

## Music Schedule

**January 4**

No Live Music

**January 11**

Celebration Singers

**January 18**

Chris Garofalo, Piano

**January 25**

Chris Garofalo, Piano

## Services

**January 4**

9:30 and 11:00 A.M.

*"Always a Beginning"*

Rev. Edward Searl

We enter a New Year with much apprehension, especially over the economy and international terrorism. Yet there is also considerable hope; for many a hope embodied in soon-to-be-President Barack Obama. Using the lens of our liberal religious outlook, I want to look at the possibilities ahead of us.

**Monthly Collection For Social Justice:**

**Walk-In Ministry of Hope**

*(See article on page 6 for more information.)*

**January 11**

9:30 and 11:00 A.M.

*"Seven Effective Attitudes of Unitarian Universalists"*

Rev. Edward Searl

On Open House Sunday I'll look at Unitarian Universalism in a somewhat different way. I've identified seven attitudes that mark our vigorous Religion of Realities. Our publicity for this Open House poses the question "Are You a Unitarian Universalist and Don't Know It?" The seven attitudes identified in these remarks will help all—long term member, newcomer, and visitor—see how each fits into our rich way of finding meaning and purpose.

**January 18**

9:30 and 11:00 A.M.

*"Black and UU in Chicago"*

Rev. Edward Searl

On Martin Luther King weekend we continue our year long Conversation on Race with inspiration from UU minister Mark Morrison-Reed, who has recently published *In Between: Memoirs of an Integration Baby*. (He came to UCH in early November for a book signing. The book and a study guide are available). Mark grew up on the Southside and his family attended First Unitarian in Hyde Park in the eventful 1950s and 1960s.

**January 25**

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

followed by pot luck lunch

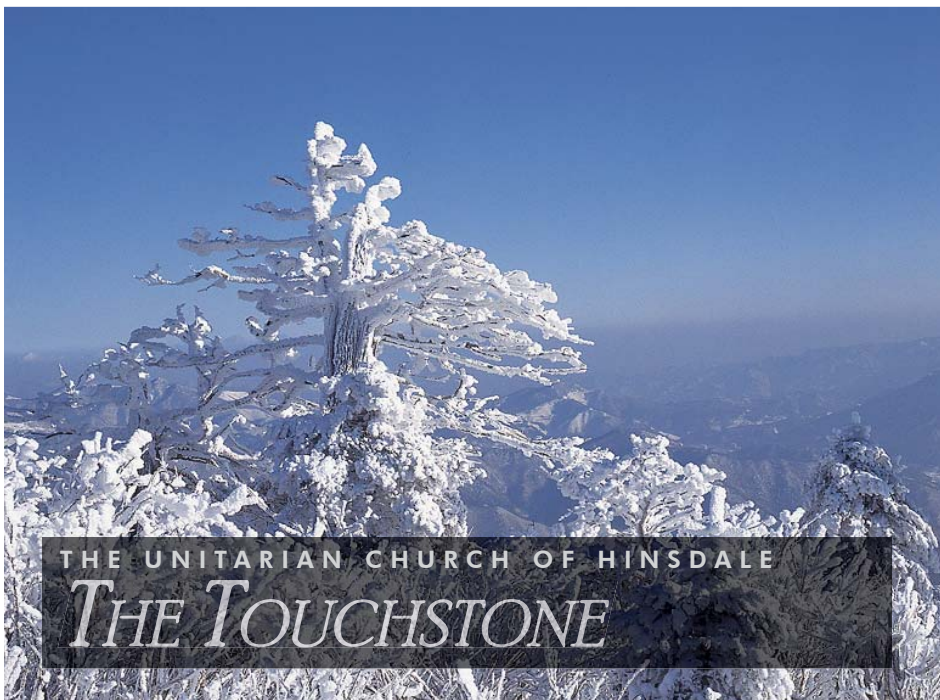
*"The Joys of Caring, Sharing and Giving"*

Pam Fodor, RE Director

All our church family will worship together to discover the wonderful feelings evoked by caring for others. Join us following the service for a potluck lunch and to join our Heart to Heart Secret friend program. We will also celebrate our newest church members.

Visit my blog, Ed Searl's Journal:

In My Estimation: [edsear1.blogspot.com](http://edsear1.blogspot.com).



