

## Music Schedule

### February 1

Carolyn May, Flute

### February 8

Chris Garofalo, Piano

### February 15

Celebration Singers

### February 22

UCH Youth

## Services

### February 1

9:30 and 11:00 A.M.

*"Ethical Frontiers"*

Rev. Edward Searl

It was recently announced that the Neanderthal genome will soon be mapped and from that a Neanderthal might be "resurrected" by modifying either a human or a chimpanzee cell. The former seems reprehensible to most, if not all persons, but the latter seems less so to some. This struck me as an important dialogue for one of several significant ethical frontiers we face. What are those frontiers and how do we address the significant issues?

### Monthly Collection For Social Justice: Equal Justice Initiative

*(See article on page 4 for more information.)*

### February 8

9:30 and 11:00 A.M.

*"Season of Lengthening Days"*

Rev. Edward Searl

Lent, the seasons of lengthening days, was a time for rejoicing among the ancient pagans. The Church turned it into a time for penance. I prefer the former approach and will recommend ways to put you into harmony with "the forces that lift the tulips and make the grass grow."

### February 15

9:30 and 11:00 A.M.

*"Transcendent Love"*

Rev. Edward Searl

What we call love is a window into the human condition in two very different dimensions: as a matter of evolution and social-biology; and as a matter of myth and poetry. Is love our highest calling? Or is love merely our mammalian bonding instincts writ large?

### February 22

10:00 A.M., All-Community Service,

followed by Pancake Breakfast

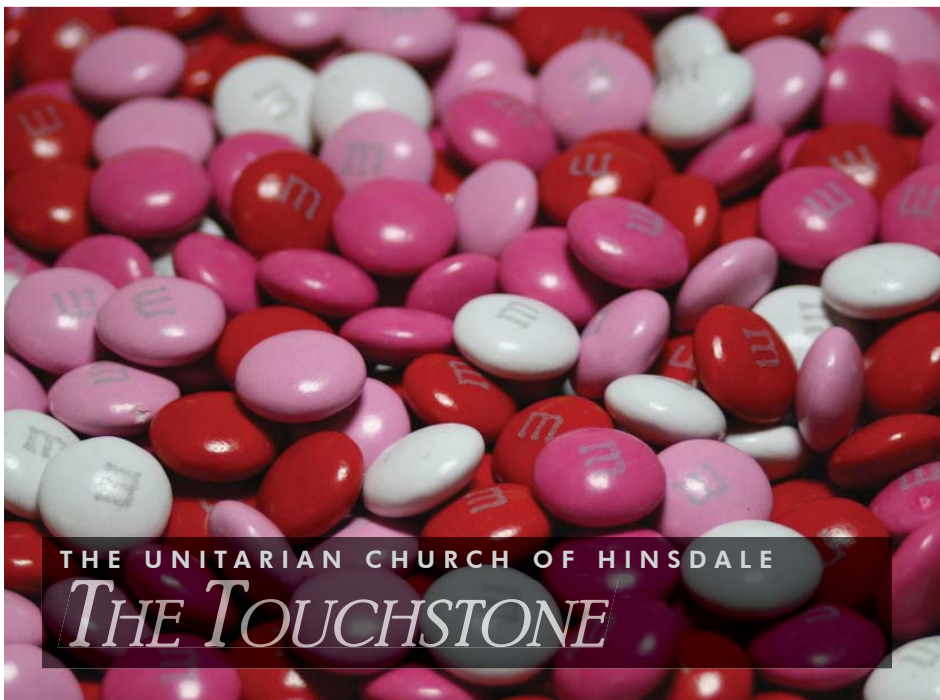
*"Our Own Spark"*

Unitarian Church of Hinsdale Youth

Each person's individuality, their "spark" is a gift and a blessing. Together our small sparks can make a great fire and bring change to our world. Come and be ignited!

Visit my blog, Ed Searl's Journal:

In My Estimation: [edsearl.blogspot.com](http://edsearl.blogspot.com).



Volume 9, Issue 6

February 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*

#### **February**

- 1 Our Good Wishes Can Come True
- 8 Love Means Saying and Doing
- 15 All Kinds of Families
- 22 We Need Our Families (10:00 A.M. service)

Preschool children are very social beings. They enjoy doing things together, especially group celebrations. The children will make great wishes as they celebrate their collective birthdays and each individual's uniqueness. To celebrate Valentine's Day the children will make cards-one for someone in their family and one big one for their church family. A child's first experiences in human relationships and spirituality are within a family. The family sessions are designed to affirm all kinds of families and homes, to nurture a sense of pride in each child's own family, and to accept, appreciate, and celebrate families that are different.

