

## Services in December

### **December 6**

10:30 A.M.

*"Kindness of Strangers"*

Rev. Edward Searl

*Celebration Singers & Chris Garofalo, Piano*

"We live by the kindness of strangers." This is one of those phrases that rings true, often with a resounding resonance of deep realization. Do you consider how your deeds affect others and pass through time?

### **December 13**

10:30 A.M.

*"Interrogating My Stuff"*

Rev. Edward Searl

*Chris Garofalo, piano*

Carolyn Healy, a clinical psychologist, has written an insightful essay on how, after a move, she dealt with the stuff of her life by asking it probative questions. Carolyn will read her essay as a starting place for Ed's remarks about the material things of our lives. This service will be a timely offering for the Holidays, in anticipation of the resolutions we make in the New Year.

### **December 20**

10:30 A.M.

*"Tidings of Comfort and Joy"*

Rev. Edward Searl

*Carolyn May, Flute & Chris Garofalo, Piano*

In what we often see as a troubled world, what are evidences of the mythic Angels' words to the Shepherds: "Joy to the world and Peace, to those of good will"?

### **December 24**

4:00 P.M. and 6:00 P.M.

*Christmas Eve Service—Rev. Edward Searl and Ms. Pam Fodor, Director of Religious Education*

*4:00—Celebration Singers; Henry Pleas, Tenor; Lisa Memminger, Soprano; Michelle Lekas, Violin; Mark Lekas, Cello; Chris Garofalo, Piano.*

*6:00—Henry Pleas, Tenor; Lisa Memminger, Soprano; Michelle Lekas, Violin; Mark Lekas, Cello; Chris Garofalo, Piano.*

For our Christmas Eve service, we'll have the customary mix of spoken word, instrumental and vocal music, and congregational singing for the whole Church Family in our warmly decorated Church Home.

Remember to bring a plate of cookies, cake, or candies to share at 5:00 P.M., between the two services.

### **December 27**

**No Service/**

**No Religious Education Program**

## Greetings

Women's Alliance is an organization of women in our congregation that is associated with the Central Midwest District of U.U. Women Connection in Illinois and parts of Wisconsin and Missouri.

We offer presentations by knowledgeable people of our congregation as well as outside speakers. Over the past calendar year, we've learned about black spirituals and the UU connection, butterflies, writing obituaries, food safety and hospice care. We connect with one another over a bag lunch before the presentations and also at holiday and June potlucks. We carpool to a couple of outings a year and raise funds for the benefit of the church by providing food the day of the annual meeting.

In January, we will have a program on alternative medicine. In February, we will honor Black History Month by reading and discussing the historical novel *Someone Knows My Name*. The March program will be about Head Start, and we will learn about journaling in April.

These meetings occur on the second Thursday of the month at 1:00, with bag lunch at 12:15. All are welcome to attend. Please plan to join us!

Grace Abrahamson  
President, Women's Alliance



Volume 10, Issue 4  
December 2009

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# Children and Youth Religious Education

## Pam Fodor, Director of Religious Education

### Religious Education for December

Chalice Children, Preschool, 10:30 A.M.	Treasure Hunting, Kindergarten And First Grade, 10:30 A.M.	Chapel Service (Grades 2 -6), 10:30 A.M.	Coming Of Age (Grades 7-8), 9:00 A.M.	Senior Youth Group (Grades 9-12), 10:30 A.M.
12-6 Hanukkah	12-6 Memories Make Us Special	12-6 Winter Holidays	12-6 Why do Bad Things Happen?	12-6 Regular Meeting
12-13 Mary Had a Baby	12-13 Freedom of Belief	12-13 Winter Holidays	12-13 Community Service	12-13 Regular Meeting
12-20 Candles for Winter Holidays	12-20 The Wonder of Everyday Life	12-20 Winter Holidays	12-20 Community Service	12-20 Regular Meeting
12-27 No Church Services	12-27 No Church Services	12-27 No Church Services	12-27 No Church Services	12-27 No Church Services

Thank you for your interest in our Religious Education program. Please note that the Coming of Age Program and Senior High OWL meet from 9:00-10:15 A.M. and all other services and programs meet during the 10:30 A.M. service. For more information on any of our programs please contact Director of Religious Education Pam Fodor (re@hinsdaleunitarian.org; 630-323-2885) or Youth Coordinator Roy Fleet (FRFINC@gmail.com; 630-323-2885).

