



## From the Minister



Rev. Dan Brosier

In the most recent UU World Bill Sinkford, who is President of the Unitarian Universalist Association, wrote something that speaks to the heart of a growing awareness within this congregation. He wrote:

*We talk often about the need for Unitarian Universalism to grow. But too often our conversation misses the mark. 'We need more members so that we can hire an additional staff person, or renovate our building.' Or, 'We can't pay our minister a fair wage if we don't have more pledging units.' Too often our conversation is about what we need. These needs are real, but there is a far more compelling reason for us to commit ourselves to growth: to open our doors to all the people down in the valley of their lives who need the kind of spiritual home that only we can offer.*

*I am often asked why growth of Unitarian Universalism is important. Why should we reach out? Why should we live through the stresses and change that come with growth? We're happy the way we are, people often say. Why should we "let our little light shine"?*

*The answer is simple. Our commitment to growth must flow from that place where our love for this faith encounters the aching needs of the world. Thousands of people—tens of thousands—yearn for what we have found. Many who don't know about us have given up hope of finding a community of faith that values real, lived human experience.*

As the lyrics to an old song go:  
*Gonna let my little light shine,  
Shine, shine;  
Cause there's somebody, down in the valley,  
Tryin' to get home*

### **HOW TO BECOME A MEMBER**

Our community warmly welcomes those who wish to join. There is nothing particularly difficult or mysterious about becoming a member of our church, in fact it is quite straightforward. After a person has visited with us a number of times and is interested in learning more about membership, that individual should contact the minister to set up a meeting. When the decision to join is finally made and the individual is ready to make a commitment, they then sign our membership book. This commitment of membership includes sympathy with our covenant and principles, participation in the events and committees of the church, and financial support. If you would like to join or want more information please contact

Dan Brosier.

### **TENDING OUR GROWTH**

There is a new term being discussed more and more at meetings among leaders at our church and other churches. The term is "Shared Ministry". Every time the term comes up someone asks, "What is shared ministry anyway?". When I hear both the term and the question, I am often reminded of the minister of the liberal Christian church I attended as a child. He was fond of asking children in the church the question, "What is a Church?" His answer - "A church is the people who worship there".

I'm not sure I understood his response at the time - to me a church was a building. However, as an adult, I am impressed by the simple, yet powerful, truth of this definition of a church. We have built a beautiful building, which we like to call "church". In fact, our church has met in many buildings. When the people who worshiped in each building moved on, the church moved with them. The UU Church of Elgin was, and still is, "the people who worship there."

But ministry is more than worship. Ministry is about the people of the church making sure that all its important work is done over and over again in a planned, organized and effective manner. No professional minister can do that work alone, and the larger the church becomes the more that is true. This is where shared ministry comes in. As Jean Trumbauer, the author of the book *Sharing the Ministry* says, "Each of us is a special 'gift package' - a uniquely gifted person. We have the responsibility, as part of the church community, to share our gifts and to nurture and respect others on our ministry team" — the ministry team of our church. You will be hearing more about sharing the ministry in the coming year. What "gift package" do you bring? What can you share?

Linda Porter  
For the Growth and Development Team

### **FILLING IN THE BLANK**

Many friends with good hearts and willing hands have attempted to fill the front round window of the church. It's just that, for whatever reason, the project has not moved to completion.

This fall, the Aesthetics Pool will put up a TEMPORARY sheer fabric panel. It will be in the shape of a chalice with a rainbow flame. The Church Council has blessed the basic idea and design. The hope of the Pool is that the congregation can live with this temporary filling-in-of-the-blank until a more permanent solution can be agreed upon and put into place.

All we need to do now is Just Do It. And you, yes, you, are invited to help with this pragmatic step if you feel you can, in a timely manner:

- Tape paper together
- Cut the paper up again
- Contribute your Jo-Ann's 50% off coupon
- Cut out fabric shapes
- Glue fabric shapes
- Do a little hand or machine sewing

If you would like to participate, contact Donna Askins. This task is moving ahead, though, so if you are interested, please don't delay.