## Haunting House *Kindergarten & First Grade*

#### **February**

- 1 Our Wonderful Bodies
- 8 Our Wonderful Bodies
- 15 Healthy Bodies, Safe Bodies
- 22 Families (10:00 A.M. service)

For the next eight weeks the Haunting House children will be participating in our OWL course. Our Whole Lives is a positive, comprehensive, and age appropriate educational program that promotes sexual health. The curriculum is based on four primary goals: to provide accurate, developmentally appropriate information; to increase self-esteem and understand relationships with a responsibility toward others; to develop interpersonal skills including communication, decision making, and problem solving; and to teach responsibility for personal health and safety.

## Chapel Service *Grades 2-6 (Age 7-12)*

#### **January**

- 1 Emily Stowe
- 8 Bela Bartok
- 15 Josiah Wedgwood
- 22 Attend Youth Sunday (10:00 A.M. Service)

Emily Stowe, a Canadian Unitarian, was friends with Susan B. Anthony. Both women worked for equal rights for women. Emily Stowe became the first woman doctor to practice medicine in Canada. Bela Bartok was a Hungarian Unitarian who loved music and became a famous composer. His love of nature and his passion for music make his an incredible story and make us want to find music in our lives. British Unitarian Josiah Wedgwood founded a famous pottery company that still exists today. Josiah believed that it is important to do things that would benefit other people and that it is important to speak out about what you believe is right and wrong. On February 22nd all children in Chapel Service should attend the Youth Service with their families.

**Youth Group Activities**  
**Roy Fleet,**  
**Youth Director**

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

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).

<b><u>YG Activities for February</u></b>			SYG = Senior Youth Group JYG = Junior Youth Group GCFD = Greater Chicagoland Food Depository
1	Sunday	OWL: Session 16: Masturbation and Other Sexual Behaviors (slides) YG: Meeting: Work on Youth Sunday	
6-7	Fri-Sat	SYG @ DuPage MiniCon, Naperville	
7	Saturday	YG Families @ GCFD: 1:30 to 4:30 PM	
8	Sunday	OWL: Session 17: Conception, Pregnancy, and Birth YG: Meeting: Work on Youth Sunday	
15	Sunday	No OWL and no Youth Group Meetings	
21	Saturday	YG Rehearsal for Youth Sunday	
22	Sunday	YG: Youth Sunday Service @ 10 AM, pancake feast follows	
27-28	Fri-Sat	Leadership Development Conference, Rockford	

# Upcoming Events

## Heart to Heart Program

Heart to Heart Program through February 22  
Make a new friend at church! Be a secret friend in our Heart to Heart project!

- Fill out the form at the back of the Touchstone. Bring it to church on January 25th or February 1st, and put it in the Heart to Heart box located in the Alice Warren Room.
- After you have put in your form draw one out. Please do not draw a name if you have not put in your name, or vice versa! The name you choose will be your secret friend.
- Do something nice for your secret friend at least once a week from January 25th or February 1st to February 22nd. Send a card, draw a picture, or leave a small gift on the Heart to Heart table in the Alice Warren Room on Sunday mornings. There are no rules, just please commit to your friend so that s/he does not feel left out!

On Sunday, February 22nd during the pancake breakfast after the 10:00am service we will reveal ourselves to our secret friends. Please direct any questions to Pam Fodor (re@hinsdaleunitarian.org).

## Social Justice Collection: Equal Justice Initiative

### February 1

The Equal Justice Initiative is a private, non-profit organization that provides legal representation to indigent defendants and prisoners who have been denied fair and just treatment in the legal system. EJI litigates on behalf of condemned prisoners, juvenile offenders, people wrongly convicted or charged with violent crimes, poor people denied effective representation, and others whose trials are marked by racial bias or prosecutorial misconduct. EJI works with communities that have been marginalized by poverty and discouraged by unequal treatment. EJI also prepares report, newsletters, and manuals to assist advocates and policymakers in the critically important work of reforming the administration of criminal justice.

