

Prairie Fest

This is your chance to be a part of Prairie Fest 2004 to be held on October 2 at our church! The purpose of this first Prairie Fest is to honor the interconnected web of which we are a part. We will reach out to the larger community, inviting them to gather with us

in and around our "prairie cathedral" in order to share simple gifts, learn from one another and have fun.

Activities at the Prairie Fest will include keynote speeches from John Rogner and Ken Robertson, well-known experts on prairies and the environment; music from David and Jennifer Briggs, Jill and Joe Dawson, Peg Lehman, Patti Ecker and all the way from Maine, UU folk-legend Jim Scott; craft, informational and healthy food booths; interactive activities; guided tours of our gardens and labyrinth; and an art contest for children and youth.

Planning for this very special event is well under way. Now is a great time to let us know how you want to help. There is a sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall with several suggested volunteer jobs. We especially need commitments right now from members and friends who are willing to help out with parking and set-up activities. Come join in on the fun. If you have questions about the Fest or how you can help, contact Kathy Hislip or Linda Porter.

Prairie Fest Seed Team



Our Spring R.E. teachers were recognized during the June 6 Sunday Service

Co-Presidents' Report

It's somewhat daunting as we sit down to write our first letter to you, the congregation. The number of topics which could, and perhaps should, be



*Dan and Kathy Hislip
Board Co-Presidents*

addressed is quite long and our ability to discuss them quite limited. Of course, we would like to make a good impression and start our term off on the right foot by some wise and important communication. That's probably not going to happen this time around, but we do cherish the opportunity to establish a meaningful dialogue with you.

We are going to start off with some simple things we'd like to say:

- We wish to acknowledge the two years of contributions by our predecessor, Kim Cecil. She did such an outstanding job that it is taking two people to replace her. Under her strong yet gentle leadership, we completed a Strategic Plan and embarked on a new corporate governance model—both topics you'll be hearing and reading about over the course of our presidency. Thanks, Kim, for all of your hard work.
- We wish to thank you for electing us. We, quite truthfully, are humbled by your vote of confidence. We pledge that we will do our utmost to carry out the duties of the position. We are certainly looking forward to working with the Board of Trustees. What a great group to start off our term with!
- There will certainly be challenges and concerns over the next two years, but with your gracious support and unending patience we'll all muster through together—hopefully with lots of laughter and many good memories.

Yours in peace,
Kathy and Dan



UUCE Calendar July - August

2004

July 3: Quilters from 9am to 3pm
 July 11: Intentional Living Covenant Group at 11:30am
 July 14: Space Utilization Team at 7:00pm -O
 July 25: Green Sanctuary 11:30am -FH
 July 28: Intentional Living Covenant Group at 7:00pm -O
 July 30: Book Group 7:00pm -O
 July 31: Quilters from 9am to 3pm

August 18: Board Meeting 7:00 pm -FH
 August 21: Church Clean-up
 August 27: Book Group 7:00 pm -O
 August 28: Board Retreat -O

FH - Fellowship Hall S - Sanctuary O - Off Property L - Library

Announcements

NEW MEMBERS

Since our last newsletter, Sheryl Denson signed the membership book. We joyfully welcome her into our community.

BOOK GROUP

You are warmly invited to join the members of the Book Group at any of their upcoming meetings, which begin at 7:00 pm.

July 30 - "Middlesex: A Novel" by Jeffrey Eugenides.

At the home of Alice Macy.

August 27 - "Good Harbor" by Anita Diamont.

At the home of Pat Pecho.

September 24 - "Don't Let's Go to the Dogs Tonight" by Alexandra Fuller. At the home of Denise Benson.

SPIRITUAL LISTENING COVENANT GROUP

We are looking for a few good people. If you are interested in exploring and gaining insight into your own spirituality through meditation, reflection and discussion, you may be interested in our covenant group. We meet the first Thursday of the month from 7 - 9 pm. If you are interested in joining us or would like more information, please come to our next meeting on August 5, in the sanctuary. Contact Pat Pecho if you have questions.

