

Music Schedule

April 5

No Live Music

April 12

Celebration Singers,
Chris Garofalo, Piano

April 19

Chris Garofalo, Piano

April 26

Chris Garofalo, Piano
Goran Ivanovic, Guitar

Services

April 5

9:30 and 11:00 A.M.

"A New Era of Responsibility?"

Rev. Edward Searl

The current economic crisis and the rhetoric of a new Administration highlight a renewal of responsibility. What are some of the important aspects of renewed responsibilities? And what are the moral underpinnings?

Monthly Collection For Social Justice:

The Conservation Foundation (See article on page 4 for more information.)

April 12

9:30 and 11:00 A.M.

"The Tree of Life"

Rev. Edward Searl

Church School children and youth will attend the beginning of the service before departing for their Easter program.

The Tree of Life is one of the great motifs of world religions as well as science. Our chancel is graced by a great, arching representation of the Tree of Life. Today, I'll explore the significance of this symbol.

April 19

Invitation Sunday—

Bring a Friend, Make a Friend

9:30 and 11:00 A.M.

"The Nones"

Rev. Edward Searl

A recent reputable survey points to a decline in Christianity specifically and religion generally. A surging demographic group is the so-called "Nones," who claim no religious affiliation. The "Nones" now make up 15% of the population. Can Unitarian Universalism appeal to this group?

April 26

9:30 and 11:00 A.M.

"Green Sanctuary Sunday"

Rev. Edward Searl

Our own Green Sanctuary Committee will present the services in celebration of our care for the Earth.



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April 2009

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Children and Youth Religious Education

Pam Fodor, Director of Religious Education

We Are Many, We Are One *Preschool Ages 3-4*

April

- 5 We Remember What is Important
- 12 Easter Sunday and Special Activities
- 19 Spring Brings Changes to our Earth
- 26 We Must Care for the Earth

Easter is a Christian holy day commemorating the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. It occurs in spring and is associated with the rebirth of nature and the renewal of life. Unitarian Universalists celebrate the returning life and joy and hope of the season as well. All life is affected by seasonal change. People are related to and connected with nature. The pre-school children will visit their class tree and see how spring has brought changes to it and will also hunt for other changes. Even the smallest children can explore the idea that we must care for the plants and animals that call Earth home. The children will take a clean-up walk outdoors to collect litter and trash and then to learn ways to recycle and reuse some objects.

Haunting House *Kindergarten & First Grade*

April

- 5 Death (Session 2)
- 12 Easter Sunday and Special Activities
- 19 A House of Our Own
- 26 A House of Our Own (cont'd)

In helping children develop their inner resources, we share that which is positive and good and beautiful as well as that which is painful or frightening or uncomfortable. The encounter with the awareness of death is a human experience which often evokes just such painful, uncomfortable and frightening feelings. The experience also raises some of our most deeply religious questions and is a test of our basic philosophy of life. What does it mean to have a home of your own? We all need a space in which we can dream and grow. Sometimes we share that space, but there are also times we need to be alone. Our homes are places to which we retreat and from which we reemerge. All these ideas will be part of the discussions during this time when the children will be constructing their own homes.

Stepping Stones *Grades 2-6*

April

- 5 The Tree with Forbidden Fruit
- 12 Easter Sunday and Special Activities
- 19 Easy Choices- Hard Choices
- 26 The Good Samaritan and a Very Short Rule

For several weeks the children will be considering their wonderings about death. They will hear a Buddhist story about death coming eventually to everyone, and two legends of why death came into the world. Our purpose is to help the children explore their feelings and questions about death at this time in their lives when they are becoming aware of their own mortality, to help them begin to answer for themselves the important religious question "Why do people die?" The last unit of the year will focus the children's thinking on their own decision making, to help them realize they are often faced with choices that require decisions on their part and to give them confidence in their own abilities.

Easter Sunday

On Easter Sunday children pre-school and older will attend the first part of the service with their families. They will then be led back to Joshi Chapel by members of the RE Committee for some special Easter activities. The nursery will be open for our youngest children.

Age Of Reason

This year we will start a special program and ritual for our First Graders! Age of Reason is a program that will provide a formal Rite of Passage to honor our children's religious growth and foster their identity. Through the program, our church community may embrace our children as young Unitarian Universalists.

More information will be coming soon.