### Chalice Children (Preschool Ages 3-5 Yrs)

During the month of December, our preschoolers will explore and learn about some of the different winter holidays, including Hanukkah, Christmas, and Kwanzaa. Although explanations of these holidays will be simple and age-appropriate, introducing them to the children will help them to understand and respect symbols of these holidays that they may see in their environment.

### Treasure Hunting (Kindergarten And First Grade)

Unitarian Universalists treasure their memories, which can be very precious. The Kinders and First Graders will make memory books to present to their parents so that they have a snap-shot of their child to remember this time! Unitarian Universalists treasure religious freedom. What better way to celebrate than by learning about Hanukkah, Christmas, and Kwanzaa?

### Chapel Service (Grades 2-6)

During the month of December, the Chapel Service Children will be exploring the different winter holidays including Hanukkah, Christmas, Kwanzaa, and Winter Solstice. After a study of these celebrations, chapel students will look at the holiday contributions of Unitarian Universalists and ponder the idea that Santa Claus might have been a UU.

### Coming Of Age (Grades 7-8)

*(Meets at 9:00 AM)*

As we come of age, we build community service into our lives because helping others is a natural part of living a balanced life. Most Coming of Age sessions encourage the youth to focus inward so that they can discover and articulate their own beliefs. These community service sessions are different. Here we ask the youth to turn outward to the larger world. This community service project "belongs" to the mentors and the youth. They will brainstorm, plan, and carry out the project together with minimal help from the facilitators.

### Senior Youth Group (Grades 9-12)

Senior youth group will have regular meetings together during the month of December. Topics include holidays and planning for the December 30th Reunion lock-in.

### Orientation for Parents of High School OWL Candidates

In order for youth to participate in this comprehensive sexuality education program, at least one parent or guardian must attend an orientation meeting. During the meeting, the course material will be presented by our UUA trained OWL facilitators. The orientation meetings will be held in Room 6 and are scheduled for Sunday, December 6th from 12:30 to 3 PM and Saturday, December 12th from 9:30 AM to Noon. An information package was sent at the end of November. If you did not receive an info package and would like your high school aged youth to participate, please contact Roy Fleet at 630/964-8100 or FRFINC@gmail.com. The 12 session High School OWL program will start in January and run through early May with Sunday meetings from 9 to 10:30 AM.

# Church Announcements

## **Social Justice Collection—December 6**

The December 6th Social Justice Collection will go to Family Shelter Service of DuPage County, which provides individual and group counseling, court advocacy and services, shelter, hotline, teen services, and children's services to victims of domestic violence.

The January 3rd Social Justice Collection will go to Planned Parenthood of Illinois.

## **Women's Alliance Holiday Potluck—December 10**

Hear Ye!!! Hear Ye!!! The Alliance's annual Christmas celebration will be held on Thursday, **December 10**, at noon! Once again Joan Prims will open her lovely home in Graue Mill to the members of the Alliance and their church friends. Please bring your favorite potluck dish and plan on joining the festivities. Jackie Bruns will assist Joan with the setup. We look forward to seeing you there! Happy Holidays! For more information contact Grace Abrahamson (708-485-5983; teacherspr@aol.com).

