEST LOVE OF ALL

Service led by Donna Askins.

*All services begin at 10:45*

## Book Clubs Meet

The Afternoon Book Group will meet at 12:30 **February 25**, to discuss "[At Seventy](#)" by May Sarton. The group will meet at the home of Betsy Thrasher. Contact [Alice Macy](#).

The UUCE evening book club will meet on **February 15** at 7:00 at the Panera Bread store at 2484 N. Randall Road in Elgin. The February selection is "[Book of Bright Ideas](#)" by Sandra Kring.

# From the Board

Our minister, Dan Brosier, has served the church for 25 years and is planning to retire at the end of this church year in May. Although he had planned to continue for a couple more years, his leaving has become medically necessary as advised by his physician. As Dan reported in an earlier email (on 12/29/12 Subject: From Dan) to the membership, he has been diagnosed with Parkinson's for several years, but recently has been experiencing increased symptoms which are interfering with his ability to do his job.

The Board of Trustees strongly desires to assist us all in right relationships throughout what will be a complex process which we are all learning together. We want to honor Dan for all he has done in the life of the church. We want to remember and embrace our past. We also want to realize the potential opportunities open to us for our future together.

Because this change is a significant one for Dan, and for the membership, the Board of Trustees is beginning a series of actions to obtain an Interim Minister for a year or so, and ultimately a new settled Minister. On 1/16/13 the Board voted to begin the process to hire an Interim Minister. This individual's function will be management of day to day church business and Sunday worship as well as leading the congregation through an assessment and planning process. The latter will get us ready for

determining the type of settled Minister we will be seeking.

The Board also is creating an Interim Task Force to oversee the search and hiring of the Interim Minister. The expectation is for the Interim to begin his or her duties in August 2013. The Board and the task force will be working with the Central Midwest District and the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA), which provide an array of [resources](#) to assist the Interim Task Force in their work. One may also visit [www.uua.org](http://www.uua.org) and type "Interim Minister" in the search box. The UUA has been guiding churches through this transition process with the use of an Interim Minister for years. The Board trusts the UUA to guide the UUCE in finding the best possible match for the church. If you would like to know more about the Interim Minister process/journey we are about to embark on please read [The Transitions Handbook](#).

Because change always brings a multitude of questions and emotions, the Board will be working hard to provide information throughout this process. Please watch for future articles in the Unichord as well as in church email and in Sunday announcements. If anyone has any questions/concerns/comments, do not hesitate to contact Board President [Debbie Caruso](#) (312-217-1692) or President-Elect [Elizabeth Closson](#) (630-294-9091).

## Buddhists Beckon

The UUCE Buddhist sangha invites interested church members to learn more about our group.

This is a brand new year full of possibilities, and an excellent time for spiritual growth, for the group has chosen a new book to study: [For a Future to be Possible](#) by Thich Nhat Hanh. This book is an exposition and discussion of the five Buddhist mindfulness trainings.

The sangha meets every Thursday evening from 7:00 - 9:00 near the church at a

member's home. The first half of the evening is spent in seated and walking meditation. The remainder is devoted to reading and discussing the teachings from our chosen book.

No initial commitment is necessary to give the group a try. No prior knowledge of Buddhism is required to understand these essential trainings. For more information email [Dave Zobott](#) or call 630-736-1075.

# February 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

February 20 at 7:00

## Book Group—Afternoon

February 25 at 12:30 (offsite)

## Book Group—Evening

February 15 at 7:00 (offsite)

## Buddhist Group

Thursdays at 7:00 (offsite)

## Committee on the Ministry

February 6 at 7:00

## Covenant Group

February 4 and 18 at 7:00  
(off site)

## Executive Team

February 13 and 27 at 10:30

## Finance Committee

February 13 at 7:00

## Improv Group

February 3, 10 and 17 at 7:00  
in the Sanctuary

## qUilting

February 2 at 9:00 in room 302

## Pagan Unity

## Imbolc Ritual & Potluck

February 2 at 6:30

## Service Auction Setup

February 3 - 9

## SERVICE AUCTION!

February 9 at 5:30

## Social Justice Meeting

February 25 at 7:00

## Social Justice Work Camp

February 16—all day

## Unichord deadline

February 17

## Western Crescent Ministers' Meeting

February 20 at 11:00



## What is UUCE Worth to You?

We are members of a unique and important organization. Unlike any other religious organization in the world, we open our fellowship to all people. We reach beyond our doors to promote peace and justice in our community and in the world.

