

## Services in January

All services begin at 10:30 A.M.

### January 2

*"The Art of Parenting"*

Rev. Edward Searl

*Music Provided by Members of Our Community*

A recent report "The Children Left Behind," released by UNICEF, gives dismal witness to how our nation nurtures our young. Among 24 well-to-do nations, we rank at or near the bottom in several important categories. We all have a role to play in the nurture of our children and youth. Our own UU offers good guidance for society.

### January 9

*"Stewardship"*

The Stewardship Campaign

*Chris Garofalo, piano*

Stewardship is the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one's care. We'll look at how this idea applies to all of us who find UCH a special part of our lives.

Visit Reverend Searl's blog,

Ed Searl's Journal:

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

### January 16

*"Prophets and Social Justice"*

Rev. Ed Searl

*Carolyn May, Flute and Chris Garofalo, Piano*

*(Sponsor: Julia Beckman)*

On Martin Luther King weekend Sunday, it's appropriate to examine the role of prophets, from Old Testament days through now, in advancing what we now call social justice.

### January 23

*"A Unitarian Universalist Animal Ministry"*

Rev. Edward Searl

*Chris Garofalo, piano*

Several members of UCH are considering joining with the recently launched UU Animal Ministry program. I've advocated for several years that interspecies issues are a significant progressing edge of ethical concerns.

### January 30

*"Outlawing Jelly Beans and Other Injustices"*

All-Community Service

Pam Fodor

*Chris Garofalo, piano*

How do we use our power? How do we respond to injustice? In the story "The Duke Who Outlawed Jelly Beans," by Johnny Valentine, a pompous and power hungry duke is gently put in his place by the people of his kingdom. Looking at Valentine's story, we'll consider how using our shared power in the name of love can help us overcome almost any obstacle.

\*A food offering will be received at this service, to provide canned goods for a local food bank.

\*A potluck luncheon will follow the service. Please bring a dish to share with others.

## Volume 10, Issue 5

## January 2011

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THE UNITARIAN CHURCH OF HINSDALE  
*THE TOUCHSTONE*

## Children and Youth Religious Education

Pam Fodor, Director of Religious Education

### **Celebrating Me And My World**

Preschool ages 3-5; 10:30 A.M.

1-2	I Can Wait
1-23	I Can Remember

1-9	I Can Help
1-30	All-Community Worship Service

1-16	I Can Listen
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Young children are often asked to do things that are difficult for them. Waiting, helping, listening and remembering are skills that we all must learn. Acknowledging that these skills can be difficult and affirming small children's efforts can boost their self-esteem and increase their confidence.

### **Around The Church, Around The Year**

Kindergarten and first grade; 10:30 A.M.

1-2	Our Church Family
1-23	Helping Others

1-9	Our Favorite Places
1-30	All-Community Worship Service

1-16	Our Favorite Objects
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Our church family is made up of all kinds of families and we are a part of the larger UU Association. It will be fun for the students to realize just how many UUs are out there! Talking about favorite places and things affirms the children's interests and talents.

### **Chapel Service**

Grades 2-6; 10:30 A.M.

1-2	Buddha's Stories
1-23	Learning Through Lived Experience

1-9	The Flaming Chalice
1-30	All-Community Worship Service

1-16	The Act of Searching
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This month the Chapel Children will focus on our fourth principle, The Free and Responsible Search for Truth and Meaning. The students will explore the idea of searching, asking questions and seeking answers through stories from other faiths, and our own UU history.

### **Junior High OWL**

Grades 7-8; 10:15 A.M.

1-2	Thorny Issues in Friendship
1-23	Masturbation and Other Sexual Behaviors

1-9	Dating and Lifetime Commitments
1-30	All-Community Worship Service

1-16	Love Making is More Than Sex
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OWL is a comprehensive approach to human sexuality presented in an age appropriate manner. It is based firmly on the values of respect, responsibility, justice and inclusivity. Parental permission and registration are required for participation in this course.

### **Senior High Youth Group**

Grades 7-8; 10:30 A.M.

1-2	New Year's Resolutions
1-23	Meditation Workshop

1-9	Free Choice Programming
1-30	All-Community Worship Service

1-16	Youth Sunday Planning
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What are your new year's resolutions? Why do we make them? Can we keep them? Youth will begin working on their Sunday Service Project and will have a workshop on using the labyrinth as a meditation tool.