## **Sign Up by December 20 for January Silver and Gold Dinners**

"Make new friends but keep the old; one is silver, the other is gold." —*Traditional Girl Scout song.*

New and old UCH members and friends will have an opportunity to get to know one another better when the Silver and Gold dinners resume the weekend of January 23. What better way to brighten a bleak midwinter weekend than an intimate gathering of your church friends, both old and new?!

To be a host or hostess:

- Sign up by December 20 by completing the sign-up form in this issue. Drop the completed form in the bag on the Silver & Gold dinners poster in the Alice Warren Room (church basement).
- On the form, indicate your contact information and the number of guests you can accommodate. (Don't forget to count your own family!) Indicate whether you prefer to host adults only or families. Also, please indicate if you will be available on only one of the dates listed (1/22, 1/23, or 1/24).
- Contact your guests, using the list that will be provided by co-chairs Julie Oshen and Lee Schacht.
- Let guests know the date, time, and location of the dinner. Tell them what course to bring (e.g., appetizer, entrée, salad, veggie, dessert), and ask if they have any dietary restrictions.
- If you wish to use the Alice Warren Room, please make arrangements with Luan Burton, the church administrator ([office@hinsdaleunitarian.org](mailto:office@hinsdaleunitarian.org); 630-323-2885, ext. 101).
- Host the meal. Enjoy!

To be a guest:

- Sign up by December 20 by completing the sign-up form. Drop the completed form in the bag on the Silver & Gold dinners poster in the Alice Warren Room (church basement)..
- Bring a dish to share. Your host or hostess will tell you what course to bring and how many it should serve.
- Enjoy!

Sign-up forms can be found in the Alice Warren Room and at the end of this issue.

Questions? Contact Lee Schacht (630-279-3285) or Julie Oshen (630-469-3859).

## Order Your Poinsettias for Christmas Eve Service

Once again we are offering radiant red poinsettias for purchase from Vern Goers' Greenhouse. Each plant comes in a 7.5 inch pot, costs \$20, and can be dedicated in honor or in memory of a loved one. The plants will be on display during the Christmas Eve service and can be taken home that evening. These lush plants are not to be missed! *See the order form included at the end of this issue of the Touchstone and the weekly order of service. Orders are due December 13.*

## Care and Share Party—December 12

Please join us on Saturday, December 12th from 10:30-Noon in the Alice Warren Room and the church sanctuary for our Fifth Annual Care and Share Party. This party will be a chance for our church family and the Head Start families to come together and share the holiday spirit. There will be refreshments and games for the kids! Please bring a plate or package of donuts, bakery items or coffee cake to share and come for the fun!! For more info or to volunteer to help, contact Pam Fodor ([re@hinsdaleunitarian.org](mailto:re@hinsdaleunitarian.org)).

## Committee on Ministry Report

The Committee on Ministry has been organized to strengthen the quality of ministry within the congregation. Reverend Anne Heller, district executive of the Pacific Northwest District of the UUA, writes: "Committees on Ministry are designed to track the heartbeat of ministry within a congregation: how the members...take care of themselves and each other; how the lay ministerial leadership serves a congregation; and how the called minister serves the congregation. It seeks to understand, assess, support, and advocate for robust ministry throughout the context of congregational life."

The Committee is currently researching ways to best facilitate direct and constructive communication among members of the congregation and between the congregation and the minister. In the meantime, you may address your questions or concerns about ministry in all its forms at UCH to the members of the Committee: Julia Beckman, Bob Daniel-Wayman, Suzanne Williams and Nancy Holt.

## Target 350 a Huge Success

On Saturday, October 24, over 150 people gathered on a hillside in Blackwell Forest Preserve in Warrenville to form the giant numerals 3-5-0. Why 350? Three hundred fifty parts per million is the level of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere that is safe and sustainable, and we need to get down to that level. All those people, including 16 from UCH, joined millions of others around the world to send a symbolic message to our elected officials to get them to deal with climate change. The event was hailed as the largest world-wide environmental event in the history of the world, and we were part of it.