In our church family life we are blessed with strong education, music, and community life programs, led by talented and dedicated people. We have all been enriched and strengthened spiritually and intellectually.

This is all possible because

of you! Each and every one of us makes this magic happen through our participation and financial support of our church.

So the Canvass Committee asks: "What's it worth to you?"

Is it worth your financial support again this year? Is it worth closing the gap between your current level of giving and the 3% of your annual gross income? Three percent is recognized by The Unitarian Universalist Association as a generous level of support. Might you even go on to exceed that 3%, as many already do?

On March 3rd we will kick off the UUCE Annual Canvass. On that Sunday the Canvass Committee will hand out pledge materials. Those who return the pledge forms by March 10th will be eligible for a "fabulous" prize drawing.

Between now and March 3rd, take a look at the many ways your church enriches your life and allows you to reach out and enrich the lives of others. Then ask yourself:

**"What's it worth to me?"**

We trust your response will be both heartfelt and generous.

# From the Director of Religious Exploration and Education

## LIFESPAN RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION AND EDUCATION

This month in Adult Spirituality, the program Practicing Right Relationship continues. The group expressed a desire to expand on some of the exercises, which may have us go longer than the original 7 weeks. Look for more info in the order of service and on the e-list.

For our younger members, they will begin exploring a new theme for the rest of the church year: Judeo-Christian Heritage. They will learn some of the stories from the Old and New Testaments and how they are connected to our Unitarian Universalist faith. The curriculum for February appears below.

The K-2 class is collecting socks for a social action project called Socks For Tired Feet through the Minneapolis-based organization Sharing and Caring Hands. Bring in new or gently used (clean, without holes) socks in any size to be given to homeless people. The class made footprint paper to decorate the collection boxes, which you will find in Fellowship Hall. Leave your donations in the box and we will send them.

In Faith,  
—Kathy

## February Youth Curriculum

	Preschool	K-2	3-5	6-8	High School
Feb. 3	Stars	Immigration Intersession			
Feb. 10	Celebrate Love	About the Bible	Resiliency	Introducing the Bible	Islam
Feb. 17	Weddings and Unions	Adam and Eve	Books of the Bible	In the Beginning	Islam
Feb. 24	Babies	Cain and Abel	Creation	Cain and Abel	Buddhism
	Preschool	K-2	3-5	6-8	High School

## Multigenerational Work Camp Saturday

One goal of the church's current strategic plan is to participate in a multigenerational work project. Through the Rockford Urban Ministries, the Social Justice Council has arranged an initial one-day work camp on Saturday, February 16 in Rockford. The camp is for anyone over the age of 12 who can help out with a rehab project.

Those interested in participating in this project should sign up on the designated clipboard on the visitors' table in the first floor lobby. Questions may be directed to [Dan Brosier](#).

# President's Reflections



First I want to say how grateful I am for finding this Spiritual Home 6 years ago. It truly is a magical place that I grow to love more and more every year! I have been using the word TRUST when talking

about this Interim Minister process with the Board and the Executive Team. We need to trust each other and the process the UUA has laid out for us to find the best possible match for our

church. This is a much shorter process than the 1-2 year long journey it will be to find a permanent Minister. (We will be sharing the details of that process before the church year is out.) But first things first we need to find the Interim. We really need everyone's positive energy, prayers or magic (whatever word suits you best) to help us thru this process. If anyone has any concerns/questions/comments about any of this do not hesitate to contact me at [debcaruso@yahoo.com](mailto:debcaruso@yahoo.com) or cell 312-217-1692. See you all at the Service Auction!

—Debbie

## PLEDGE INCOME

**Actual: \$78,755**

**Budgeted: \$78,300**

## Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

**December 19, 2012**

### Present:

B. Thrasher, D. Brosier (representing the Executive Team), D. Yeager, D. Caruso, E. Clossen, J. Yoshitani (guest), K. Flanagan, T. Davis.

**Prior Meeting Minutes:** November approved. In September minutes, in the Executive Team Report, External Audit of finances should be internal review. Under "Unfinished Business, B," remove one instance of "presented."