## R.E. News and Announcements

### **All-Community Worship**

Join us on Sunday, January 30th for a service appropriate for all ages. How do we use our power? How do we respond to injustice? In the story "The Duke Who Outlawed Jelly Beans," by Johnny Valentine, a pompous and power hungry duke is gently put in his place by the people of his kingdom. Looking at Valentine's story, we'll consider how using our shared power in the name of love can help us overcome almost any obstacle.

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\*A potluck luncheon will follow the service. Please bring a dish to share with others.

### **Looking for a Few Good People**

Want to share your talents? Want to learn something about yourself? Want to touch the life of a child? Be a teacher in our Religious Education Department! Teaching is super easy: you just make the commitment and everything else is prepared for you! For more information and/or to sign up contact Pam Fodor (re@hinsdaleunitarian.org).

## Upcoming Events and Announcements

### **MANNA**

Manna orders are due January 2 with orders ready for pick up January 9 in the AWR.

### **January 2, Social Justice Collection Recipient: Planned Parenthood of Illinois**

PPIL is Illinois' most trusted provider of reproductive health care. Each of its 17 health centers provides preventive services that help women, families and communities stay healthy. Services include life-saving cancer screenings, breast health care, well-woman exams, contraceptive services, and STD prevention and treatment. PPIL, a respected leader in educating Illinoisans about sexual and reproductive health, delivers age-appropriate, comprehensive and medically accurate information that empowers women, men, teens, and families to make informed choices and lead healthy lives. PPIL is proud of its vital role in providing young people with honest sexuality and relationship information in classrooms, in communities, and online.

Please use the following guidelines in making your donation:

---All cash donations go to the monthly social justice collection.

---If you wish to write a check directly to the organization, make it out to "Planned Parenthood of Illinois"

---If you prefer to make your donation via a check written to UCH, you must indicate Planned Parenthood of Illinois 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.

### **First Friday Fun Night—January 7, 7:00 p.m.**

Now this is different! Join us for a mason-bee-house-making-workshop for "children of all ages." This workshop is part of our Green Sanctuary program promoting ecological living and outreach. The Green Sanctuary members can answer any questions/concerns you may have. To learn more about FFFN, contact Kari Freeman (hollowcastle@gmail.com). More info to follow on Facebook! Save the date for the next FFFN on Feb. 4.

### **Meditation Wednesdays Begin January 12**

All are welcome for meditation the second Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in Room 6 of the R.E. Building. Various meditative techniques will be used for all levels of experience. Meditation refers to any of a family of practices in which the practitioner trains his or her mind or self-induces a mode of consciousness in order to realize some benefit. Meditation is based on the fact that the human mind is always in a state of flux. This constant restlessness prevents us from accessing our immense inner resources. While there are dozens of styles of meditation practices, in general, meditation aims at reducing mind chatter, so that we perceive reality as it is. Meditation is not about verbalizing; it is about experiencing. In fact, various methods of meditation have been linked to changes in metabolism, blood pressure, brain activation, and other bodily processes. Meditation has been used in clinical settings as a method of stress and pain reduction. For more information, contact Frank Wanderlich (312-693-5728; frankwanderlich@yahoo.com).

### **New Animal Ministry Committee to Meet January 9 at Noon**

What is your New Year's resolution for 2011? If it involves spending more time with your pets, eating less meat, or living with more respect for the interdependent web of all existence, you are in good company with UCH's brand new Animal Ministry Committee! The Animal Ministry Committee, a future chapter of the UUA's Animal Ministry and a UCH Faith in Action committee, is forming NOW and seeks all animal lovers interested in ethical eating, wildlife conservation, helping homeless pets, or religious educational topics to join us. All are invited to attend our kickoff brainstorming session on Sunday, January 9 at noon in the RE Library. We'll share ideas for bringing a new reverence for life to UCH! Vegan refreshments will be provided. For information, see Tiffany Bohn, Joseph Pakovitis or Frank Costanza or e-mail animalministry@hotmail.com. We hope to see you there!

