



The

# UNICHORD

July-August 2005

Unitarian Universalist Church of Elgin

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## Summer of Sundays

### **July 10 – Taoism, T.S. Eliot, and the Paradox of Religion**

Often times religion—which should guide us on our spiritual journey—becomes instead an impediment to our spiritual growth. T.S. Eliot's Ash-Wednesday is a sequence of six poems that trace the process of spiritual recovery from oppressive spiritual practice. Some find Taoism to be a refreshing elixir for those suffering from spiritual stagnation. *Sermon by Mitch Kremer. Service led by Karen Olesch-Williams.*

### **July 24 – The Idiot's Guide to Constructing the Universe**

From cucumbers to cathedrals—everywhere we look we behold the myriad ways in which the numbers one through ten serve as the universe's blueprint. Modern scientists are reaffirming what the ancients observed in their world and taught in their myths: that a consistent language of geometric design underpins every level of the universe, from atoms through galaxies. Children attending RE today will be creating artistic representations of their own universe! *Service led by Elizabeth Olson.*

### **August 7 – Forgiveness: “Who, Me?”**

Are we strong enough to give it? Humble enough to receive? From either side, forgiveness requires a change of consciousness, and expansion of the heart. It's inherent quality of Grace creates a natural bridge between psychology and theology. *Service led by Susan P. Anderson.*

### **August 21 – The Bill of Rights, the Constitution and Their Present Relevance**

From time to time one of our members agrees to speak on Sunday morning. Today Dan Hislip will preach on a the Bill of Rights and the Constitution... *Service led by Elise Wall.*

### **August 28 – Body and Soul**

Conventional western medicine is slowly joining ranks with other world cultures in acknowledging the relationship between spirituality and health. Mayo Clinic and the AMA agree... “UUCE—It Does A Body Good!” *Service led by Susan P. Anderson.*

**Our Summer Services Begin At 9:45a.m.  
We Look Forward To Seeing You!**

## **CHANGING OF THE GUARD**

*by Alice Macy*

As Dan Brosier explained in the June Unichord, there have been some changes in the governance structure at UUCE. One of those changes is in the makeup of the Financial Team. Where formerly there were a Treasurer and a Financial Secretary, now the position of Finance Coordinator has been added.

The Treasurer (Eric Prebys) serves on the Board of Trustees for a two-year term and is responsible for the “big picture” of the church's financial health. He oversees all financial activities of the church, including financial record keeping and reporting, the budgeting process, the annual canvass, fundraising, capital campaigns, earmarked funds, and endowment.

The Finance Coordinator (Alice Macy) is appointed by the Board for a three-year term and serves as a member of the Executive Team. The Finance Coordinator manages the day to day financial operations of the church (paying bills, payroll, IRS reporting of payroll taxes, etc.).

The Financial Secretary is appointed by the Board for a three-year term and is responsible for entering financial data into the computer, generating checks on the direction of the Finance Coordinator, depositing contributions, producing pledge statements and financial statements, etc. Betsi Waldron is currently serving as Financial Secretary, assisted by Pat Pecho, and will be succeeded in July by Carl Deitrick.

The Finance Committee meets once a month and oversees the financial affairs of the church, including the review of monthly statements, insurance, the annual canvass, fundraising, and the development of the budget to submit to the Board and congregation. Serving on the Finance Committee are Eric Prebys, Alice Macy, Carl Deitrick, Dan Broser, Mike Mitchell, and Dennis Schwank, chair.

If you have any questions about the financial process at UUCE, please don't hesitate to contact a member of the Financial Team.

### **POLISH BELL PARTY!!!! JULY 16 2005 10AM**

**POLISH SAUSAGES SERVED AT NOON**

Location: Margot Cusimano's house.