Volume 9, Issue 5

January 2009

### In This Issue

Sundays in January	1
Religious Education	2
Upcoming Events	4
Church Messages	9
General Announcements	12
Among Ourselves	14
Contacts/Touchstone Submission Guidelines	15

# Children and Youth Religious Education

Pam Fodor, Director of Religious Education

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

## January

- 4 Celebrating A New Year
- 11 Everyone Is Afraid Of Something
- 18 We Can Be Angry Without Hurting Others
- 25 All-Community Worship

Celebrating the New Year is a custom enjoyed all over the world. On this day the children will learn about the Chinese New Year by making a dragon head and having a parade; then they will wish each other a year filled with joy and luck. Preschool children are becoming increasingly aware of their feelings about themselves, their families, their teachers, and their peers. This is an important age for learning to name, express, and discuss feelings. The next two sessions will engage the children in stories and activities that will bring out discussion on two of our most powerful feelings, being afraid and being angry.

Haunting House  
*Kindergarten & First Grade*

## January

- 4 Ideas of Home
- 11 UCH our Church Home
- 18 Snails and Turtles
- 25 All-Community Worship

Our theme, The Idea of Home, draws on the thought that if we all learn a little bit about each other's culture and ways of living, and treat each other with respect, then the world can be a better place. Navajo children see and feel the spirit within each living thing. We, too, should be looking and listening for the "spirit" in our own homes. Did you know that the Unitarian Church of Hinsdale is your religious home? Being a part of this congregation and this religious education group means that you are a part of the living Unitarian Universalist faith tradition which has a past history, a present expression, and a future vision. Extending the idea of homes, we'll also consider how it would feel to carry your home with you everywhere you went. What is important to you and what would you carry? How would it feel to be a turtle or a snail?

Stepping Stones  
*Grades 2-6*

## January

- 4 New Year's Celebration/  
Sophia Lyons Fahs
- 11 Arthur Lismer
- 18 Vilhjalmar Stefansson
- 25 All-Community Worship

The Chapel Children will celebrate the New Year and make some New Year promises that will help to make the world a better place! Arthur Lismer grew up in a Unitarian family, became an artist, and worked with others to open people's eyes to the beauty of landscapes. Vilhjalmar Stefansson was a Unitarian arctic explorer. Through the story of his life and work, we will focus on the values of perseverance and courage.

**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.

YG's community service and social action efforts include Crop Walk, a coat drive for Head Start, and IDOT's Adopt-a-Highway. Beginning this year, YG's education efforts will feature the Neighboring Faiths program with local visits to places of worship in

addition to the usual discussion of current events vis-a-vis UU Principles and Purposes, use of curricula relevant to current events, bridging programs, and Our Whole Lives Sexuality Education Program (OWL). Junior YG and Senior YG have worship during meetings and conduct a Sunday service each year. YG members have hosted weekend diversity conferences and have current opportunities to hone leadership skills. This year, YG's recreation activities will include conferences, lock-ins, and a year-end retreat to Lake Geneva. YG will also begin developing a service trip for the summer of 2010.

Fundraising supports the majority of YG activities – including a team building course for OWL, gifts to OWL and graduating members, and snacks at meetings. Our fundraising includes sales of coupon books, seasonal decorations, and a variety of plants in the spring. Each YG member has a fundraising account to support his/her participation in conferences and the retreat. As in the past, general YG funds will be prorated by level of participation, so weekly attendance counts. Stop by our table in the AWR of the church.

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

**YG Activities for January**

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

4	Sunday	OWL: Session 13: Thorny Issues in Friendship YG: Meeting: Work on Youth Sunday
10	Saturday	YG @ GCFD: Leave UCH @ 12:45 PM
11	Sunday	OWL: Session 14: Dating and Lifetime Commitments YG: Meeting: Work on Youth Sunday
18	Sunday	OWL: No Session YG: Meeting: Work on Youth Sunday
25	Sunday	OWL: Session 15: Lovemaking is More Than Sex (Slides) YG: Meeting: Work on Youth Sunday

## Welcome to New Members and Guests

We would like to extend a warm welcome to our readers who have recently visited or joined the church! There are many ways for you to get involved in our church community, some of which you will read about in the pages of this newsletter. Please don't hesitate to join us in these activities—they provide a wonderful opportunity to meet church members and become an integral part of our congregation.