Timeless Themes

After Easter we will offer our final special workshop for 5th and 6th graders. For four weeks the 5th and 6th graders will have the opportunity to participate in Sunday morning classes that will explore popular Bible stories from the new and old testaments. More information will be coming soon.

Youth Group Activities Roy Fleet, Youth Director

Activities include community service, social action, education, worship, leadership, recreation and fundraising. As always, the emphasis is on having fun while applying UU Principles and Purposes. For specific information about the program, please contact Roy Fleet (FRFINC@gmail.com) or the church office (office@hinsdaleunitarian.org).

Please check the following calendar for OWL, Neighboring Faiths, and Youth Group meetings and events.

YG Activities for April

5 Sunday OWL: Session 22: Sexual Decisions (AC)
YG: Neighboring Faiths

12 Sunday No OWL and no Youth Group Meetings

17-19 Fri - Sun Spring Con, Eliot Chapel, St. Louis, MO

18 Saturday YG Families @ GCFD: 1:30 to 4:30 PM

19 Sunday OWL: Session 23--STD Facts (BD)
Session 24--STD Prevention
YG: Neighboring Faiths

26 Sunday OWL: Session 25-- Recovering From Sexual Abuse (ABCD)
Session 26-- Sexual Harassment and Acquaintance Rape
YG: Neighboring Faiths Visit TBA

SYG = Senior Youth Group
JYG = Junior Youth Group
GCFD = Greater Chicagoland Food Depository

Upcoming Events

Social Justice Collection: The Conservation Foundation

Sunday, April 5

The Conservation Foundation is a not-for-profit land and watershed protection organization. Its headquarters are located in Naperville, IL at the 60-acre working McDonald Farm and at the Dickson-Murst program office in Montgomery, IL, a preserved farmstead. Its mission is to preserve open space and natural lands, protect rivers and watersheds and promote stewardship of our environment. Education is a key component of the work of The Conservation Foundation as it reaches out to schools, youth and families, homeowners, community leaders and municipal staffs.

Please use the following guidelines in making your donation:

---If you wish to write a check directly to the organization, make it out to "The Conservation Foundation."

---If you prefer to make your donation via a check written to UCH, you must indicate The Conservation Foundation in the memo. Save the canceled check for tax deduction purposes, as such donations through UCH will NOT be reflected on your year end statements from UCH.

---If you are placing a pledge payment or other contribution to UCH in the offertory, please indicate your intention in the memo of the check.

---If the memo line is blank, your check will go to the church operating fund.

Social Action Committee Meeting

Sunday, April 5

The April meeting of the Social Action Committee will occur in the R.E. Building on Sunday, April 5, starting at 12:30 p.m. for about 45 minutes. Join us!

Women's Alliance Meeting

Thursday, April 9

How often have you asked yourself if an item in your refrigerator was OK to eat? At what temperature should certain foods be prepared? How do you calibrate a meat thermometer? If you would like answers to these and other cooking questions, plan to attend the April meeting of the Women's Alliance. At that meeting our own Darline Petersen will present a program entitled "Food Safety in the Kitchen: When in Doubt Throw It Out". Darline is well qualified to speak on this subject as she teaches Culinary Arts at C.O.D. Bring a bag lunch at 12:15 or come for the program at 1 PM. All are welcome to attend. Our hostesses for April are Ruth Wilson and Nancy Holt.

NOTE: The second part of the meeting will be devoted to wrapping items for distribution to the residents of the Briar Place Nursing Facility. We will be going to Briar Place on the following Thursday, April 16 at 10 A.M. (See article below!)

Finance Committee Budget Meeting

Thursday, April 9, 7:30 P.M.

The Finance Committee will meet at 7:30 PM on Thursday, April 9th to discuss the proposed budget for the 2009-2010 Church year. All are welcome to attend this meeting.

Volunteer Greater Chicago Food Depository

Saturday, April 11, 1:30 - 4:30 PM

NO COMMITMENT - COME ONCE AND TRY US OUT. This makes an excellent project to bond with friends, kids, grandkids; kids must be over 13. Volunteer work is not strenuous and includes packing boxes, sorting food items and lots of fun. Plus, for every hour/person worked, \$5 in food credits is given to the Canaan Food Pantry.

Meet at GCFD, 4100 W. Ann Lurie Place (42nd Place), Chicago. Call Jean Noble (708-485-0281) for directions/further information.