# UUCE Calendar

## October

### 2002



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 7:00p Public Relations Committee 7:00p Committee on the Ministry 7:15p Barn Bells -203	<b>3</b> 7:00p The New U Workshop 7:00p Tai Chi	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 2:00p Tai Chi Workshop
<b>6</b> 9:00a Unichords 9:00a RE Council 9:30a Worship Com. 10:00a Barn Bells 12:00p Bake Sale 12:30p Growth and Dev. Potluck	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 7:00p Church Council	<b>10</b> 7:00p The New U Workshop 7:00p Tai Chi	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> 9:00a Unichords	<b>14</b> 7:00p Meditation Group	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 7:00p Board of Trustees Meeting -FH	<b>17</b> 7:00p Tai Chi	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 9:00a Leadership Retreat 9:00a Quilting Group 1:00p Burnidge F.P. Work Party 6:00p Circle Suppers
<b>20</b> 9:00a Unichords 12:15p Green Sanc. 12:30p World Religions -203 12:30p Adult Spirituality Newsletter Deadline	<b>21</b> 7:00p Finance Com. -FH	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 7:15p Barn Bells -203	<b>24</b> 7:00p Tai Chi	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> 9:00a Unichords -203	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 7:15p Barn Bells -203	<b>31</b> 7:00p Tai Chi		

FH - Fellowship Hall

S - Sanctuary

O - Off Property

L - Library

## Month of Sundays

### October

#### 6 **Understanding Hunger and What We Can Do**

October 20 is the annual CROP Walk. This event raises money to combat hunger locally and globally. In this service we will explore some of the facts about hunger, and at least one of the ways all of us can make a difference. *Service led by the Rev. Dan Brosier.*

#### 13 **Columbus Day**

“Those who do not learn from history are doomed to repeat it.” How we are often taught about Columbus shows how much we still need to learn. *Service led by Susan Stafford.*

#### 20 **What Life Requires**

Life is a most basic and precious possession—and it came to us without an owners manual. In this service we will try to find out some of what might have been in that manual. *Service led by the Rev. Dan Brosier.*

#### 27 **Economic Justice**

It is an issue in our local communities, our nation and the world. It is thought to be an underlying cause of much of the violence, pain and strife on this planet. It is something most of us don't want to think about. *Service led by the Rev. Dan Brosier.*

SERVICES BEGIN AT 10:45am  
WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU

### REV. DAN BROSIER EXPOSED (continued from page 1)

course of a week my days (and some evenings) are filled with writing sermons, preparing the service, performing varied administrative tasks, attending meetings, visiting with people, and every now and then a little building or equipment maintenance. I am trying to also create a little time to sabbath each day.

#### **How do you get your ideas for sermons? What's your favorite method for creating the rest of the sermon?**

Nearly all the sermon ideas come out of issues I wrestle with in my life or I hear others struggling with. Most of the time I create a sermon by trying to express my feelings and thoughts on the topic. Along with that I try to weave in the thoughts of other people who have written on the matter. Some ministers base their sermons largely on books. I don't usually do that, and when I have I am often not comfortable with what I have written.

#### **You certainly go beyond the job description of Minister here at the UUCE. What compels you to get so involved in other committees and activities?**

The answer could be any number of reasons. I care and want to see this community thrive. I like working on our dreams. I don't know how to set appropriate limits. I like the sense of control that comes with involvement. They didn't have a class on “What to Do About Committees” in seminary so I don't know what the “right” way to be a minister in this sense is. I want to be part of making this world a better place.

#### **What do you like to do to “escape”?**

One of these days I want to get a hobby. But what I do for a change of pace right now is work on something very concrete—like doing projects around the home or garden. I have always enjoyed working in the outdoors (providing there are not millions of mosquitoes) and I look forward to doing that again—perhaps as a prairie steward or river monitor.

#### **Finally, when it's your turn in the rotation to mow the church lawn, why don't you rake up the grass afterwards like Paul Anderson does? (Editor's note: what tabloid exposé would be complete without a really probing, controversial question about the subject's behavior?)**

I am not sure. I have been discussing it with my therapist ever since I heard that Paul does this. I am trying to figure out the roots of my avoidance. Family stuff no doubt—being raised with overly harsh expectations of lawn care.



Thanks Dan, for giving us this EXCLUSIVE interview. We are honored to have you minister to this congregation!

## Announcements

### NEW MEMBER

In August Bob Jackson signed the membership book. We welcome him into the 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.  
November 1 - "The Color of Water" by James McBride.  
At the home of Helen Maxwell.