Also, please join us for the January 25th All-Community Service during which we will celebrate those who have recently joined the church!

## Upcoming Events

### January Social Justice Collection Walk-In Ministry of Hope

#### **Sunday, January 4**

The Walk-In Ministry of Hope, located in the First Congregational United Church of Christ on Curtis St., in Downers Grove, was formed in 2000 by six area churches, the LOVE Christian Clearinghouse and several community members. Now incorporated as an independent agency, this organization seeks to meet the needs for emergency assistance for individuals and families in crisis in Darien, Downers Grove, Lisle, Westmont, Willowbrook and Woodridge. Their website states that there are 34,599 people in DuPage County with incomes below the poverty level. The WIMH serves its clients with voucher assistance for food, gasoline, prescriptions and clothing. It gives referrals for eye glasses, health care, utility bill problems and other agencies that can be of help. Church member, Tinker Harvey, is an active volunteer for the WIMH.

Please use the following guidelines in making your donation:

- If you wish to write a check directly to the organization, make it out to "Walk-In Ministry of Hope."
- If you prefer to make your donation via a check written to UCH, you must indicate Walk-In Ministry of Hope 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.

## Social Action Committee Meeting

**Sunday, January 4, 12:30 P.M.**

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 January meeting of the Social Action Committee will occur on Sunday, January 4, 12:30 p.m. to 1:15 p.m. in the R.E Building.

## Women's Alliance Meeting

**Thursday, January 8, 12:15 P.M.**

African American spirituals are one mode through which the melodies and rhythms of Africa found their way to America. Spirituals arose out of the songs the slaves would sing working in the fields on the plantations. In the fields the slaves developed a musical combination of "call and response" which became characteristic of gospel singing. Early spirituals acted for a number of practical functions for the slaves. Some doubled as modes of communication or as directions to the North.

We are pleased to announce that John Kloos will present a program on American Sorrow Songs: Spirituals from Slave Songs to the Present. John teaches Religious Studies and the Humanities core at Benedictine University in Lisle. His program will include a study of the blues, holy and secular, with special attention to the Unitarians (hooray for the Unitarians!) who compiled the first book of slave songs.

Please join us for John's presentation at 1 P.M. in the Rutherford Room of the Church or bring a bag lunch at 12:15. Hostesses for the month are Nancy Keane and Betty Fischer.

## Cancer Support Chalice Circle

**Saturday, January 10, 9:45 A.M.**

The next meeting of the Cancer Support Chalice Circle will be Saturday, January 10, 2009 at 9:45 A.M. at the Corner Bakery in LaGrange, at Ogden Ave. and LaGrange Rd. This Chalice Circle is primarily for people who have experienced cancer or who have friends or relatives with cancer. However, anyone who is interested in cancer support is invited to join the group. If you are interested, please contact Jane Foulser (630-833-3028 or [jfoulser@mindspring.com](mailto:jfoulser@mindspring.com)) or Cathy Blanford (708-246-8960 or [cathy.blanford@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cathy.blanford@sbcglobal.net)) or call the church office. If you have questions or know of someone who might be interested, please give us a call or an e-mail.

## Volunteer at the Greater Chicago Food Depository

**Saturday, January 10, 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, the Canaan Food Pantry receives \$5 in food credits.

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: Feb 14, Mar 14

## West Suburban Humanists Meeting with Brant Abrahamson as Speaker

**Wednesday, January 14, 7:30 P.M.**

Humanists of West Suburban Chicagoland holds its monthly meetings at the DuPage U-U Church, 4S535 Old Naperville Rd., Naperville, on the second Wednesday of the month from 7:30 to 9 P.M.

Featured at the January 14th meeting will be our own Brant Abrahamson, who will discuss teaching Creationism in the public schools. Concerns about Second Amendment separation of church and state is once more on the front burner as large school districts prepare to order their science textbooks for the coming year. Come and hear the current concerns about our Civil Liberties regarding the Constitution. For more information you may contact Abrahamson (708-485-5983) or Beth Staas ([bett@staas.com](mailto:bett@staas.com) or 630-271-1833).