**WHAT TO BRING:**

- Yourself in clothes that might get messy
- Soft cotton cloth that you don't care you will never see again
- Some kind of food to share
- A Phillips screwdriver if you have one

If we all shine up one or two bells, we can get this done in an hour or so. Party is open to bell ringers and non bell ringers alike. -Margot Cusimano

# Prairie Fest

Plans are well under way for Prairie Fest 2005, our annual festival celebrating the prairie and the environment. The date for the 2005 festival is October 1. This year's entertainment is the well-known Irish group, Brigid's Cross, and a star packed line-up of our own UUCE

entertainers. The speaker(s) will be focusing on local issues such as open land. Watch for further announcements on our website at [uuce.org/prairiefest](http://uuce.org/prairiefest). We will also be expanding the selection of craft and art vendors this year.

Here is how you can help make this the best Prairie Fest ever:

- Mark Your Calendar to attend on October 1.
- Spread the Word to all your friends, family, and neighbors and invite them to attend.
- Become a Walking Billboard by wearing a Prairie Fest t-shirt. Several of you probably have your t-shirt from last year. A limited number will also be available at church starting in July. This year's t-shirts should also be available before the fest.
- Promote, Promote, Promote: Promotional material will be available soon at church. Please take a stack of brochures and posters to post in your area.
- Volunteer to help out. Contact Linda Porter at [administrator@uuce.org](mailto:administrator@uuce.org) if you would like to help with planning this summer, or sign up starting in August to help out with set-up, during the festival or with clean-up afterwards. There are plenty of jobs for everyone!

Send questions, comments, or suggestions about Prairie Fest to [prairiefest@uuce.org](mailto:prairiefest@uuce.org).



## President's Report

I love the sheer exuberance that comes through in Connie Francis' song *V-A-C-A-T-I-O-N* (although I must confess that her *Lipstick on Your Collar* is my all time favorite). I like not only the attitude but the subject matter. In fact, I've never met anyone who doesn't like vacations. So, as you read this, we've already pulled down the curtain on what feels

like a very successful church year, picnicked at the Hanifls', and entered with open arms what portends to be a very hot summer vacation season.

First, I want to say whether you stay in the area or travel around our country or visit another one, enjoy your time off. Recreate yourself with a vengeance and enjoy all the rest and relaxation you can away from the busyness of work, school and home. You deserve it, (and if you don't, take the time off anyway.) We have a lot more to do next year, and we want you rested and refreshed in anticipation.

Second, even though many of us will be off and out and about, the church doesn't close over the summer. We still have worship services every other week, and I have high expectations of seeing as many of your bright, shiny (and tanned) faces as often as possible. Let's not disconnect completely. There's plenty of work inside and outside the church building that needs your helping hands. Stay as active as you can.

Finally, whatever you do this summer, be safe. Return to us whole and ready to join in the activities and programs for personal growth and to make the church as good as it can be. Unlike voting in certain states, each of you matters.

Have a wonderful summer! -Dan Hislip

## SECOND SERVICE TASK FORCE UPDATE

The Second Service Task Force continues to look into the feasibility of adding a second Sunday morning worship service. At our May and June meetings our discussions focused on developing ways to involve the congregation in our efforts. We decided that it will be important to provide a variety of opportunities to share our work with you and especially to get your input and feedback.

In the April Unichord we published a list of specific activities that would be affected by adding a second service. Before the start of the next church year, we plan to engage in more in-depth discussion with the groups and individuals most directly

involved in those activities.

Next fall we plan to widen our discussions with the congregation by gathering with members and friends in small group sessions. We will schedule these sessions for a variety of times and places in hopes of creating convenient opportunities for all to share their thoughts and feelings about the possibilities for a second service. We hope you will make time to participate in one or more of these sessions.

The members of the Second Service Task Force are: Andrea Schmidlin (chair), Dan Brosier, Kathy Underwood, Carl Deitrick, Linda Porter (ex officio), Steve Askins, Alice Macy, and Elise Wall.