Please use the following guidelines in making your donation:

- If you wish to write a check directly to the organization, make it out to "Equal Justice Initiative"
- If you prefer to make your donation via a check written to UCH, you must indicate "Equal Justice Initiative" in the memo. Save the canceled check for tax deduction purposes; 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 a check to UCH is blank in the memo line, the check will go to the church operating fund.

## Social Action Committee Meeting

### **February 1, 12:30**

The Social Action Committee is a committee of shared responsibility within UCH. Participation and contributions of all UCH members and friends are most welcome. The February meeting of the Social Action Committee will occur on Sunday, February 1, 12:30 p.m. to 1:15 p.m. in the R.E Building. As always, the meeting will respect the 45 minute time period and the agenda will be “open”, consisting of whatever participants bring to the meeting. Join us!

## Buy an R for Green Sanctuary

### **Sunday, February 8**

The Green Sanctuary committee will hold a “Buy an R” fund-raiser on Sunday, February 8, to raise money for some needed insulation and weather-proofing improvements to the church home and RE building. Our energy audit last year identified some big energy-saving projects that would cost lots of money; but there are also a few less-expensive fixes that will make the buildings more comfortable, save money, and conserve energy. These include more insulation in the church attic, a chimney balloon to stop heat loss from the fireplace, and window weather-stripping. To raise money for these modest improvements, we are inviting members to “Buy an R” —R for R-value. We will have plant light stands for sale, Hans Lonroth’s balloon animals of whimsy (balloon animals for the chimney balloon—get it?) and commemorative “R”s to honor those who contribute. This takes place in the Alice Warren Room after both services.

## Women’s Alliance Meeting

### **Thursday, February 12**

In the midst of this challenging winter season, a gardener’s mind may wistfully turn to thoughts of spring. Have the seed catalogs arrived in the mail? What new plantings will grace my garden this year? Whether you’re a seasoned gardener or a “budding” green thumb, please join the members of the Alliance on Thursday, February 12, when Pat Miller will present a program entitled Body Smart Gardening. Pat will introduce us to techniques and tools for safer gardening practices. In addition, garden enthusiasts will learn about proper clothing and helpful products. Bring a bag lunch at 12:15 or come for the program at 1 P.M. Hostesses for the month are Ruth Wilson and Jeri O’Brien.

NOTE: Velaine Carnall has volunteered to head up a new Sunshine/Caring Committee for the Alliance. Her committee will offer support and encouragement to those Alliance members facing medical and emotional challenges. Please contact Velaine if you know of anyone who may be in need of our help.

## Volunteer Greater Chicago Food Depository

**February 14, 1:30 - 4:30 P.M.**

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

Upcoming dates for 2009: Mar 14, Apr 11, May 9, Jun 13, Jul 11

## Non-Fiction Book Discussion Group

**February 19, 7:30 P.M.**

The Non Fiction Book Group will meet Thursday, February 19 at 7:30 P.M. in the Alliance Room, lower level of the church.

The group will discuss *God's Problem* by Bert Erhman. For further information contact Jane Foulser (jfoulser@mindspring.com or 630-833-3028) or Jack Uretsky at (jlu@anl.gov).

## Youth Sunday

**February 22, 10:00 A.M. Service**

Three times a year, the senior youth from our district gather at local churches for Youth Conferences, or "Cons" as the youth call them. During these weekends, hundreds of youth from all over the Central Mid West District participate in workshops, social action projects, leadership training, and bonding games. One of the most moving experiences during these Cons is the Midnight Worship. The hosting youth spend months planning a spiritual, meaningful worship service for their peers. Most often these workshops include chalice lightings, meditations, original writings and youth-performed music. It is awe-inspiring and heart-warming to participate with 200-300 dedicated youth in such a meaningful worship experience.

We invite you to join our youth on Sunday, February 22nd for this kind of worship service. We believe each and every participant will be touched by our Unitarian Universalist faith and inspired by our youth. Also, please join us after the service for a pancake breakfast. All donations will be used to defray the cost of the Youth Group Retreat to Lake Geneva.

Please come and enjoy the message and talents of our own UCH youth! All are welcome!

## Book Discussion Group

**February 24, 7:30 P.M.**

Join us in the Alice Warren Room for a lively discussion of the book selection of the month. Please consult the church calendar on-line or contact Jay Van Cura at [jvancura@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jvancura@sbcglobal.net) for the book title and further information.