Upcoming dates for 2009: May 9, Jun 13, Jul 11

Women's Alliance Nursing Home Visit

Thursday, April 16, 10:00 A.M.

Women's Alliance is planning our annual party/visit to Briar Place Nursing Center in Indian Head Park on Thursday, April 16 at 10:00 AM. We are collecting new or like-new things to give the residents, i.e. wallets for men, purses for women, scarves, stationary, socks, pretty and/or functional things they might like. (No food, perfume or anything glass. Hand lotion in plastic is OK.)

We have been told that some of the residents look forward to our visit all year. We always get more out of this than we give! If you would like to join us or if have any questions, contact Cathy Goering at 630-325-0310 or email cathgoer@aol.com or Jackie Bruns at 630-920-1603 or Butterfluffy@gmail.com.

Non-Fiction Book Group

Thursday, April 16, 7:30 P.M.

The Non-Fiction Book Group will meet on Thursday, April 16 at 7:30 P.M. in the Alliance Room to discuss *The God Gene* by Dean Hamer. You are welcome to visit even if you have not read the book. Add your voice to discussions both animated and profound or, if you choose, just listen. For further information contact Jane Foulser at 630-833-3028 or jfoulser@mindspring.com.

UCH Open House

Sunday, April 19

Our open house in January was so successful that we are planning to do it again! The Unitarian Church of Hinsdale will host an Open House on Sunday, April 19. This time the theme is "Bring a Friend, Make a Friend." So let's all make a special effort to bring friends and co-workers who may be curious about Unitarian Universalism. We'll have e-mail announcements for church members to send, and we'll also ask people to post flyers at coffee shops, community centers, and other businesses, and we may also deliver flyers at houses in our neighborhoods. When April 19 arrives, let's all make a special effort to meet and greet the guests sitting next to us or standing near the coffee and doughnuts!

Electronics Recycling Day

Sunday, April 19

The Green Sanctuary Committee will conduct an electronics recycling event on Sunday, April 19, after the second service. Responsible electronics recycling is not free! There will be a small charge for each item to ensure that the components can be recycled and reused locally. Many electronics “recyclers” actually pack up computers, printers, and monitors and ship them to China or Africa, where the plastic parts are burned, workers bend over hotplates to melt lead solder, and toxic waste is dumped into water supplies. We send our e-waste to Sims Recycling, a responsible recycler that hosted a tour for UCH members in January. Bring in your computers, monitors, TVs, printers, cell phones, and any other electronic items. Watch for flyers outlining the charges for each item.

April UCH Lunch Bunch

Thursday, April 23, 1:00 P.M.

Our March College of DuPage Luncheon provided a delightful culinary experience prepared by COD students, making it a tough act to follow. Thanks to Anita Jencks and Darline Petersen for organizing the luncheon! Our April Lunch Bunch will meet on Thursday, April 23 at 1:00. This time for fine American cuisine, we are convening at Bailey’s Restaurant and Bar at 330 E. Ogden Ave., in Westmont. It is on the north side of Ogden, between Rt. 83 and East of Cass - Just East of Wendy’s. If you’d like to Sign up or ask any questions, contact Jackie at 630-920-1603 or Butterfluffy@gmail.com or Cathy at 630-325-0310.

Green Sanctuary Sunday

Sunday, April 26, 9:30 and 11:00 A.M.

Sunday, April 26 will be Green Sanctuary Sunday. We will celebrate the progress we all have made in addressing environmental problems, the new political, social, and economic landscape that favors environmental action, and we will address the challenges for the future. Members of the Green Sanctuary committee will lead both services.

Book Discussion Group

Tuesday, April 28

The book discussion group will meet at 7:30 P.M. Tuesday, April 28 in the lower level of the church. Watch the Order of Service announcements for the book title. Questions? Contact Jay Van Cura at jvancura@sbcglobal.net.

The Palestinian-Israeli Conflict

April 30, 7:30 P.M.

Americans usually do not get to see this kind of information regarding Palestinian-Israeli relations. Meet in the sanctuary to view a video about this conflict; we’ll follow with a discussion that will address what is happening in Palestine. The video depicts how the Israeli wall impacts people in the region and what they see as Israel’s true motivation for its wall. The documentary comes from a program that the United Methodist and Presbyterian churches use to shed new light on the situation.

Get Ready for Beltane!