BANNER AWARD

On June 15, our church was honored at Unity Temple in Oak Park for our support of the development of wind energy. Five members of the congregation were present to receive a banner,



"This Congregation Is Powered By The Wind", as a new member church of Illinois Interfaith Power & Light.

The Green Sanctuary Committee is very proud of this achievement and grateful to those who have contributed to the purchase of Green Tags (wind energy certificates). Green Tags guarantee that electricity generated by wind turbines will be on the electrical grid in Illinois!

Illinois gets almost all of its energy from coal and nuclear power plants, both damaging to our environment (acid rain, mercury pollution, smog, radioactive waste). Recently, Mendota Hills, a new wind facility in Illinois, began producing renewable wind energy. We are among those responsible for this historic leap into the future.

The Green Sanctuary Committee

Kudos to:

Carl Deitrick, Alice Macy, Mary Alice Masonick, Sherman and Carol Ovelmen, Jim and Linda Porter, Kathy Underwood and Norm Wilkinson for helping at the June work party.



KEEP 'EM COMING

UUCE's expenses don't take a vacation during the summer. Utilities still must be paid, and staff members count on regular paychecks. So please keep those pledge payments coming: bring them to a summer service, or mail them to UUCE, Box 1032, Elgin, IL 60121.

Ways to Get in Touch

Church Office	847-888-0668
Web site	www.uuce.org
Newsletter Submissions	newsletter@uuce.org

Board Co-Presidents

Dan & Kathy Hislip

Newsletter Editor:

Todd Underwood

Deadlines

Order of Service	Thursday PM
Unichord	August 22

July - Birthdays - August

4	Jake Prebys	1	Will Brooks
5	Jessica Kolinski	3	Lauren Ginn
7	Alma Brooks	9	Alice Macy
12	Erik Anderson	9	Keisha Thompson
12	Kevin Webster	11	Deborah Webster
13	Max Freeman	11	Allison Navadomskis
16	Kathy Hislip	11	Ishmael Abdul-Rafia
17	Ethan Colburn	12	Samuel Brosier
18	Steve Talaga	14	Aliyah Abdul-Rafia
21	Ben Landauer	18	Rui Dean
21	Austin Kremer	19	Steve Askins
22	Dan Riordan	22	Marjorie Askins
23	Patty Schug	23	Jazlyn Halberstadt
24	Tim Davis	23	David Von Kleinow
24	Katherine Brosier	25	Kathy Underwood
26	Jennifer Briggs	31	Arvid Molitor
27	Delaney Underwood		
29	Elizabeth King		
1	Edythe Nagler		



The Unitarian Universalist Church of Elgin

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



Rev. Dan Brosier kicked off the All-Church Picnic on June 13

BUILDING OUR COMMUNITY *(continued from page 1)*

us hear from you if you would be willing to lead such a class or have a topic that you would like to see covered.

4. Join a Work Team where you can make friends and serve the church at the same time. Work Teams in our church include:

- *The Welcoming Team* – greets our visitors on Sunday morning.
- *The Building Team, the Landscape and Grounds Team and the Aesthetics Team* – work to maintain and beautify our building and grounds
- *The Hospitality Team (soon to be formed)* – will oversee coffee making, greeting and special event hospitality
- *The Care Team* - reaches out to our members and friends in time of need
- *The Quilting Group* – meets monthly to create a quilt for raffling off as a fund raiser for the church.

LANDSCAPE AND GROUNDS WORK PARTIES

The Landscape and Grounds committee holds regular work parties at the church throughout the summer months on the fourth Saturday of the month from 9:00 to noon. The dates for this summer are July 24 and August 27. Come help us keep our grounds looking great this summer. You can also sign up to be responsible for maintenance (weeding, watering) on one small area of the church property. See Linda Porter for more information.



Who Am I?

This famous UU is best-known as an early First Lady (before the term was used), mother of a President, and for the stance she took for women's rights in letters to her husband.

*(Answer will appear in the next Unichord)
June's Who Am I was Herman Melville*