## Tax Advantage

As the holiday season approaches, we want to remind you that the 2009 IRA option for donating is set to expire on December 31, 2009. This option makes it easier for donors who are over 70 ½ years of age to contribute up to \$100,000 directly from their IRA to their congregation, the UUA or other entities under the UU umbrella. There can be significant tax benefits to taking advantage of this opportunity. For more information, contact Shelley Hendrickson at church on Mondays (630-323-2885) or go to <http://www.uua.org/giving/plannedgifts/120693.shtml>.

## GrandFriendships Needed @ UCH!

If you're interested in being a GrandFriend or want GrandFriendships for your child(ren), please contact Joey Yerger (630-968-3606; joeyyerger@gmail.com). If you don't know what a GrandFriendships are and would like to know, let's talk!

## Hey, where did the Paper Retriever bin go?

By now you will have noticed that the green-and-yellow "Paper Retriever" bin in the alley is gone. Abitibi, the company that provides the paper recycling service, removed the bin last month, stating that the low-hanging power lines made it difficult to unload the bin safely. Don't worry; there are still plenty of places to recycle your large volumes of paper. Abitibi maintains bins at dozens of locations around the area. Simply go to [www.PaperRetriever.com](http://www.PaperRetriever.com) and click on the "Find a Recycling Bin" button, then input your zip code. Remember that, in addition to helping the environment, you are helping the school or church that hosts the bin, since Abitibi pays a small amount for the paper it collects.

## We're Bowled Over!

Twenty UCH members and friends joined in an evening of strikes and spares on Friday, October 30, at Brookfield Bowl. Inspired by Ed Searl's October 17th sermon that cited the book *Bowling Alone*, we decided NOT to "bowl alone," but to bowl all together. We look forward to more bowling fun in the future!

## Stop Catalogs!

It's December, and soon the man with the funny suit and the pack on his back will come to your house and bring... catalogs! Billions of catalogs arrive in American homes each year, and we look at most of them idly for a few minutes before throwing them away or (we hope) recycling them. Catalogs take trees to print; the ink is likely petroleum-based; they need fuel to transport, and they often end up in landfills. Two years ago we asked everyone in the congregation to bring in their catalogs for the month of December; here is a picture of the result.



You **can** stop catalogs from coming to your home. The surest way is to go to the catalog website (web addresses are provided on the catalogs) and click on the "contact us" or customer service button. Send an e-mail asking to stop sending catalogs. Include the customer number from the catalog in your e-mail. Send one or two e-mails a week, and you'll notice the difference! Alternatively, you can contact [www.catalogchoice.org](http://www.catalogchoice.org), which claims that it can stop catalogs from over 1,000 companies. Or contact [www.dmachoice.org/mps](http://www.dmachoice.org/mps), which will remove you from future mailings for a small payment.

## **UCH Lunch Bunch**

The Lunch Bunch will not meet in November and December due to the holidays. We will convene on the 4th Thursday in January. Watch for announcements or contact Jackie Bruns for more information (630-920-1603; butterfly@gmail.com). Happy Holidays!

## **Holiday Harvest 2009 Report**

Our event this year was a success both financially and community-building-wise. The net profit is still being tallied, but many new visitors came to HH 2009 and learned about our church. Thanks for inviting them! Now a few housekeeping matters: If you wish to return any baskets, please bring them to the church and leave them on the stairs leading to the tower room (attic). If you took any digital photos, please email Jay Van Cura a copy at [jvancura@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jvancura@sbcglobal.net) so he may have a photo record of the event. Winners and donors reports are available in the Church basement on Sunday, 11/22/09, and afterwards in the church office. You can later have a report emailed to you by contacting Jay Van Cura ([jvancura@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jvancura@sbcglobal.net); 708-447-6500). A few auction items are still available for a short while, so bid on them soon if you want them.