This year's Beltane festival will be held on Sunday, May 3, after the second service (note for all you moderns: Beltane is the celebration of the beginning of summer in traditional societies, held around the beginning of May). This year we are having a pageant with the Green Man and Snow Queen, music, food, drink, people in masks, and a Maypole!

Save the Date

The Annual Meeting will be on Sunday May 17, 12:30 P.M. At this meeting, we will vote on the 2009-2010 Board as well as the 2009-2010 budget.

Church Messages

An Important Reminder!

A reminder to everyone to please send their annual pledge forms to the office A.S.A.P.

April is Earth Month – Make a High Impact for Green Sanctuary

To celebrate Earth Month, the Green Sanctuary committee will be featuring our seven-point High Impact List throughout the month. Each Sunday in April, we will highlight one or two of the items on our list of easy and effective actions. April 5, the first Sunday of the month, we will remind everyone of the benefits of changing light bulbs to compact fluorescents, and we will suggest ways to "save a gallon of gas a week." Watch for flyers describing the other High Impact actions.

Ushers Needed

Ushering is a fun, easy way to volunteer and get to know other church members. The commitment is for one service per month. If you are available, call Jean Noble (708) 485-0281 for further information.

Coat Drive

YG is collecting coats and other warm clothing for our HeadStart families all year long. You can help by donating clean, ready to use items. Look for the collection bin in the AWR and RE Building.

Interested in Joining a Food Cooperative?

Liberal Pantry has called UCH its home for over 11 years and draws its membership from the congregation and surrounding communities. The coop buys organic and environmentally friendly produced products in case lots from United Natural Foods (www.unfi.com) and repackages the products according to advance orders. Deliveries are received and processed in the Alice Warren Room every 4 weeks on a Monday. Contact Roy Fleet at FRFINC@gmail.com for membership information.

General Announcements

Join UUs from around the country in Niagara Falls—**July 19-22, 2009**. Come experience the wonder of Niagara Falls including some great educational opportunities while being taken care of like royalty. The UU Church of Niagara will conduct a four day UU Niagara Experience, offering a unique opportunity to encounter the Falls up close from every perspective. Spend four days with us exploring the rich history and natural beauty around the Falls. For information visit our website: <http://www.uunex.net/>

Free Living With Grief Telecon- ference—April 29, 11:30 A.M.

Adventist St. Thomas Hospice is hosting the Hospice Foundation of America's 16th Annual Living with Grief Teleconference on Wednesday, April 29, 2009 from 11:30 A.M. until 3:30 P.M. at Hinsdale Seventh Day Adventist Church, 201 N. Oak Street, Hinsdale, IL.

The program will be moderated by Frank Sesno, Professor of Media and Public Affairs at The George Washington University and Special Correspondent with CNN.

This program is offered free of charge to all members of the community. Lunch is provided, to those registered, complements of the Cremation Society of Illinois. For reservations (by 4/22/09) or for more information call Adventist St. Thomas Hospice (630) 856-6982

Among Ourselves

Special Collections Summary

January, February, and March 2009 Collections for Social Justice total \$3,648 to benefit Walk-In-Ministry of Hope, Equal Justice Initiative, and the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee. Many thanks to the generosity of all UCH members & friends!!!

In Memoriam

Louise Noble passed away on Thursday, March 19, at home under hospice care. Louise was a long time member of UCH, memorable for bringing her social justice programs to our community such as UNICEF and the La Grange Area Transitional Housing (LATH). A memorial service will be held at UCH on Saturday, April 4, at 2:00 PM.

New Touchstone Submission Guidelines

Have some information to share with the congregation? Then please submit your article for publication in The Touchstone. Submissions should be sent to Susan Hebble at sjhebble@comcast.net with a copy to the church office at office@hinsdaleunitarian.org. Susan will collect all submissions and send them to Dan Speziale for formatting. Because our goal is to make the Touchstone available in a timely manner, all submissions must be received by the 15th of the month.

Order of Service Announcement Deadline

The Order of Service is printed weekly on Thursday, so announcements for the Sunday bulletin must be received at the office by Wednesday. Send the text to Luan Burton at office@hinsdaleunitarian.org.

Contacts

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Minister – Reverend Edward Searl (ext. 111, minister@hinsdaleunitarian.org)

Director of Religious Education – Pam Fodor (ext. 110, re@hinsdaleunitarian.org)

Church Administrator – Luan Burton (ext. 101, office@hinsdaleunitarian.org)