## UCH Open House

**Sunday, January 11, 9:30 and 11:00 A.M.**

Help spread the word! The Unitarian Church of Hinsdale will host an Open House on Sunday, January 11, 2009. The schedule of worship services will be unchanged, and Rev. Ed Searl will conduct his regularly scheduled sermon; so what is special? We will be making a special effort to attract and greet new guests to the church. In advance of the Open House we will place ads in local newspapers and do other kinds of promotion. But we need the help of our church members! We're asking members to forward e-mails to friends or co-workers who might be curious about Unitarian Universalism and to post flyers at coffee shops and other businesses. The promotional e-mail and flyer will be ready for distribution by the time you get this newsletter. When January 11 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!

## Non Fiction Book Discussion Group

**Thursday, January 15, 7:30 P.M.**

The Non-Fiction Book Discussion Group will meet Thursday, January 15 at 7:30 P.M. in the Alliance Room, in the lower level of the church. If you are interested, contact Jane Foulser (630-833-3028 or jfoulser@mindspring.com) or Jack Uretsky (630-323-5990 or jlu@anl.gov) or call the church office to find out the book to be discussed and to confirm meeting time details.

## Green Sanctuary Recycling Tour

**Monday, January 19, meet at 9:00 A.M.**

Ever wonder what REALLY happens to the recycled electronics that you put in the electronics collection? Come out for a tour of the Sims Recycling Solutions with other UCHers on Monday, January 19. Sims, under the name of United Recycling, served our electronics recycling day in the fall of 2007. January 19 is the Martin Luther King holiday, so kids are likely to be off school, and the whole family is welcome.

Sims is located at 1600 Harvester Road in West Chicago. We are scheduled for a tour at 10:00 A.M. We will be meeting at church at 9:00 and carpooling, or you can meet us at the facility—use MapQuest for directions. This is a guided tour, so if you are traveling separately, please be early. The company advises that everyone wear flat shoes; heels are a bad idea.

The facility has asked us to give them a number of people attending, so PLEASE contact Dave Lloyd at 708-485-2296 or davelloyd@mindspring.com at least a week in advance—that would be Monday, January 12—to let him know if you are coming and how many. For more information about Sims Recycling Solutions, check their website: [www.simsrecyclingsolutions-na.com](http://www.simsrecyclingsolutions-na.com).

## Conversation on Race Book Discussion

**Monday, January 19, 7:30 P.M.**

Conversation on Race book discussion: Monday, January 19, 7:30 P.M. in the Alice Warren Room of the Church. Since September you've been encouraged to read the classic slave narrative, *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, An American Slave*. What could be a more appropriate date to have this group discussion than Martin Luther King Day? Ed Searl will lead.

## Tuesday Night Films with Ed Searl

**January 20, 7:30 P.M.**

Tuesday Night Films with Ed Searl, Tuesday, January 20, 7:30 P.M. in the Sanctuary: *Who Killed the Electric Car?* Considering the misfortune of the Automotive Industry, we should find this a most apt documentary. It chronicles the forces that converged to squelch an effective electric car program in California—an eye opener!

## UCH Lunch Bunch

**Thursday, January 22, 1:00 P.M.**

The UCH Lunch Bunch, a gathering of friends and members at a restaurant once a month, will meet at 1:00 on Jan. 22 at Athar Restaurant (fine Mediterranean Cuisine in downtown Elmhurst). It is located at 149 N. Addison Ave. in Elmhurst, which is South of North Ave and West of York Rd. just south of 2nd Street. A parking lot is near the restaurant. To sign up, contact Jackie Bruns (Butterfluffy@gmail.com or 630-920-1603) or Cathy Goering (630-325-0310).

## We Invite You To Attend a "Neighbor Nights" Gathering in Your Area!

The Membership Committee has organized "Neighbor Nights" so that church members might get together with one another from neighboring communities. The hosts will provide coffee and tea, so guests are asked to bring an appetizer or a dessert and/or beer or wine or such, if so desired.

Call the hosts listed below to RSVP to this invitation.

### *AREA 1 Hinsdale, Clarendon Hills*

Karen and Rollie Porter, 411 Briargate Ter., Hinsdale  
(630) 655-1890. Sun., Jan. 18, 3-5:00 P.M.