## **UCH Volunteers Return from Mississippi**

Submitted by Grace Abrahamson

On Sunday, November 15, members of UCH, Luan Burton, Milton Draper, Eileen Johnson, Brant and Grace Abrahamson and Lynn Brackett, and her sisters, Peg Meadors, Mary Jean Ward-Brackett and Leslie LaPolla arrived at Bay St Louis on the Mississippi coast to participate in a long-term effort to help Katrina victims rebuild their homes and lives. A multitude of signs, banners, posters and plaques on a front fence was the signal that we'd reached our camp destination, a consortium of mostly Christian organizations. The debris is now gone from the coast. But one sees empty lots, "For Sale" signs, and an occasional rebuilt home. The jobs are few, and many of the previous residents have left.

Unitarian Universalists from three Chicago area churches and two Richmond, VA congregations joined thirteen people from a mission for the homeless from Asheville, NC, youth from Americorps and Habitat for Humanity, and several individual volunteers for a week of work. Our jobs were to build new homes and recondition old ones, including plumbing, installing siding and dry wall, sanding and painting. Some of us also cleaned up the organization's former camp and installed a ceiling at the new one. We also took our turns helping the chefs with KP duty and fairly intense cleaning.

The weather was great and the work generally well-planned and manageable. It's no small task to have dozens of new people pile in every Sunday and have appropriate tasks ready for each group on Monday morning. As UU's, we had mixed reactions to the Christian prayers after breakfast and before the evening meal. Because government money was involved, some of us questioned its appropriateness of this ritual.

Some of our most poignant moments involved talking to people whose lives had been swept away by Katrina and feeling the satisfaction of helping some reconstruct their lives. Some of the workers had the privilege of meeting with the owners. We were helping people who owned the land and could pay for the building materials themselves, but who didn't have the funds to pay for the labor they needed. The cooperating organizations have no funds to buy major supplies.

Our muscles may ache, but the feelings of accomplishment are very rewarding.

## November Board Meeting Notes

Submitted by Secretary, Beth Staas

Treasurer Shelley Hendrickson said that 95% of pledges in arrears have been collected. The current 2009-10 year pledge collection stands at 33%. Ms. Hendrickson reported that her contact with the Central Midwest District regarding advice about staff compensation indicated their services encompassed no charge beyond that of transportation so the Board authorized the Treasurer to spend up to \$500 for CMD consultation.

Vice President Dave Lloyd reported the position of Board Trustee opening left by Fred Bloss' resignation is still vacant. Board consensus was to ask the Nominating Committee to bring their recommendation to the Board. On the matter of Head Start's move from our RE facilities, Mr. Lloyd indicated that he'd sent Head Start a letter asking for more information about their plans and would follow up if a reply was not forthcoming.

Paula Sejut-Dvorak (Denominational Relations) noted the lack of clarity regarding Social Justice and Social Action. The Social Action Committee hoped to establish a "brand identity" for their events, making their efforts more visible.

Larry Price (Finance) reported that Chris Hainey, Finance Committee Chair, will ask committees to submit budgets at three levels for the coming year by the end of November in anticipation of the February pledge drive. The committees should also include requests for separate fundraising beyond the budget.

Suzanne Williams, member of Committee on Ministries, outlined COM's purpose as being a vehicle of communication within the congregation. She outlined the Central Midwest District's offer to conduct a survey and "needs assessment" program from their "Healthy Congregation Team" with a canvass of members regarding growth and financial needs. The cost would be approximately two thousand dollars. The Board asked her to contact various congregations that have used this service to determine its effectiveness.

In addition to the flood in the lower level, Hans Lonroth reported there was a fire in one of the Religious Education classrooms, causing considerable damage, mostly smoke and soot. Fortunately, our insurance covered all but a \$500 deductible and the repair work is being promptly carried out. The fire department and police were called, and the cause is still being explored.