## Discussion of Asian-American Experience

Wednesday, February 25, 2009,  
7:30 – 9:15 P.M. R.E. Building

President Barack Obama's recent inauguration as the first recognized mixed-race President of the United States momentously marks genuine international progress in a rocky road to racial equality. Obama's election to the Presidency mirrors the challenge of humankind as we move clearly and emphatically toward the truth that resides in the loving human heart: the truth that there is but one "race" --the Human Race.

Embracing this significant event and the movement toward an ever-better future, join members and friends of the Unitarian Church of Hinsdale as we explore one of the more subtle forms of racism in our nation's history, that racism exerted upon people of Asian descent since the 19th century and which remains with us, in not so obvious ways, in the 21st century. The program schedule is as follows:

1. Viewing of a short segment of the Commission of Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians Hearings; Chicago, 1981 (Introduced by Studs Terkel), recently digitally-mastered by the Japanese-American Service Committee of Chicago.
2. A Personal Perspective on Filipino-American Experience.
3. A Personal Perspective on Japanese-American Experience.
4. Discussion.
5. Closing.

As this program includes the sharing of personal experience by fellow UCH members, it is geared toward members and friends of UCH. Do feel free, however, to bring a friend or friends. In preparation, you are encouraged to listen to and/or read the transcript of three stories of Asian-Americans told on an outstanding archived edition of NPR's *Living On Earth*, December 19, 2008. That archived edition is found at <http://www.loe.org/shows/shows.htm?programID=08-P13-00051>

No need to RSVP. Just show up. If so inclined, bring a few cookies to exchange and some loose change for the beverage fund. Beverages will be provided.

This UCH program is in concert with Rev. Searl's currently-ongoing "Conversation on Race".

## UCH Lunch Bunch

**February 26, 1:00 P.M.**

The Unitarian Church of Hinsdale Lunch Bunch is a gathering of friends and members on the 4th Thursday of each month. Each month we visit a different restaurant and enjoy the company and conversation of other folks from our church.

This month, we will meet at Thipi Thai Restaurant, located in La Grange at 50 S. La Grange Rd., on the west side of La Grange Rd. between Cossitt and Harris Avenues. To sign up, contact Jackie Bruns at 630-920-1603 or [Butterfluffy@gmail.com](mailto:Butterfluffy@gmail.com). (Cathy is in Florida for a couple months missing our beautiful winter snowscapes...)

## Neighbor Nights

WE INVITE YOU TO ATTEND A "NEIGHBOR NIGHTS" GATHERING IN YOUR AREA! This is a great opportunity to get to know the UUs in your neighborhood. Call the hosts listed below to RSVP to this invitation.

*AREA 4 Elmhurst, Villa Park, Des Plaines, Schaumburg, Niles*

Jane & Dave Foulser, 384 Hill Ave. Elmhurst. (630) 833-3028. Sat., Jan. 31, 7-9 p.m.

*AREA 5 Glen Ellyn, Lombard, Wheaton, Naperville, Oak Brook, Oak Brook Terrace*

Debbi & Bob Daniel-Wayman, 619 Rochdale Cir., Lombard. (630) 495-8761. Sun., Feb. 8, 1 P.M.

*AREA 6 Westchester, Brookfield, Lyons, River Forest, Riverside, Chicago*

Brant & Grace Abrahamson, 3731 Madison, Brookfield. (708) 485-5983.

Sat., Jan. 31, 7-9 P.M..

*AREA 7 La Grange Park, La Grange, Countryside, Burr Ridge, Willow Springs*

Sarah Takash, 638 N. Kensington, LaGrange Park. (708) 354-4775. Sun., Feb. 8, 1 P.M.

*AREA 8 Downers Grove*

Laurie Goshorn, 813 Old Orchard Ave. Downers Grove. (630) 241-0044. Rescheduled to Sat. Feb. 21, 7-9 P.M.

*AREA 9 Woodridge, Bolingbrook, Lemont, Lockport, Manteno, Oswego, Plainfield, Romeoville, Homer Glen, Lisle*

Ray Masterson, 900 McCarthy Rd. Lemont. (630) 243-7541. Sat., Feb 28, 2 P.M.

# Church Messages

## WANTED: Manna Administrator and Manna PR Czar!

Due to a change in Sara Teppema's professional obligations, she can no longer be the primary administrator of the Manna program. This role would ideally be split into two pieces—the manager/administrator stuff and the PR stuff. You will also have help from Terri Fischer, and Sara has offered to train the new volunteers. Running Manna offers a way to make a significant contribution to the church!