### *AREA 2 Willowbrook, Darien, Westmont*

Sally Packard, 216 S. Hudson St., Westmont, RSVP to  
Bonnie Wayman Dodd at (630) 725-1089. Sun., Jan 4,  
2:00 P.M.

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

Steve & Athena Trout, 309 Ogden Ave., Western Springs  
(708) 783-1240 Held Dec. 6

### *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. Sat., Jan. 17, 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.

## All-Community Worship

### **Sunday, January 25, 10:00 A.M.**

Please join us on Sunday, January 25th for an All-Community Worship. All ages are welcomed to worship together as the theme for the service will be caring, sharing and giving. We will begin our Heart to Heart secret friend program on this Sunday.

# Church Messages

## Make a Commemorative Gift to the Church

Five of the eight new chairs in the Rutherford Room are available for sponsorship. If you would like to make a gift to the Church to commemorate a significant event or person, please consider purchasing one of the chairs. A brass plaque will be attached to the chair to recognize the commemoration. The price of each chair, including the plaque, is \$200. Contact Nancy Holt for additional information.

## Coat Drive

The Youth Group will be collecting 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.

## Chalice Circles

Chalice Circles are off and running for the new year, but there is still room for you. If you are interested in being a part of our congregation's small group ministry, please contact the church office or Chalice Circle coordinator Cathy Blanford at [cathy.blanford@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cathy.blanford@sbcglobal.net). This year we have seven groups operating, including one especially for cancer support and another one comprised of men only! Those people who are involved are finding this to be a great way to get to know others in the congregation and to be able to talk about those things that concern them with a caring group of adults. Please consider joining us!

## Manna Update

Thank you to everyone who has participated in the Manna program so far this church year -- you have raised over \$2,000 so far! Our next order will be due in late January -- watch the Sunday bulletins for more details.

We need a Manna PR Czar -- can you help??? This would probably entail a minimal amount of work, but we need someone with creative ideas to drive more participation in the program. This program has the potential to significantly help the church finances -- but we need more PR power. Please contact the office or Sara Teppema at [sarateps@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sarateps@sbcglobal.net) or Terri Fischer at [tfischer5@aol.com](mailto:tfischer5@aol.com) if you can help!

In case you are new or in the dark, the Manna program allows us, as a nonprofit organization, to purchase gift cards at a discount, and the church keeps the dollar value of the discount. There are hundreds of businesses that participate -- retailers, grocery stores, gas stations, online stores -- and the gift cards can be used just like a debit card, to purchase items we use every day. Contact Sara or Terri (emails above) for more information.

One more thing: Pam Fodor was the lucky winner of our fabulous raffle -- a \$10 Borders gift card. Yay Pam! All Manna orderers had a chance to win and new orderers each got two chances to win.

## No More Turning Away—A Multi-Church Social Action Project

Each year, area UU religious educators recognize and celebrate the social action projects of the various religious education programs. Last year, these Directors of Religious Education enthusiastically decided to collaborate on one social action project for the church year. This multi-church project has been titled “No More Turning Away,” and its focus is to create awareness, education, and action to end homelessness.

Here at UCH, Pam Fodor and the Religious Education Committee are coordinating opportunities for worship, curricula, and activities for children and youth. Also

scheduled are monthly All-Community social action activities, such as movie viewings and hands-on projects so that we can learn and work together as a church. Our efforts will serve Bridge Communities ([www.bridgecommunities.com](http://www.bridgecommunities.com)) and Sharing Connections ([www.sharingconnections.com](http://www.sharingconnections.com)), two local organizations that provide services for the homeless and those in transitional housing.

The RE Committee invites and encourages all church members to participate in this important collaborative project! Check out what we have already done and what is coming up! Contact Pam Fodor for more information [re@hinsdaleunitarian.org](mailto:re@hinsdaleunitarian.org) or 630-323-2885, extension 110.

### October

We made 14 fleece blankets that were donated to Sharing Connections in Downers Grove.

### November

Members, friends and children of the church met to paint ceramic bowls at Ceramic Arts Café and The Ceramic Attic. The 39 bowls were sold at our annual Stone Soup Sunday, and the proceeds of \$260 were donated to Bridge Communities.

### December

Over \$2000 was collected to provide our 29 Head Start Families with holiday gifts and meals. 215 gifts were purchased by our church community. A heart warming party was held on Saturday December 13th .