### **Women's Alliance Meets On January 13**

The world of investing can be intimidating. If you think that having a few prudent guidelines would be helpful, then we encourage you to attend the January meeting of the Alliance. Offering invaluable rules for investing will be our own Joan Prims, who was a Harris Bank Personal Banker for 5 years and a stockbroker with Smith Barney for 18 years. A question and answer period will follow her talk. All are welcome, so bundle up and plan on attending this informative meeting. Bring a bag lunch at 12:15 or come for the presentation at 1 p.m. in the Rutherford Room of the Church. Hostesses for the month are Velaine Carnall and Ruth Wilson. For more information contact Betty Mathias (708-482-0892; bettyloumathias@yahoo.com). In February the Alliance will discuss Anne Frank Remembered by Miep Gies. Be sure to reserve a copy of this incredible story at your local library and join us in lively conversation.

### **HEART TO HEART Begins January 16**

Make a new friend at church! Be a secret friend in our Heart to Heart project.

Fill out the form in the Alice Warren Room on January 16th or 23rd and put it in the Heart to Heart box. 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 16th or 23rd to February 13th. 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 he or she doesn't feel left out! On Sunday, February 13th during coffee hour we will reveal ourselves to our secret friends. Please direct any questions to Pam Fodor (re@hinsdaleunitarian.org).

### **Non Fiction Book Group 2011 Schedule**

Join the Non Fiction Book group at their regular meeting on the third Thursday of the month, at 7:30 p.m. in the Alliance Room, in the lower level of the church. Everyone is invited to participate in the lively discussion, whether or not you've had a chance to read the book.

Jan. 20	<i>The Faith Instinct</i> by Nicholas Wade
Feb. 17	<i>Doubt and Certainty</i> by Tony Rothman and George Sudarshan, 1998
Mar. 17	<i>Freefall</i> by Joseph Stiglitz, Nobel Prize winner in economics
Apr. 21	<i>In The Place of Justice: A Story of Punishment and Deliverance</i> by Wilbert Rideau, autobiography, 2010
May 19	<i>The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks</i> by Eric Roston, 2009
June 16	<i>Galileo Goes to Jail</i> , anthology of 25 essays/myths (ed.) Ronald L. Numbers, 2009

### **Flute and Piano Concert January 23**

Carolyn May, flutist, and Chris Garofalo, pianist, will present a recital on Sunday, January 23, 2011, at 3:00 p.m. at UCH. The hour-long program will include works by Vivaldi, Rutter, Dvorak, Chopin, and even some Harry Potter tunes. Ticket donations will benefit ChildServ and PIMA (Parents Instrumental Music Association). Hope you can attend!

### **Lunch Bunch January 27**

Lunch Bunch meets again on Thursday, January 27 at 1:00 at Bambu Thai Cuisine, 1035 South York, Elmhurst. Their food is delicious and very pretty. The restaurant is in a small strip shopping center on the east side of York just south of Butterfield Road, between the gas station and Presbyterian Church. If you come from the south, just turn into the shopping center parking lot. If you come from the north, make a left turn at the light at Lexington and immediately make a left into the church parking lot and drive through it into the shopping center parking lot. Make your reservation by calling Betty Mathias at 708-482-0892.

### **Holiday Harvest Harvest**

It just keeps getting better! Since last month's announcement, two more payments have been discovered, so the revised Holiday Harvest net is \$21,234!!! At almost \$1800 more than last year, this is the first time we have topped 20k! Holiday Harvest benefits the church by providing fellowship and revenues for both the Operating and Reserve Funds. And to date the Capital Reserve fund is \$71,817! (The goal is to get the Reserve to \$100,000.) Every business ad or donation helps, and we will be asking everyone to take a Business Solicitation letter in the spring. We can celebrate this year's success, but we need to be thinking ahead, too!

### **"Stuff and Sensibility: Making the Good Life Last" Chalice Circle/Adult RE Discussion Group Starts in February**

What is a sustainable lifestyle, and why does it matter? Start the new year by renewing your focus on the choices you make and the life you want to lead. This chalice circle/discussion group, sponsored by the Green Sanctuary Committee, will be held on six Sundays from noon to 1:30 p.m., starting the first Sunday in February and running through the middle of March. Participants will need to obtain a copy of the book, "Making the Good Life Last: Four Keys to Sustainable Living" by Rev. Michael Schuler, as each week's discussion will focus around the content of this book. There will be a reading assignment to complete before the first session, with additional reading encouraged before each subsequent session. The book is available through the Suburban Library System, from Amazon, or via the publisher as a PDF file download (www.bkconnection.com). If you're interested in participating, contact Suzanne Williams (708-680-6680; sdwillster@gmail.com).