### New Business:

A. Solar Panel Report - Jun Yoshitani presented information on the solar panels and their positive impact on the monthly electric bill. Jun's recommendation is to pursue the option of working with other religious groups in the area to advocate for changes in Illinois legislation surrounding solar energy.

B. The Minister's future retirement possibilities were discussed.

### Reports:

A. Financial Report - Reviewed and approved. The UUCE Review Committee, chaired by Tim Davis, is planning to commence activity in January.

B. Earmarked Funds Report—Reviewed and approved.

C. Executive Team (ET) Report—Reviewed and approved.

1. The revised website is live at [www.uuce.org](http://www.uuce.org). The ET will review existing protocols for website submissions and as modify as needed.

2. Monitoring Report reviewed and approved.

3. Shared Ministry report tabled for next Board Meeting.

D. Endowment Committee Report – Reviewed and approved.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 16, 2013



# Here's a Sweet Deal!

Happy Valentine's Day! When you purchase Fannie May Candies with scrip cards, UUCE gets a 25% rebate. Or there are a great many dining options available with scrip cards, such as Bonefish Grill, Red Lobster, Macaroni Grill, and Outback Steakhouse. 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.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

### You are Loved

- |    |                    |    |                 |
|----|--------------------|----|-----------------|
| 1  | Dotty Carringi     |    |                 |
| 1  | C. Susan Hedke     |    |                 |
| 2  | Lydia Larrabee     |    |                 |
| 2  | Ben Holish         |    |                 |
| 5  | Kathie Wachholder  |    |                 |
| 6  | Gloria Yaeger      | 6  | Anne Bedard     |
|    |                    | 7  | Bob Jackson     |
| 8  | Tim Closson        |    |                 |
| 10 | Anne Branstrator   |    |                 |
| 12 | David Clough       | 13 | Taylor Kremer   |
|    |                    | 13 | Aleks Lesiewicz |
|    |                    | 16 | Cheren Waller   |
| 17 | Kyle Brinker       | 17 | Bud Geister     |
| 17 | Steve Stultz       |    |                 |
| 22 | Sandy James        |    |                 |
| 23 | Savannah Underwood |    |                 |
|    |                    | 23 | Diana Kremen    |
|    |                    | 24 | Kai Engel       |
|    |                    | 26 | Greg Schmidlin  |
|    |                    | 29 | Carl Deitrick   |

## The New U

The New U program is a two-session workshop designed to give people new to Unitarian Universalism some basic information about the faith in general and this church in particular. The program is facilitated by Jen Day, Liz Closson, and the minister Dan Brosier. The next session will run two consecutive Sundays beginning on February 10 at 12:30. All interested in learning a bit more about UUism are encouraged to attend

## Meijer Teams Up With UUCE

In December, 2012, the church initiated a new food donation process from the local Meijer grocery store to the All People's Interfaith Food Pantry. Spear-headed by our own Mitch Jacobs and Jan Spink, and with the encouragement of Norm Wilkinson and Henny DuBois, the paperwork has now been completed. UUCE is very thankful to Mr. Fred Meijer, the entire Meijer Community Relations Department, and Rose at the local Meijer for this donation. Each week we are reminded of the Food Pantry needs and are asked to help support this local agency in its efforts to provide needy Elgin residents with the nutritional products that will allow local families to survive another week. This month, the items most greatly needed are:

- Powdered milk
- Jelly
- Pork and beans
- Cereal
- Tuna
- Toilet paper
- Peanut butter

Try to bring your contributions for the Pantry on our Pantry Sunday, February 3, but as always, your donations are welcome anytime during the month. Contact [Henny DuBois](#) or [Bob Jackson](#) for more information.

regardless of your tenure with church. Please sign up on the designated clipboard at the first floor visitor's table. If you would like childcare, please so indicate on the sign-up sheet by February 3. For further information, telephone Dan Brosier at the church.

## Ways to Get in Touch

### WEBSITE

[www.uuce.org](http://www.uuce.org)

### E-MAIL

[minister@uuce.org](mailto:minister@uuce.org)

[administrator@uuce.org](mailto:administrator@uuce.org)

[newsletter@uuce.org](mailto: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 Unichord wishes everyone a Happy Valentine's Day...  
everyone!**



## The Unitarian Universalist Church of Elgin

P. O. Box 1032 • Elgin, IL 60121