## UUCE Calendar - July/August 2005

July 5, 10:00am - Memorial Service  
July 10, 9:45am - Summer Service  
July 11, 7:00pm - Intentional Living Covenant Group  
July 12, 11:30am - Care Team Meeting  
July 13, 10:00am - Construction Meeting  
July 17, 9:45am - Public Relations Committee Meeting  
July 24, 9:45am - Summer Service  
July 27, 7:00pm - Intentional Living Covenant Group  
July 29, 7:00pm - Book Group

August 4, 6:30pm - Second Service Task Force  
August 7, 9:45am - Summer Service  
11:00am - People Cooking for People  
August 8, 7:00pm - Intentional Living Covenant Group  
August 17, 7:00pm - Board Meeting  
August 19, 9:15am - Staff Meeting  
August 20, 9:00am - Landscape and Grounds Work Party  
August 21, 9:45am - Summer Service  
August 24, 7:00pm - Intentional Living Covenant Group  
August 26, 7:00pm - Book Group  
August 27, 9:00am - All Church Clean-up  
August 28, 9:45am - Summer Service

## Announcements

### **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 29 - "Cane River" by Lalita Tademy.

At the home of Margot Cusimano.

August 26 - "Easter Island" by Jennifer Vanderbes.

At the home of Pat Pecho.

September 23 - "1,000 White Women: The Journals of May Dodd: A Novel" by Jim Fergus.

At the home of Helen Maxwell.

### **LANDSCAPE AND GROUNDS WORK PARTY**

There will only be one Landscape and Grounds Work Party this summer. It will be on August 20 from 9:00 until noon—weather permitting. Please contact Linda Porter, administrator@uuce.org, for more information.

### **CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR HOURS**

My regular hours at the church will be Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Sunday mornings from 10 a.m. to noon. On occasion these hours will change due to meetings, etc. Please also note that all staff hours tend to be more flexible in the summer due to vacations, heat, and a reduced Sunday service schedule. The voice mail is checked regularly throughout the summer.

### **WISH LIST**

Donate money toward the purchase of a bird bath for our gardens. We are required to provide water in order to maintain our Wildlife Sanctuary status.

### **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.

### **ALL-CHURCH CLEAN-UP**

Our annual All-Church Clean-Up will be on August 27. We will be starting at 9:00 am and working until around 2:00 pm. Lunch and environmentally friendly cleaning supplies will be provided. Come when you can and stay as long as you can. First come, first choice of cleaning opportunities. The more help we have the faster it will go.

### **INGATHERING SERVICE ON SEPTEMBER 11**

As we have done in the past, on the first Sunday after Labor Day we hold an ingathering service to mark the beginning of a new church year. This year that service falls on September 11 and we will hold a water communion. Everyone is invited to bring a small sample of water they have collected over the summer from some place of spiritual or emotional importance to them. The water can come from anywhere. Perhaps water from a visit to the house of grandparents or grandchildren, relatives or friends will carry special meanings and memories for some. Others enjoy gathering water from a stream, ocean or lake. The backyard kiddie pool, the garden hose, or the kitchen sink can also provide memories. Camping outings, the trip of a lifetime, or an ordinary vacation are often sources of connection that we want to remember.

Many people save their water in an empty film canister, and often they freeze it to keep germs from developing if they will be storing it for an extended period of time.

### **LEADERSHIP RETREAT**

Our annual Leadership Retreat for those in leadership positions within the church (Board, Executive Team, Committee Chairs, and Committee On The Ministry members) will be held on Saturday October 22. Please reserve the date in your calendars.

### **OPUS AND CONCENTRIC—GOTTA TRY IT!!**

Every year we have two extraordinary Young Adult (ages 18-35) events in the summer: OPUS (Aug. 6-11) and Concentric (Aug. 12-15). This year they are so close to us, in Iowa, you can drive! The Young Adult District Group has been fund-raising to help get everyone who wants to go scholarships for registration. Here's your chance!! The application is posted on the kiosk and due by JULY 15!!! Need more info on OPUS and Concentric? [www.uua.org/ya-cm/conferences/index.html](http://www.uua.org/ya-cm/conferences/index.html).