### **The New UU Program to Begin in February**

Are you new to our church or denomination? Have you been looking for more information about Unitarian Universalism? Are you thinking about becoming a member? If so, the New UU course might be for you. In four interactive sessions, participants will enjoy the opportunity to share their personal religious journeys and learn more about Unitarian Universalism and the various activities of the Hinsdale Unitarian Church. Guests of the program will include Rev. Ed Searl, representatives of the Board of Trustees and members of various church committees. We will meet on four consecutive Sundays right after church, Feb. 20, 27, Mar 6 and 13. Facilitators will be Jodi Cicirello and Tiffany Bohn. To register, contact Coordinator Jane Foulser (630-833-3028; jfoulser@mindspring.com) or the church office (630-323-2885; office@hinsdaleunitarian.org)

### **Silver & Gold Dinners—Plan Ahead for the Weekend of March 4-6**

Join fellow members of our church community for an enjoyable evening of food, conversation & camaraderie. This is a wonderful opportunity for newcomers and longtime UCH members to get to know one another. Dinners will be held on Friday, Saturday, or Sunday, March 4-6. What better way to brighten your weekend, as we look forward to spring's arrival, than an intimate gathering?

Dinners are held at members' homes, so please consider offering to host! The host sets the menu, provides the home, and asks participants to bring a dish to share (e.g. entree, appetizer, salad, side dishes, dessert, wine). The host sets the date and time and contacts the guests, using the list that will be provided by the Silver & Gold Committee.

To attend or host . . .

Sign up by Sunday, February 13 by completing the sign up form that can be found near the Silver & Gold Dinner poster in the Alice Warren Room. Drop the completed form in the bag, also found near the poster. Consider hosting and complete the form accordingly. Questions? Contact Deborah Stillman (630-908-7508)

### **Music to Share?**

If you are interested in contributing your musical talents to a worship service, please contact board trustee Kathy Salzano (ktsalz@sbcglobal.net).

## **General Announcements**

### **WhaleCoast Alaska 2011**

Have you always dreamed of visiting Alaska? Are you curious about the lifestyles of Alaskan UUs? Do you enjoy getting to know your fellow travelers? If so, WhaleCoast Alaska 2011 is for you! Four Alaskan UU fellowships will host an eco-cultural and spiritual program this summer as we celebrate our 15th year! See Alaska through the eyes of local UUs in Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau, and Sitka with friendly homestays and unique tour activities. See wildlife, including moose, bear, whales, bald eagles, seals, and caribou. Visit Denali National Park. Experience Native Alaskan culture. Enjoy all that our beautiful state has to offer. Programs are led by Dave Frey and Bre Griffin, members of the northernmost UU congregation, with 36 years of Alaska living between them. To find out more about your Alaskan trip of a lifetime, visit [www.WhaleCoastAK.org](http://www.WhaleCoastAK.org), email [info@whalecoastak.org](mailto:info@whalecoastak.org), or call 907-322-4966. We would love to share our Alaska with you!

### **Asheville UU Home Stay Opportunity**

Here's a chance to travel and stay in homes of people who share your ideals, or host travelers in your home to meet new friends and earn extra money. The UU bed and breakfast directory UU're Home (formerly Homecomings) offers a network of hosts in the United States (and a few abroad) who enjoy meeting new friends and are happy to open their home to like-minded people. Travel to different cities and stay in reasonably priced accommodations or become a host and enjoy meeting new friends. ([www.UUreHome.com](http://www.UUreHome.com); [info@uurehome.com](mailto:info@uurehome.com); 43 Vermont Court, Asheville, NC, 28806; 828-281-3253.)

### **IRA Charitable Rollover**

As part of their year-end cleanup, Congress recently extended the IRA Charitable Rollover provision that expired at the end of 2009. This legislation reinstates the Rollover retroactively to 2010 and allows any eligible gifts made by January 31, 2011 to be treated as a 2010 donation. This provides an easy means to make a gift to the church Endowment Fund.