### January

*Saturday, Jan. 10*  
Saturday 10th We encourage the congregation to work at Greater Chicago Food Depository from 1:30-4:30 P.M. Contact Jean Noble for more information or to RSVP.

### February-March

Sunday, February 1st  
“30 Days on Minimum Wage”  
Join us during the 11:00 A.M. Service on February 1st in Joshi Chapel to view a wonderful movie on the challenges facing those who live life earning minimum wage. This hour long documentary is appropriate for ages 2nd grade and older.

### Ongoing Collections

Head Start Food Pantry Collection  
Youth Group Coat Collection  
Small toiletries Collection

## **New Donation Basket for Head Start Food Pantry**

Mid-December's Head Start Care & Share party is among the most meaningful of all holiday events, and the needs of the Head Start program's "client" families are ongoing, yearlong needs. Since last month, we have made a basket available in the Rutherford Room, adjacent to the sanctuary, for convenient weekly giving to the HS Food Pantry. A small group has volunteered to monitor the basket, regularly transporting donated items to Head Start's box in the R.E. Building. If each and every UCH member/friend/guest brings in at least one non-perishable, healthy food item per month, imagine the increased yields! This project is doable, affordable, and highly-appreciated by recipients. Together, we can really fill those pantry shelves! (NOTE: Please bring food items only; Head Start staff are not set up to distribute money.)

## **Upcoming Discussion of Asian-American Experience**

Mark your calendars now for a program of cultural awareness: A weekday evening program with and among UCH members and friends exploring the unique life experiences of Asian-American people in the 20th and 21st centuries on Wednesday, February 25, 2009, 7:30 P.M. to 9:15 P.M. in the UCH R.E. Building, Room 6 or Joshi Auditorium. Further details to follow in February 2009 Touchstone.

## **Board Briefs**

Board of Trustees meetings usually begin with the treasurer's report, and these summary accounts, therefore, do the same. Responsible oversight of finances being one of the main functions of the BOT, we like to share the news with all monthly. The good news is that we welcomed six new members, three of whom have pledged. That's good news not only because we enjoy new members, but because pledges are slowing down at a time when many of our expenses increase (heat, snow removal, etc.). We encourage all members to honor their pledges and again appeal for all to do so with convenient direct debit arrangements with their banks. Another expense, which will be covered from the capitol fund, is the replacement of the sound system for the Rutherford Room. More good news was the approval of a \$500 donation (from a non-member) to be used for the music fund, allowing Chris to bring in more soloists. A yoga patron also contributed \$350 to the Care and Share Program. There is a great spirit of generosity at this season! The Membership Committee is planning a Jan. 11 open house supported with ads in local papers. Luan submitted a detailed accounting of 72 extra hours she has put in so far on the job, so at the end of the year, the Board will evaluate the job requirements and consider an adjustment. Visitors are welcome at Board meetings, which are the first Tuesday of the month at 7:30 P.M. in the Alice Warren Room. Complete minutes are on file in the office.

# General Announcements

## UU Bed and Breakfast Directory Available

Do you dream of inexpensive vacation travel to interesting destinations where you can stay in the homes of friendly people who share your ideals and are happy to provide directions and advice for their area?

The UU bed and breakfast directory UU're Home (formerly Homecomings) can fulfill your dream. For 29 years, we've provided a network of hosts in the United States (and a few abroad) who enjoy meeting new friends and who are happy to open their homes to like-minded people.

You can also become a host and be listed in the directory. Contact us at [info@uurehome.com](mailto:info@uurehome.com), or at (828) 281-3253, and we will gladly send you information about listing your accommodations.

Host listings on the UU're Home website at [www.UUreHome.com](http://www.UUreHome.com) are updated whenever changes are made or new hosts are added. The paper edition is published once a year in April. For a copy of the 2009 directory and a year's access to the website listings, please click on "become a member" to pay by credit card or send a check for \$25 and your e-mail address to UU're Home, 43 Vermont Court, Asheville, NC 28806.