### **PEOPLE COOKING FOR PEOPLE**

The next "Women Cooking For Women" dinner will be for everyone: MEN, WOMEN & CHILDREN! After the service on August 7, we will hold a potluck meal to support Public Action to Deliver Shelter (PADS). By the time we meet in August, the city council should have voted on a permanent site for PADS in the Elgin area. A representative from PADS will join us for a brief presentation and to answer any questions.

We ask that you bring a dish to share (anything goes!), and give a donation to PADS. Friends and family members are welcome to attend. Please sign up on the clipboard or R.S.V.P. to Laurie Kiesewetter or Andrea Schmidlin. If you have not RSVP'd, and find yourself free on August 7th...please come!

### *Ways to Get in Touch*

Church Office	847-888-0668
Website	<a href="http://www.uuce.org">www.uuce.org</a>
Newsletter Submissions	<a href="mailto:newsletter@uuce.org">newsletter@uuce.org</a>
Editor, Todd Underwood	
Board President, Dan Hislip	
Order of Service Deadline	Thursday PM
Unichord Deadline	August 21

### *July - Birthdays - August*

4	Jake Prebys	1	Edythe Nagler
5	Jessica Kotlinski	3	Lauren Ginn
12	Kevin Webster	8	Stacey Reynolds
13	Max Freeman	9	Alice Macy
16	Kathy Hislip	9	Keisha Abdur-Rafia
17	Ethan Colburn	11	Ishmael Abdur-Rafia
18	Steve Talaga	11	Deborah Webster
21	Austin Kremer	11	Allison Navadomskis
22	Dan Riordan	12	Samuel Brosier
23	Patty Schug	14	Aliyah Abdur-Rafia
24	Tim Davis	18	Rui Dean
24	Katherine Brosier	19	Steve Askins
26	Jennifer Briggs	21	Day Waterman
27	Delaney Underwood	22	Sandy Jamieson
27	Taliesin Olesch-Williams	22	Marjorie Askins
29	Elizabeth King	23	Jazlyn Halberstadt
		23	David Von Kleinow
		24	Annika Spayne
		25	Kathy Underwood



# The Unitarian Universalist Church of Elgin

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

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

## **SOCIAL JUSTICE WORKSHOP**

*by Andrea Schmidlin*

We are considering having a Social Justice Workshop to help us develop a more effective social justice program at UUCE. The UUA offers a one- or two-day workshop for member congregations. The basic purpose of this workshop is for members of a congregation to assess the quality of their social justice program. It is an opportunity for members of the congregation to consider what they are doing as an institution to create a more just and caring world. During the workshop, participants reflect upon what they can do as a religious community to put their faith into practice.

Issues that a congregation may address during the workshop, depending on its needs, may include:

Inspire a congregation with a vision of its potential to be a social justice community.

Develop a deeper understanding of the basic elements of an effective social justice program. Of special concern are the ways that people can develop programs of service, education, witnessing, advocacy, and community organizing.

Clarify the roles and objectives of the congregation, the board of trustees, the social justice committee, and task groups in providing leadership for the social justice program.

Provide methods for integrating the social justice program into the larger life of the congregation, including worship, religious education, and adult programming.

Help the members of the congregation strategize how they will increase the number of people involved in the social justice program.

Consider different ways of raising money to support social justice programs. Acquaint people about the Unitarian Universalist Fund for Social Responsibility.

Provide information about the resources of the thirty-five social change organizations that are affiliated with the Unitarian Universalist Association.

In those situations where there is more potential for doing significant programming, encourage the group to take on significant projects. This includes methods for picking projects and developing an action plan.

The workshop is led by a team of two social justice facilitators. They have been through an intensive six-day training program with staff members of the UUA. The workshop starts on Friday night or Saturday morning, depending on the number of issues to be considered. A two-day workshop will go from 7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. on Friday night and 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday. A one-day workshop will run from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday.

If you think you might be interested in participating in a workshop of this type, or if you have questions or comments, please e-mail or call Andrea Schmidlin. There is a cost to the church for the workshop (there will be no cost to participants), so we need to gauge interest before making a commitment. A meeting of interested individuals will be organized in the fall.