Charlie Fischer presented the graphics of his five-year landscaping plan that had been previously reviewed by the Board. The sunken "conversation circle" or "council ring" on the east grounds, is now proposed to be a memorial to Sandy Price, contributed by Larry Price. It has already been laid out and will probably be in place by next summer. As a dedicated gift, it will be reviewed by the Finance Committee and then brought to the Board with a request for approval.

### **DID YoUU KNOW?**

Englishman Sir Henry Tate (1819-1899), the son of a Unitarian minister, amassed great wealth thanks, in part, to his sugar refining company and to many sugar refining patents he held. An active Unitarian, he devoted much of his wealth to philanthropy, endowing hospitals and libraries. But he is most famous for building London's famous art museum, the Tate Gallery, which houses Sir Henry's own extraordinary collection of paintings.

## General Announcements

### **Piano Lessons with Chris Garofalo**

Chris has a few openings for piano students. He teaches students at all levels—beginning through professional coaching. For more information, contact Chris (630-968-7649).

### **DID YoUU KNOW?**

In Gloucester, Massachusetts, the first Universalist church built specifically as a Universalist church in America was dedicated on December 25, 1780 with a sermon by John Murray. And on December 25, 1890, Universalists dedicated the first Japanese Universalist Church.

## Among Ourselves

### **Chris Garofalo Designated a Steinway Artist**

Our own Chris Garofalo, whose extraordinary music enhances our Sunday experience, has been officially designated a Steinway Artist. Worldwide, there are approximately 1,500 Steinway Artists. Here is a quote from a letter from Peter Goodrich, Vice President of Steinway's Concert and Artist Activities, to Chris:

"It is my pleasure to officially welcome you to the distinguished international roster of Steinway Artists. . . . The high standard you have set by your artistic and professional achievements make it most appropriate that you are now formally included among a list of the most accomplished and discriminating performing artists in the world."

Congratulations, Chris!

### **UCH Thanks Our Coming of Age Mentors**

On behalf of UCH, the Religious Education Department would like to thank publically the following members for dedicating themselves to our youth and Coming of Age program. Your time and energy will have a lasting effect on our young people! So, to Sharon Leiter-Weintraub, Laurie Culbert, Brandt Abrahamson, Jean Noble, Frank Wanderlich, Grace Abrahamson, Bill Burton, Lynne Brackett, Kim Savage, Laurie Goshorn, Nancy Weill, Mary Getty, and Luan Burton we say thank you for touching the lives of our youth.

### **Special Thank You**

Paula Sejut-Dvorak, Janice Sejut, Dennis Sejut and Peter Krouwer all deserve a warm thank you for their special workshops and visits to the children in the Religious Education classes last month. We appreciate you sharing your talents with our young people.

## Meet Three . . . Members of UCH Women's Alliance

### Anita Jencks

1. Q. *How long have you been a member of UCH and what was it that drew you to this church?*

A. The first Unitarian church I attended was in Iowa City where I discovered that my favorite Speech Pathology professors were all Unitarians, including famed Dr. Wendell Johnson, semanticist and founder of the speech pathology profession. I was drawn to Unitarianism for its Humanistic values and its practice of liberal and critical thinking on issues regarding religion. After attending UCH off and on for two years, my husband and I joined in 1967 and are currently in our forty- second year as members.

2. Q. *Briefly describe your religious background.* A. My parents were protestant and were attracted to the liberal religion espoused by Dr. Preston Bradley of People's Church in Chicago in the 40's and 50's. As a member of a Congregational Church Sunday School teenage group I was challenged to question the divinity of Jesus. Thus began my quest for answers. A Unitarian Bumper sticker validates my search: It states, "To Question is The Answer."

3. Q. *Which of the UU Principles is the most compelling for you and why?* A. 1. After hearing the denunciation of non-believers by a religious leader from a major faith I am compelled to focus on Principle #5: "the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our community and in society at large." I believe this Principle speaks to our First Amendment rights. We need to be vigilant in defending everyone's right to believe or not to believe, and we must uphold the democratic process that protects these rights..