Please contact Sara (630-430-3493 or sarateps@sbcglobal.net,) or contact the office (630-323-2885, ext. 101 or office@hinsdaleunitarian.org) if you are interested in either role.

## Volunteer Opportunity

Ray Masterson and Nancy Holt have retired as Garage Sale Co-Chairs. The Garage Sale provides the Church with some income and the congregation with an opportunity to socialize; and it also contributes to our Green Sanctuary initiative by serving as a venue to recycle no-longer-used stuff! If you have an interest in chairing the sale, contact Ray or Nancy.

## Think "Spring!" — Youth Group Plant Sale

Look for Advance Order Plant Sale forms in the Youth Group Corner of the Alice Warren Room and on the church website. Due date: Sunday, March 15th, delivery: May 2nd.

# Caring and Connections Area Captains Announced

The Caring and Connections Committee would like to thank the following people for volunteering to be area chairs for the new Caring and Connections program at UCH. These volunteers will help coordinate efforts to assist or support UCH members in times of illness, accident, or other personal crises. If you know of someone in your area who may need assistance or support, please contact your area captain!

AREA 1 (*Hinsdale, Clarendon Hills*)

Captain: Michele Grimaldi Stein

AREA 2 (*Willowbrook, Darien, Westmont*)

Captain: Pat Miller

AREA 3 (*Indian Head Park, Western Springs, La Grange Highlands*)

Captain: Nancy Holt

AREA 4 (*Elmhurst, Villa Park, Des Plaines, Schaumburg, Niles*)

Captains: Darline Peterson, Lee Schacht, and Liz McDonald

AREA 5 (*Glen Ellyn, Lombard, Wheaton, Naperville, Oak Brook, Oak Brook Terrace*)

Captain: Debbi Daniel-Wayman

AREA 6 (*Westchester, Brookfield, Lyons, River Forest, Riverside, Chicago*)

Captains: Jerry and Gerry Shipton, Brant and Grace Abrahamson

AREA 7 (*LaGrange Park, LaGrange, Countryside, Burr Ridge, Willow Springs*)

Captains: Sara Teppema and Nancy Keane

AREA 8 (*Downers Grove*)

Captains: Cheryl Prescott and Cathy Zimmerman

AREA 9 (*Woodridge, Bolingbrook, Lemont, Lockport, Manteno, Oswego, Plainfield, Romeoville, Homer Glen, Lisle*)

Captains: Paula Sejut-Dvorak and Pam Fodor

## Floral Dedications Needed for February through June

The flowers at each week's service are donated by members who wish not only to beautify our Sunday Services but to honor a loved one, birthday, anniversary, or just share their love of life with the congregation.

We still have donation openings February through June for people to sign up for a floral dedication. Donors may either bring in their own flowers or work with the church office to have a florist arrangement delivered. And donors may take home the flowers after the service!

If you would like further information, please e-mail me at [jeannoble03@hotmail.com](mailto:jeannoble03@hotmail.com) or see me after the 11 A.M. service. The sign-up book will be available each Sunday at the Visitors' table.

## Journaling Group Cancelled

Because this winter's weather has been especially snowy and cold, the journaling group called "Journey to the Life Beautiful," has had a slow start. So rather than trying to catch up, we are cancelling the future meetings in this series. We'll try again in the fall. For further information, contact Beth Staas at (630) 271-1833 or [beth@staas.com](mailto:beth@staas.com)

## Chalice Circle (Small Fellowship Group) Update

Chalice Circle Facilitators met together recently to catch up on what has been happening in the now seven Chalice Circles that are active in our congregation. It was a great meeting with lots of sharing of ideas about how to make our chalice circles even better.

One idea that everyone agreed upon was to add the words "Small Fellowship Groups" whenever referring to Chalice Circles. The hope is that these words will be more descriptive and welcoming than the term Chalice Circles alone. Let us know what you think about that idea!

The **all-male Chalice Circle** (Small Fellowship Group) led by Steven Trout could use some more members as they are just now forming and one interested member has gone South for the winter. Please let Steven know if you would like to join this twice-monthly breakfast group.

Also, places are available for people who might be interested in our Small Fellowship Circle that serves as a **cancer support group**. If you are interested or know of anyone who has cancer or supports a cancer patient, please contact Cathy Blanford ([cathy.blanford@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cathy.blanford@sbcglobal.net) or 708-246-8960) or Jane Foulser ([jfoulser@mindspring.com](mailto:jfoulser@mindspring.com) or 630-833-3028).