## Piano Lessons at UCH

Chris Garofalo will have a few openings for new piano students beginning in January/February. The individual lessons are given at the church Monday through Thursday. Chris teaches all levels—from beginner through professional coaching. For more information, call Chris at (630) 968-7649 or e-mail at [chrispiano7@yahoo.com](mailto:chrispiano7@yahoo.com)

## 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.

## Secular Parenting Seminar in Chicago

January 24, 9:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.

Ethical Humanist Society of Chicago, 7574  
North Lincoln Avenue, Chicago

Presented by Dale McGowan, Editor/co-author of  
*Parenting Beyond Belief: On Raising Ethical,*  
*Caring Kids Without Religion*

- \* How does moral development really work?
- \* My mother-in-law wants our kids baptized. How can I respond without causing a rift?
- \* How can I ease my son's fears about death without pretending there's an afterlife?
- \* How can kids learn about religion without being indoctrinated into religion?

A unique, interactive half-day workshop with author and educator Dale McGowan, The Parenting Beyond Belief seminar offers encouragement and practical solutions for secular parenting in a religious world. Based on the freethinking philosophy of the book *Newsweek* called "a compelling read," the Parenting Beyond Belief seminar is empowering secular parents across the country to raise ethical, caring, confident kids without religion.

Participants will learn effective ways to:

- \* Encourage religious literacy without indoctrination;
- \* Help kids interact productively with a religious world;
- \* Help kids develop active moral reasoning;
- \* Weigh church-state issues in the public sphere;
- \* Address sensitive issues constructively with religious relatives using the principles of nonviolent communication;
- \* Help children develop a healthy understanding of death and a joyful love of life;
- \* Build a family atmosphere of fearless questioning and boundless wonder;
- \* and much more.

Registration is \$40 per person or \$60 per couple  
Registration and additional information at  
[www.ParentingBeyondBelief.com/seminars.htm](http://www.ParentingBeyondBelief.com/seminars.htm)  
<<http://www.parentingbeyondbelief.com/seminars.htm>>.

# Among Ourselves

## **Gratitude for Generous Gift**

**Submitted by Michele Grimaldi Stein**

Thanks to the wonderful talent of Chris Garofalo, UCH was the recipient of a generous donation to our music program. As his contribution to this year's Holiday Harvest fundraising event, Chris donated an evening in his home designed to delight both the ears and the palate. Before dessert, coffee, and sparkling conversation, Chris treated his guests to an intimate concert, playing selections on his clavichord, harpsichord, and piano, and providing an informational talk on the history of each instrument. In attendance were non-UCH members, Henry and Rhoda Frank, who are not only great fans of classical music but also devoted patrons of the arts. Like all present, the Franks thoroughly enjoyed the wonderful music Chris played. As they thanked him for a delightful evening, the Franks quietly slipped Chris a folded check and told him it was their gift to the church's music program. It was only after they left that Chris learned that the check was for \$500! This generous gift will certainly augment the music budget, which has seen significant cuts in the last several years. We are grateful to the Franks for their unexpected, though greatly appreciated, generosity and to Chris, whose devotion to our church and to its music program can never be over-estimated.

## **Thanks, Herb!**

**Submitted by Susan Hebble**

Thanks to Herb Hiestand for coming through yet again! At our request, Herb created a protective holder for the Wayside Pulpit posters which we post in the sign on the church corner. This covering will protect the paper posters from the elements so that we can use them for years to come.

## **Thinking of You . . . .**

**Updates from Reverend Searl**

Shiloh Madsen had a gall bladder operation on the first weekend in Dec. He's home and is doing fine.

Gerry Shipton fell on Monday Dec. 15 and broke her leg above and below the knee. At press time, she was scheduled for surgery at La Grange Memorial Hospital.

Anita Hiestand was scheduled for knee surgery December 18 at Good Samaritan Hospital in Downers Grove.

**Submitted by Pam Fodor**

The RE Department would like to recognize and thank the following first semester teachers! Wendy Hainey, Diane Barnes, Susan Mooney, Robyn Abend, Becky Tilbrook, Jill Quinones, Susan Hebble, John Wayman-Dodd, Peter Krower and JoAnne Krower. These fine and dedicated volunteers have truly made a difference in our children's lives, and we appreciate their commitment and energy! Thank you and love to all of them!!

## **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**

Unitarian Church of Hinsdale, 11 West Maple, Hinsdale, IL, 60521  
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))