### ATTENTION ALL COFFEE MAKERS

Last year the Board voted to put some of our UU principles into action by buying coffee through a program which better cares for the coffee growers and encourages them to use sustainable agricultural methods. This coffee comes in 1 lb. plastic pouches and is labeled "Fellowship Blend". We only have this brand in regular—soon to have decaf. Please look for it in the refrigerator or cupboard and use it once the already opened cans are empty. If you find we are running low on coffee (or any kitchen supplies), please indicate this on the dry-erase board in the kitchen and we will obtain what is needed.

### SANCTUARY STAGE

Please do not move the musicians' equipment on the sanctuary stage without checking with them first.

### BURNIDGE WORKDAY

On October 19, from 1-3pm, all are invited to collect seeds from native flowers and grasses at Burnidge Woods Forest Preserve on Coombs Rd. For more details contact Mary Alice Masonick.

### DONATIONS INCREASE

The donations to the All Peoples Inter-faith Pantry increased.  
*Let's make this a trend!*

Bring your donations on Pantry Sunday, October 6. But, remember donations can be made any time during the month. Deposit your items in the large blue container in our Fellowship Hall. The Pantry staff indicated that they presently have a need for **peanut butter, pasta and breakfast cereal.**

### THINGS TO DO AT THE UUCE

On the pamphlet table in the Fellowship Room on the first floor there is a list of social and "civic" activities within the church. Find something of interest and join in.

### THE NEW U

Designed for people new to Unitarian Universalism, this two-session workshop provides a history and introduction of this church and our faith. This program is facilitated by Lisa Kerpoe and Dan Brosier and will be held Thursday, October 3 and 10 from 7-9pm. If you are interested sign up on the clipboard in the Fellowship Hall.

### TAI CHI WORKSHOP

This workshop will be an introduction for those who are interested in learning about Tai Chi. It will be led by Brian Wenberg and will be held on Saturday, October 5 at 2:00 PM. It will last for about an hour and a half. If you are interested, please sign up on the clip board in the Fellowship Hall.

### Kudos to:

The summer lawn mowers: **Paul Anderson, Dan Brosier, Tim Davis, Mitch Kremer, Joe Masonick, Jim Porter, Todd Underwood, and Norm Wilkinson; Donna Askins** for preparing the History Corner on the 2nd floor; **Ted Tecza** for completing the berm around the Labyrinth; **Norm Wilkinson, Mary Alice Masonick, Jim and Linda Porter** for keeping our new prairie plants alive in the Meditation Garden and around the building by watering all summer; **Dotty Carringi** for completing a new Membership Brochure; **Mary Shelden and Jim Hermann** for running the OWL overnight.



### WORLD RELIGIONS SERIES-BUDDHISM

This series focuses on six of the world's religions. Each session is composed of viewing a video on the religion followed by a discussion. Each session begins at 12:30 PM on the designated Sunday. On October 20 we will be exploring Buddhism. Participants are encouraged to bring food for a potluck lunch. Sign up on the clipboard in the Fellowship Hall.

### MEN'S CONFERENCE

UUMeN, a UUA affiliate, in conjunction with the Men's Group at the UU Church of Evanston, is sponsoring a Fall Men's Conference at the Evanston Church. It will be held on Saturday October 19, 2002 from 9:00 am-3:00 pm. For more information see the kiosk.

### FREE LUMBER

Next to the shed we have a stack of lumber which includes some large timbers and some treated wood. If you are interested in any of this wood please contact Dan Brosier.

### A MONSTER MASH

Saturday, November 2, will be our intergenerational Halloween party "Dia De Los Muertos" or "Day of The Dead." The potluck party will take place from 5-8:00pm. We will have chili, games, a craft, a traditional "Day of the Dead" altar (to honor loved ones who have passed away), haunting music and a bonfire with spooky stories. So plan a costume (if you wish), bring a remembrance for the altar, bring a dish to share and have a hauntingly good time. We are looking forward to seeing you!

### qUUILTING NEWS

On October 6, the qUUILTERS will hold a bake/raffle ticket sale. Buy a ticket, get a treat. Last year the quilt raffle made about \$1,500 which was donated to the church. Please sell your quilt tickets. The next qUUILTING dates are: October 19, 9:00am - 3:00pm in room 203 (the bell room), and November 16, 9:00am - 3:00pm in Fellowship Hall.

### EMAIL BUDDY

Several groups are addressing a continuing concern regarding communication within the congregation. While we're working on enhancing multiple channels of communication, if you do not have email access please consider asking a friend (who does) to keep you informed of any church news that they receive via email.