And remember there is always room for you in a Chalice Circle. While any one group might be temporarily closed due to its size, other groups may be open, and there is always the possibility of starting new groups. Don't hesitate to talk to Cathy Blanford, Coordinator of Chalice Circles if you would like more information.

## Coat Drive Continues

Especially now, our Head Start families need coats to make their winter warmer! YG collects coats and other warm clothing for Head Start families all year long. You can help by donating clean items. Look for the collection bin in the RE building and by our table in the AWR.

## 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](http://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](mailto:FRFINC@gmail.com) for membership information.

## Pledge Drive for the Next Church Year

Pledge packets are now available for the current pledge drive. Please pick yours up on Sunday, Feb. 1 or Feb. 8 to save the cost of postage. Given the current uncertain economy, we still ask that you consider your pledge carefully and that you pledge as generously as you are able to keep our church home financially sound. The Finance Committee appreciates your help.

## January Board Briefs

Communication and caring for our membership seemed to be the theme of January's meeting of the Board of Trustees. Chris Hainey reported that the Finance Committee has received the Music Director job description and continues work on the Minister's job description. These documents move us toward a complete roster of job descriptions for paid employees which began with the DRE and Church Administrator. Ed Searl said the sound system in the sanctuary and Rutherford Room is being serviced, hopefully in time for the open house. Susan Hebble proposed that Luan send out a weekly e-mail announcement similar to what is printed in the Order of Service, to better broadcast weekly and future events. Debbie Daniel-Wayman shared the fact that the Caring and Connections Committee has had a busy month. They are researching the logistics of opening a bank account for contributions to one member's specific need, and some 15 care shawls, hand made by UCH women, have been bestowed upon members as a gesture of caring and comfort. In other business, Dave Lloyd requested approval of the Green Sanctuary Committee's fund raiser, "Buy an R" (not to be confused with a pirate raid) for insulation in the attic, and the Nominating Committee asked that all trustees notify Bob Daniel-Wayman of their intentions for service in the coming election. Visitors are welcome to Board meetings the first Tuesday each month at 7:30 in AWR. Complete minutes are on file in the church office.

## A small Way to Make a BIG Difference

The families that attend the Head Start program in the RE Building need our help. These families sometimes have difficulty making ends meet from week to week, especially at the end of the month before they receive their food stamps. To help these families, an Emergency Food Pantry has been established here at church. We would like to stock the following:

Canned or Jarred Foods -- vegetables, pasta sauce, fruit, jam, peanut butter, etc.

Dry or Boxed Foods -- rice, pasta, cereal, instant oatmeal, mashed potatoes, etc.

Boxed dinners -- macaroni & cheese, rice and pasta dinners, Hamburger Helper, etc.

Please consider adding these items to your shopping list to help us keep this pantry well-stocked. There are four convenient collection points, as follows:

### **In the Church Building**

1. Upstairs Coat Closet (south entrance vestibule)
2. Alice Warren Room (lower level of church) near the Social Action bulletin board at south end of room

### **In R.E. Building**

3. Drop Box at base of east staircase (lower level of building)
4. Gray Cabinet in Room 3 (lower level of building)

(NOTE: Please bring food items only as Head Start staff are not set up to distribute money.)  
For more information please contact Pam Fodor  
re@hinsdaleunitarian.org or 630-323-2885.

## Coming to UCH in March 2009

### **Presentation of Concerns about the Teaching of Creationism in Public Schools**

UCH member Brant Abrahamson, reprising material he recently presented to the Humanists of West Suburban Chicagoland, will discuss concerns around the teaching of Creationism in the public schools. Explicating related issues about Second Amendment separation of church and state, Brant's presentation will be very timely as these issues are once more on the front burner as large school districts prepare to order their science textbooks for the coming year, and as local school board elections fast approach. Plan to come and hear the current concerns about our Civil Liberties regarding the Constitution. See the March 2009 Touchstone for date/time/place.

# General Announcements

## Connect with the UUA and other UUs!

The Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) invites members and visitors to engage with other UUs and spiritual seekers in a number of new ways: The UUA Facebook page (<http://tinyurl.com/5wm9gp>); an Advocacy and Witness Initiatives of the UUA Facebook page (<http://tinyur.com/7o4wzj>); the UUA Twitter feed (<http://twitter.com/uua>); and an iTunes podcast (<http://tinyurl.com/7fm8wk>) of interviews, sermons, and commentary.