4. Q. *What is your favorite holiday tradition and why?* A. My brother's family and our family get together every Thanksgiving. It is a time of thanksgiving when we come together to share and laugh at stories about ourselves.

5. Q. *Alive or not, whom do you admire most?* 1. My parents. They were loved by many for their courage, their gentleness, and their understanding of people and their frailties.

6. Q. *How long have you been involved with the UCH Women's Alliance, and what do you most enjoy about this program?* Due to prior commitments, I did not join the Alliance until a couple of years ago. I like their commitment to the church and the monthly programs.

7. Q. *What would you like our church members and visitors to know about the Alliance program at UCH?* A. I find that the members of the Alliance have a wealth of experience and knowledge which they can impart on a variety of subjects. At any given time, one can enjoy a conversation on health, business, education, politics, books, horticulture and other interesting pursuits. While many of us are past the child-rearing years, we look to connect with the younger women in our church. It's a good way to learn from each other and to know one another.

8. Q. *If someone wrote your biography, what would you suggest as a title?* The title of my biography would be... "It's About the Challenge!"

### **DID YoUU KNOW?**

Two of our most popular Christmas carols were written by Unitarians: James Pierpont wrote "Jingle Bells," which was first performed in Savannah, Georgia in 1857, and Weston, Massachusetts minister Edmund Sears wrote "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear" in 1849.

## Jackie Bruns

1. Q. *How long have you been a member of UCH and what was it that drew you to this church?*

A. Almost 20 yrs. ago my husband, Bob, and I were “looking” for a church. Since we had been attending monthly PFLAG meetings here, we thought we should at least check this church out. What sold me was the no guilt attitude, the focus on making this world a better place in which to live, and, the topper, no church in the summer! We didn’t sign the Membership book until a few years later. And after retiring from Argonne National Laboratory, I enjoyed working as Office Manager here for many years.

2. Q. *Briefly describe your religious background.*

A. Being the daughter of a Baptist minister, for the first 18 years of my life, every week I attended Church twice on Sunday and on Wednesday night. For the next 30 years, after I left home and married I rarely attended any church...

3. Q. *Which of the UU Principles is the most compelling for you and why?* A. They are all pretty convincing, but the one that stands out for me is “a free and responsible search for truth and meaning.”

4. Q. *Alive or not, whom do you admire most?*

A. I appreciate Bill Maher, (*Real Time and Politically Incorrect*) with his true sense of the state of affairs in the world, and his sense of humor. Also, I would have enjoyed a conversation with Mark Twain.

5. Q. *How long have you been involved with the UCH Women’s Alliance, and what do you most enjoy about this program?* A. It’s a unique group of open minded, intelligent women, who enjoy new ideas and having a good time. I have been with them about 6 years or so.

6. Q. *If someone wrote your biography, what would you suggest as a title?* A. “*Never Stop Learning and Don’t Pick the Lint Off Your Friend’s Jacket.*”

## Sally Packard

I have been a member of Alliance probably longer than anyone else in the congregation. I joined in 1947, shortly before my first child was born. I had been brought up in Christian Science, but never did really believe in all that. I quit going to church as soon as I moved out of my parent’s house, but I did feel that something was missing. I knew some Unitarians through the League of Women Voters, and it was a friend who brought me here to UCH. But it really was the Alliance that held me. We had an Evening Alliance in those days, made up of mothers and working women, and I found them to be great source of support and friendship.

I think that all the UU Principles are important, but I guess that I care most about the seventh, “respect for the interdependent web of existence.” I am deeply interested in protection of the natural world.

I would like to tell new members and visitors that you should give the Alliance a try. You will enjoy it.