# Religious Education

I am happy to report that our first Sunday went very well. All of our teachers were ready and the kids made it to the right rooms! And for the most part, everyone seemed to enjoy being together.



Kathy Underwood, DRE

As of this writing, registration is still continuing, so I will not have an official count until the November *Unichord*. I can say that on our first Sunday, we had three toddlers in the nursery, six children in preschool, nine in Kindergarten-2<sup>nd</sup>, seven in 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>, four in 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>, and three in YRUU (high school). We also have twelve youth participating in the Our Whole Lives (OWL) sexuality education program.

New this year will be a permanent "RE Table". It will be located in Fellowship Hall when fall registration has ended. Each Sunday, a knowledgeable person (usually myself) will be at the table to assist visitors and provide information on what the classes are doing, as well as upcoming events. We hope that this approach will enable us to communicate better with parents, children, youth, and the congregation. We welcome any suggestions you have as well!

Looking ahead, the Religious Education Council is having a Halloween party for all ages on November 2 from 5-9pm in Fellowship Hall. Before you wonder, "In November?" we thought it would be fun to combine the three holidays- Halloween, All Saint's Day, and El Dia de Los Muertos (Day of the Dead)- especially since Halloween falls on a Thursday and the other two on the following weekend. More information about specific activities will be coming out in the next few weeks. If you'd like to help, please see our coordinator, Mila Brinker. And by all means, come on out for the fun!

Here's what's happening this month in each of the classes:

<b>October 6</b>	<b>Preschool:</b>	I Can Talk
	<b>K-2<sup>nd</sup>:</b>	God is Like the Mother of All
	<b>3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>:</b>	Ramadan
	<b>6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>:</b>	Special Places
	<b>OWL:</b>	Attend 6 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup> class
<b>October 13</b>	<b>Preschool:</b>	I Can Touch
	<b>K-2<sup>nd</sup>:</b>	God is Like a Father
	<b>3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>:</b>	St. Francis Day
	<b>6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>:</b>	Hindi Gods & Goddesses
	<b>OWL:</b>	Gender & Diversity
<b>October 20</b>	<b>Preschool:</b>	I Can Smell
	<b>K-2<sup>nd</sup>:</b>	God is Like a Compassionate Deer
	<b>3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>:</b>	UNICEF Day
	<b>6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>:</b>	Hinduism & the Natural World
	<b>OWL:</b>	Disability
<b>October 27</b>	<b>Preschool:</b>	I Can Taste
	<b>K-2<sup>nd</sup>:</b>	Things God Made for Joy
	<b>3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>:</b>	UU Pilgrimage
	<b>6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>:</b>	Rites of passage
	<b>OWL:</b>	Sexual Orientation/Gender Identity

Kathy Underwood  
Director of Religious Education

## SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

The UUCE Social Justice Committee is redefining its role based on feedback we've received from YOU! Our mission remains the same: "to facilitate a process whereby members identify causes to which we are called by our UU principles; to create opportunities for members to impact social inequalities in order to further social justice."

It is our task to determine social justice issues to focus on as a committee; to choose the course of action to be taken to insure completion and then to evaluate the effectiveness of our actions. Additionally, the committee may endorse and support other projects in which members of the church are involved. Please contact the committee chair, Kevin Webster, or bring your project or issue to our committee meetings, held on the third Sunday of each month from 9-10:30. We look forward to getting to know how other church members are making a difference in our local and world communities!



This month's featured project is the annual CROP Walk. This is an ecumenical event in which churches come together to raise money to fight hunger and provide disaster relief. 25% of the money is used locally, being given to the All Peoples Interfaith Food Pantry (the same food pantry that our church collects food for each month). The remainder of the money is given to Church World Service, but can be directed or designated by the sponsor to be given to a specific agency. The list of agencies include CARE, Heifer Project International, and the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee. This year will be the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary for the Elgin Area CROP Walk, which will occur on October 20. You can participate in two ways, as a walker collecting money from sponsors to donate, or as a sponsor by donating money through one of our walkers. This year there will be two "courses" to walk, the full 4.5 mile course and a shorter 1.1 mile course. Registration will be at 1:00 at the First United Methodist Church in Elgin, with entertainment at 1:15 and "step off" at 1:30. If you are interested, please let Kevin Webster know.

