

Music Schedule For May and June

May 3

Chris Garofalo, piano
and Goran Ivanovic, guitar

May 10

Chris Garofalo, piano, Justin Roth, and the
Celebration Singers *This music program is dedicated to
Velaine Carnall, who, for the past two years, has provided
a generous gift for the Celebration Singers' accompanist*

May 17

Chris Garofalo, piano

May 24

No Live Music

May 31

Chris Garofalo, piano

June 7

Michelle Lekas, Violin, Mark Lekas, viola, Carolyn
May, flute and Chris Garofalo, piano **Includes a
special performance of "Instrumental Suite," an original
composition by Chris Garofalo*

June 14

Chris Garofalo, piano

Services

May 3

9:30 and 11:00 A.M.

"The Art of Religious Experience"

Rev. Edward Searl

At the turn of the 19th into the 20th century,
William James wrote the classic psychology
of religion, *Varieties of Religious Experience*.
James realized the role of personality on how
one experiences the world religiously. From my
perspective, religious experience is what satisfies
a seeker. It is an art than can be nurtured.

Monthly Collection For Social Justice: Sudanese Community Center

(See article on page 5 for more information.)

May 10

9:30 and 11:00 A.M.

"Animals, Ethics, and Reverence for Life"

Rev. Edward Searl

For a few years, I've maintained that our
human relationship to other creatures is
the day's most significant ethical frontier. I
also think this relationship to be a portal to a
religious/spiritual consciousness.

May 17

10:00 A.M. One Service Only

"A Kairos Moment"

Rev. Edward Searl

In a spring pastoral letter, UUA President
Bill Sinkford declared this time now to be
a "kairos" moment, a right or especially
opportune moment. What might this mean
for our liberal religious way?

*Members are encouraged to stay for the Alliance
Café and Annual Meeting immediately after this
service.*

May 24

9:30 and 11:00 A.M.

"Honoring Memorial Day"

Rev. Edward Searl

In the midst of a long weekend that
inaugurates a summer state of mind, I offer
some thoughts on the traditions and intentions
of what was once called "Decoration Day."

May 31

10:00 A.M. One Service Only

All Community Service

Rev. Edward Searl and D.R.E. Pam Fodor

This last All-Community Service of the church
year will offer a special celebration and will in-
clude two Rites of Passage for our children and
youth. To formally recognize our young Hins-
dale Unitarian Universalists, our Age of Reason
graduates will pass under the Rainbow Arch
into our church family. We will also recognize
our graduating High School Seniors, who will
cross over from being youth members to young
adult members of our congregation. Both these
Rites of Passage are new, important celebrations
for the Religious Education program and will
provide warm and meaningful moments for our
children, youth, and their families.

June Services continue on the next page

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Services

June 7

10:00 A.M. One Service Only

"Adventure in the Arts: For the Love of It"

Rev. Edward Searl

This Sunday brings together many, varied talents of the congregation, artists and artisans, who will display their works in the Alice Warren Room. Their talents in word and image will be blended into the Sunday service. This promises to be a rich and rewarding package of our very own.

Monthly Collection For Social Justice: West Suburban Humane Society

(See article on page 8 for more information.)

June 14

10:00 A.M. One Service Only,

Followed by Picnic on the Lawn

"Not Just Twittering"

Rev. Edward Searl

Journaling is one of the best personal strategies for personal growth, and a handy tool for religious understanding and spiritual awareness. You'll leave the service and head into the summer with a journal outline especially created for us. Children are invited to participate in the Flower Communion ceremony at the opening of this service. R.E. teachers will then lead the children to Religious Education classes after the Flower Communion.

Children and Youth Religious Education

Pam Fodor, Director of Religious Education

We Are Many, We Are One

Preschool Ages 3-4

May

3 Our Bodies Are Beautiful

10 We Begin Life in a
Wonderful Way

17 Bodies are Different
(10:00 A.M. service)

24 We Give Flowers to
Friends

31 All- Community Service
(10:00 A.M. service)

June

7 We Give Thanks for Our
Year (10:00 A.M. service)

14 Celebration in Joshi
Chapel (10:00 A.M.
service)

Helping children grow into their human potential—aware of their sexuality, proud of their gender, and fulfilled in their career and lifestyle roles—is a primary goal for religious educators as well as parents. The first three lessons this month, "Me and My Body", focus on appreciating our bodies and sexuality education. At the preschool age this education means understanding on a factual

and feeling level. On Lei Day, observed in Hawaii in May, leis are exchanged as a sign of friendship. This celebration is similar to our Unitarian Universalist observance of flower communion, which also involves the sharing of flowers. The last two Sundays in June will be a celebration of our growth and time together this year!

Haunting House

Kindergarten & First Grade

May

3 A House of My Own

10 A House of My Own

17 A House of My Own
(10:00 A.M. service)

24 A House of My Own

31 All- Community Service
(10:00 A.M. service)

June

7 Haunting House Open
House (10:00 A.M. Service)

14 Celebration in Joshi
Chapel (10:00 A.M.
service - children
should attend the first
part of the church
service with their
parents; then we
will return to Joshi for
R.E. activities.)