## Upcoming Events

### **Social Justice Collection—December 6**

The December 6th Social Justice Collection will go to Family Shelter Service of DuPage County

### **Women's Alliance Holiday Potluck—Thursday, December 10, 12:00 Noon**

At the Graue Mill home of Joan Prims. Please bring your favorite potluck dish. For more information, contact Grace Abrahamson (708-485-5983; teacherspr@aol.com).

**Fifth Annual Care and Share Party—Saturday, December 12, 10:30 – Noon** in the Alice Warren Room and the church sanctuary. Please bring a plate or package of donuts, bakery items or coffee cake to share and come for the fun!! For more info or to volunteer to help, Please contact Pam Fodor (re@hinsdaleunitarian.org).

### **Order your poinsettias for Christmas Eve Service by December 13**

See article in "Church Announcements" section of the Touchstone, and use the order form included at the end of this issue.

**Sign Up by December 20 for January Silver and Gold Dinners** to be held January 22, 23, 24. See article in "Church Announcements" section of the Touchstone. For more information, contact Lee Schacht (630-279-3285) or Julie Oshen (630-469-3859).

**UCH Lunch Bunch** will not meet in November and December due to holidays. We will convene on the 4th Thursday in January. Watch for announcements or contact Jackie Bruns (630-920-1603; butterfluffy@gmail.com). Happy Holidays!

## **New Touchstone Submission Guidelines**

Because of the holidays, the Touchstone submission deadline for the January issue is December 13. E-mail submissions to Susan Hebble (sjhebble@comcast.net) and copy Office Administrator Luan Burton (office@hinsdaleunitarian.org). Article submissions should be no more than 150 words and are subject to editing for length and/or clarification. Always include specific contact information (name, e-mail address, and/or phone number) for readers' reference. We format the Touchstone draft using size 11 Arial font, so we would appreciate receiving articles using this font to save some editing time!

## **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**

Unitarian Church of Hinsdale, 11 West Maple, Hinsdale, IL, 60521  
630-323-2885                      www.hinsdaleunitarian.org

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)

**SILVER and GOLD DINNERS**  
*Weekend of January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2010*

Get to know new and old UCH members and friends in an intimate small group gathering. Share good food and warm fellowship.

**When:** Weekend of January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2010

**Where:** Home of host, Alice Warren Room at Church, or another location arranged by host

**Who:** Adults only, or Families with children, as determined by the host

Host Responsibilities

Determine number & category of guests that you wish to host  
Determine date (1/22, 1/23, 1/24), time and place dinner will be held. If you wish to use the Alice Warren Room, make arrangements with Church Administrator Luan Burton (630-323-2885).

Contact guests. (List will be provided.) Ask guests if they have any dietary concerns or restrictions.

Host the meal. Tell guests what to bring (i.e. appetizer, entrée, salad, dessert, etc.)

Guest Responsibilities

- Bring a dish to share

Sign Up Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to: \_\_\_\_\_ host \_\_\_\_\_ attend \_\_\_\_\_ either

How many from your family will be attending the dinners?

\_\_\_\_\_ Adults \_\_\_\_\_ Children

If you are interested in hosting, please let us know how many guests you can accommodate (in addition to your family) \_\_\_\_\_

Questions? Contact Lee Schacht (630-279-3285) or Julie Oshen (630-469-3859)

*Please drop this form in the bag on the poster in the Alice Warren Room no later than December 20, 2009. Thanks!*

**SILVER and GOLD DINNERS**  
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Order Your Poinsettias for Christmas Eve Service



Radiant Red Poinsettias - 7.5 inch pot

from Vern Goets Greenhouse

\$20.00 ea



Dedicated by \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Plants \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please place this form and your check (made out to UCH with poinsettia in the memo) into the collection plate or send to: UCH Administrator, 17 West Maple St., Hinsdale, IL, 60521 ***by Sunday, December 13.***

Dedication(s)

In Honor/Memory of (circle one)



In Honor/Memory of (circle one)

(Use the back for additional dedications)

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