## BIG SISTER NEEDED FOR 12-YEAR-OLD GIRL

The Social Justice Committee has been approached to find a "Big Sister" or Visiting Resource (Larkin Center's term) for a girl who has had several major losses and disappointments in her life. Most children at Larkin Center can return home, work their way into a foster home, or possibly become eligible for adoption.

Unfortunately, none of these are an option for this child and she faces remaining at Larkin until she is eighteen. The team responsible for her care and treatment at Larkin believe that a caring adult who could make an extended commitment to this girl could make a crucial difference in her life. If you have an interest or further questions, call Roberta Nauman.



## Who Am I?

This youngster grew up in Midland, Michigan and didn't come to the UU faith until much later in life. Since then however, he's enriched the lives of hundreds of people in the Fox River Valley.

(answer will appear in the next *Unichord*)  
September's *Who Am I* was Thomas Paine.

# Kim's Korner

During a Board Retreat on September 14, your Board of Trustees did a lot of great work. We affirmed our covenant with one another to clarify how we plan to work together and evaluated our progress. We clarified our roles as a Board of Trustees and came up with this list:

- Administration and Management
- Fiscal Oversight
- Setting Policy
- Personnel
- Setting Direction
- Communication
- Monitoring
- Problem Solving



Kim Cecil  
Board President



The 2002-2003 UUCE Board of Trustees (from L to R): Norm Wilkinson, Esther Hermann, Carl Deitrick (Treasurer), Lisa Kerpoe (Vice-President), Joe Masonick, Kim Cecil (President), Todd Underwood (Secretary)

We also set some goals for the coming year. I offer them here so that you can see our priorities. While some of the work falls outside the purview of the Board of Trustees, we will be working with committees and all of you to accomplish these goals:

## BOARD GOALS:

Goal #1: Ensure that a plan to help people transition into the church community and become involved is created and implemented.

Goal #2: Ensure that a three-year strategic plan is created for the church during this church year for presentation at the next annual meeting in May 2003.

Goal #3: Formalize a communication structure.

Goal #4: Create a task force to explore youth ministry, including a representative from RE Council and some young people.

Goal #5: Support increased focus on Social Justice and Environmental issues.

Goal #6: Increase openness in public debate.

Goal #7: Create structures to enhance member nurture.

Every time I write for the newsletter, it looks like a more exciting year. Strategic planning will include many members and friends of the church and will integrate our efforts into a unified whole. Dan spoke the day after our retreat about UUs in a big boat, all with our own oars, paddling in different directions and at different paces. It is our hope to unify the paddlers and efforts in order to take us in the direction we want to go. You help set that direction. We are the boat... Somos el barco.

Come along and enjoy the ride.

Peace,

Kim

## Ways to Get in Touch

Church Office	847-888-0668
Web site	<a href="http://www.uuce.org">www.uuce.org</a>
Newsletter Submissions	<a href="mailto:newsletter@uuce.org">newsletter@uuce.org</a>

### Board President

Kim Cecil

### Newsletter Editor:

Todd Underwood

### Deadlines

Order of Service	Thursday PM
Unichord	October 20

## October Birthdays

6	Joyce Becker
8	Charlie Schmidlin
11	Mary Oberhart
12	Laurie Kiesewetter
15	Lynn Adema
16	Chris Davis
17	Shirley Wolin
17	Jim Hermann
18	Amy Schmidlin
19	Betsy Thrasher
30	Emma Brosier



The Unitarian Universalist Church of Elgin

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

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

### Ways to Get Involved:

- Participate in the Autumn Artwork Rotation--contact Donna Askins of the Aesthetics Pool
- Join the Quilting Group--no skills needed
- Sign up to be a Greeter or Coffee-Maker
- Come to the Halloween Party--kids and adults alike
- Attend an Adult Spirituality program

## Meditation Garden Dedication



*What a cake!*



*The triumphant organizers*



*Linda Porter addresses the attendees surrounding our new Meditation Garden*

Thanks to all who helped make the Meditation Garden Dedication a success - especially those who weathered the hot sun to participate. In particular, we would like to thank the presenters: Dan Brosier, Sheena John, Mary Shelden, Suzanne Hanifl, Jim and Linda Porter, and Kathy Underwood. Thanks also to Sheena for making certain that the pergola was erected in time, to Kathy for publicity and to Suzanne for the wonderful cake.

Landscape and Grounds  
Committee