For your gift to qualify as a Charitable Rollover, a few criteria must be met: You must be 70½ years or older; The transfers must go directly from the IRA administrator to the Endowment Fund or other charities; and Your gifts may not exceed \$100,000 per taxpayer.

The legislation also sets the new expiration date for the Rollover as December 31, 2011, meaning that eligible gifts made throughout all of 2011 will qualify for this favorable tax treatment.

To take advantage of this opportunity for tax years 2010 or 2011, please contact the church office of a member of the Endowment Committee.

## Board Briefs

### **A Summary of the December 6, 2010 Board of Trustees Meeting**

Submitted by Beth Staas, Board Secretary

#### Fair Trade Sales

The selling of items on Nov. 26 and 28 from 10,000 Villages, a non-profit organization, netted them more than three thousand dollars.

#### Holiday Harvest

The unofficial total from Holiday Harvest was more than twenty thousand dollars.

#### PADS

Darline Petersen summarized a presentation given at the last Alliance meeting for PADS, a non profit organization with 130 participating groups, 4,000 volunteers and 26 staff personnel providing assistance to 128 families and overnight sleeping accommodations for the homeless, in addition to finding housing and job opportunities for the needy.

#### Chalica

Our website includes an seven-day observance of Chalica, a new holiday program underscoring the seven principles of our denomination.

#### Urban Gardening

Dave Lloyd described a gardening area in Downers Grove under the auspices of Plant a Row for the Hungry, a garden rental of a 20x30 ft. space to grow produce at 31\$ per month. This could add to the harvest from one's own garden for distribution.

#### Health Screening

LifeLine has contacted our office about the use of space for a health-screening event for which they charge \$139. Since there was little further information, Larry Price moved and Darline Petersen seconded **that we should not rent or offer space to be used by LifeLine. Motion passed.** An added thought was to have a blood drive at our facility as has been done in the past.

#### Stewardship

Dave Lloyd will chair a new Committee on Stewardship, which would include members of the Finance Committee plus others as we look toward the Pledge Drive. This Committee would gather some 50 member/volunteers to interview 3-4 of their fellow parishioners for making our mission more effective, then as pledges come in, listing those names on an "honor role." Mr. Lloyd underscored the importance of commitment to act on all incoming suggestions however small.

#### Green Sanctuary Flag

The church has been given a flagpole that might be used to display the honorific of the church being Green. Discussion included questions about the size and possible location of the flag and flagpole and alternatively attaching the flag to the building. No action was taken.

#### Sanctuary Chair Replacement Fund

A fund of some ten thousand dollars had been growing for about ten years for sanctuary chair replacement as they suffer from periodic breakdown. Further consideration of new seating will follow the stewardship campaign.

#### Animal Ministry

A new committee, chaired by Tiffany Bohn and Joe Pakovits, has been formed in conjunction with the UUA's Animal Ministry. The committee's mission is to do the following: *Educate regarding pet care, Learn about animal mistreatment, Explore wildlife preservation, and Look toward ethical eating. The committee may also create a Sunday morning program of Blessing the Animals.*

## Among Ourselves

### **Alliance Members Spread Holiday Cheer**

On an early December morning a few ladies from Women's Alliance visited Briar Place Nursing Center in Indian Head Park. We gave the residents photos from our last visit in the spring, along with some pre-Christmas gifts, which they all seemed to appreciate. After our visit, we stopped at a local restaurant and had a fun brunch. In late December Women's Alliance assembled bag lunches at Church for PADS. We hope this will become a monthly project.

## Submission Guidelines

The deadline for the February Touchstone Quarterly is no later than **January 15**. Please keep all submissions under 150 words, and include a contact name and number/e-mail. Send submissions to Susan Hebble ([sjhebble@comcast.net](mailto:sjhebble@comcast.net)) and Luan Burton ([office@hinsdaleunitarian.org](mailto:office@hinsdaleunitarian.org)).

## Communications / Posting Policy

If any member objects to the posting of his or her name, image, actions or voice on the Church's website, *Twitter* or *Facebook* pages, or in Church-prepared press releases, please advise Steven Trout, Trustee for Communications ([steven\\_trout@sbcglobal.net](mailto:steven_trout@sbcglobal.net)).

## 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, [edsearl@gmail.com](mailto:edsearl@gmail.com))

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))