# Among Ourselves

## Congregational Care Submitted by Ed Searl

Our condolences go to Barbara Ovesen, whose mother died in early January at age 87. Barbara and family traveled to Horth Carolina for services.

Anita Hiestand has returned home following mid-December back surgery and rehabilitation. She continues re-hab as an out-patient.

## Welcome Second Semester Teachers! Submitted by Pam Fodor

The Religious Education Committee would like to welcome and thank the second semester teachers. We are appreciative of their service and know it will be a great semester! Our thanks go to Robin Abend, Liz McDonald, Hans and Janice Lonroth, Miriam Cleveland, Lisa Stukel, Kathleen Torquato, Susan Hebble, John Wayman-Dodd, Susan Mooney, and Linda Elliott for donating their love and energy to our young people! Karen Hays, Sara Teppema, Roy Fleet, Luan Burton, Tony Meadors, Karin Janowski and Paula Sejut-Dvorak continue on in their roles with our children and youth and we are grateful for their love and dedication to our programs!

## Thanks Andy Schmid! Submitted by Susan Hebble

Ever wonder who keeps our corner sign at Maple and Washington streets up to date with Wayside Pulpit broadsides or special announcements? Andy Schmid continues to take care of the sign for our congregation, as he and his mother, Ruth Bernard, have done for several years. Thank you, Andy!

**Sharing Connections Thanks UCH and the  
UCH Youth Group  
Submitted by Pam Fodor**

We received the following two letters from Sharing Connections, the social service agency that provides housing aid for those in need.

*To the Unitarian Church of Hinsdale:*

*Thank you for the recent donation of blankets to Sharing Connections. Because of your thoughtfulness, our clients and their children will be kept safe and warm. When passing along quality items such as these to our low-income clients, we find that they are grateful for the gift, but more importantly, are inspired to know that others care for them. And that's a priceless gift!*

*We appreciate the time and energy involved in these projects, and we thank you for your kindness.*

*Sincerely,  
Ann Wohlberg, Executive Director*

*To the Unitarian Church of Hinsdale Youth Group*

*On behalf of Sharing Connections, we'd like to offer many thanks to you for the Halloween candy treat bags that you donated. We are touched by your creativity and generosity. Because of you, the holiday was more festive for so many of our low income clients.*

*Your dedication to Sharing Connections and the people we serve is something we don't take for granted. We appreciate you and the countless hours you put into the projects you donate to us because the quality and care remind our clients that people do care about them and want them to succeed.*

*Sincerely,  
Ann Wohlberg, Executive Director*

**HEART TO HEART**  
**Make a new friend at church!**  
**Be a secret friend in our Heart to Heart project!**

Fill out the form below. Bring it to church on January 25th or February 1st , and put it in the Heart to Heart box located in the Alice Warren Room.

After you have put in your form draw one out. Please do not draw a name if you have not put in your name, or vice versa! The name you choose will be your secret friend.

Do something nice for your secret friend at least once a week from January 25th or February 1st to February 22nd. Send a card, draw a picture or leave a small gift on the Heart to Heart table in the Alice Warren Room on Sunday mornings. There are no rules, just please commit to your friend so that s/he does not feel left out!

On Sunday, February 22nd during the pancake breakfast after the 10:00 am service we will reveal ourselves to our secret friends. Please direct any questions to Pam Fodor (re@hinsdaleunitarian.org).

+++++

I would like to have a Heart to Heart Secret Friend!

My name is: \_\_\_\_\_

My address is: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

My phone number is: \_\_\_\_\_

I am \_\_\_\_ years old. Some of my favorite things are: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## **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](mailto:sjhebble@comcast.net) with a copy to the church office at [office@hinsdaleunitarian.org](mailto: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](mailto:office@hinsdaleunitarian.org).

## **Contacts**

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630-323-2885                      [www.hinsdaleunitarian.org](http://www.hinsdaleunitarian.org)

Minister – Reverend Edward Searl (ext. 111, [minister@hinsdaleunitarian.org](mailto:minister@hinsdaleunitarian.org))

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

Church Administrator – Luan Burton (ext. 101, [office@hinsdaleunitarian.org](mailto:office@hinsdaleunitarian.org))