We all need a space in which we can dream and grow, a place which we can retreat and then re-emerge. To have such a place is a universal human longing, one which our children can fulfill, for now, at this developmental level, with a personal cardboard box. During the month of May the Kindergarten and first graders will be constructing and designing their own homes! Then we hope all our parents will join us for a Haunting House open house. Come see our fabulous neighborhood!

Chapel Service

Grades 2-6

May

- 3 Deciding and Acting
- 10 Deciding to Cooperate
- 17 Planning a Special Event
(10:00A.M. service)
- 24 The Special Event
- 31 All- Community Service
(10:00 A.M. service)

June

- 7 Year End Ceremony
(10:00 A.M. service)
- 14 Celebration in Joshi Chapel (10:00 A.M. service - children should attend the first part of the church service with their parents; then we will return to Joshi for R.E. activities.)

During the month of May we will focus the Chapel Children's thinking on their own decision making, to help them realize they are often faced with choices that require decisions on their part and to give them confidence in their own abilities. The major factors in this process are: 1) learning to differentiate between situations that affect one's self and those that concern others; 2) recognizing that all people have the right to human dignity; 3) seeing the importance of feelings in decision making; 4) developing decision making skills; 5) putting decisions into action. The last two Sundays of our church year, we will celebrate how much we've grown and enjoyed our time together. The last unit of the year will focus the children's thinking on their own decision making, to help them realize they are often faced with choices that require decisions on their part and to give them confidence in their own abilities.

All Community Service

This last All-Community Service of the church year will offer a special celebration and will include two Rites of Passage for our children and youth. To formally recognize our young Hinsdale Unitarian Universalists, our Age of Reason graduates will pass under the Rainbow Arch into our church family. We will also recognize our graduating High School Seniors, who will cross over from being youth members to young adult members of our congregation. Both these Rites of Passage are new, important celebrations for the Religious Education program and will provide warm and meaningful moments for our children, youth, and their families.

Special Announcement

Annual Meeting, Sunday, May 17

Why Attend the Annual Meeting?

Submitted by Karen McDowell, Secretary UCH Board

Sunday, May 17, following the single 10:00 A.M. service, the sanctuary will be transformed for a town hall style gathering lovingly known as the UCH Annual Meeting. Unfortunately, seating is limited to 175 (including the Rutherford Room), and only members may vote on motions, but it behooves everyone, or at least a representative from every household, to attend. New members particularly might ask, "Why?" Anyone who has ever attended can answer that with reasons such as these: Our denomination is a democratically run organization. Rather than being governed by a leadership hierarchy, our members make decisions on many items. We get not only what we pay for, but what we vote for; most pledging members like to know about and have a say in how their money is being handled and spent. The Annual Meeting also offers an opportunity to review the past year and recognize the contributions made by our many volunteer as well as paid members. Finally, it is when we transition outgoing and new trustees. It is where we have a view to our future and explore possible changes. This is our one chance to speak out, question, clarify, learn, and participate. Robert's Rules of Order are employed, and most people listen, while others come well informed and ready to be recognized.

So no excuses: you have ample notice, you know the reasons why it is vital to have a high percentage participation, and you know it will be a "be there or be square" moment in our year (followed by Holiday Harvest, of course!), and I know you are marking your apcens (appointment centers, i.e., calendars, Blackberries, etc.) for this very important date. Why would you miss it?

(Article presented by outgoing Board Secretary Karen McDowell, who has felt it a privilege to be in the thick of it these four years. Better be there... I'll be taking attendance!)

Trustees' Annual Reports Available on UCH Blog

The annual reports of the church officers and trustees, the minister, the religious education director, and the church administrator, as well as the proposed budget for 2009-10 will be posted this year to a blog. Please check the Back Page announcements in the Sunday Order of Service and the weekly Friday e-mail announcements for instructions for accessing the blog.

This conversion from paper to electronic reports serves our Green Sanctuary goal of reducing paper use: Last year's annual reports totaled 55 pages, and we made over 100 copies for the membership.

If you treasure the tactile sensation of paper annual reports, don't worry; we'll have a few copies at each of the church services, including the Annual Meeting in May.

Alliance Café at the Annual Meeting

On Sunday, May 17, the Church's annual meeting will take place. In conjunction with this important meeting, the Alliance will again sponsor the Alliance Cafe. We will be selling a variety of sandwiches, beverages, fruit, veggies, and tempting desserts. The Alliance would greatly appreciate contributions from all Church members for this fundraiser. Proceeds will go to establishing a memorial gift in honor of Louise Noble. We'll see you at the annual meeting and please bring hearty appetites.

Childcare Volunteers Needed for Annual Meeting

At this printing, Pam has been unable to arrange child care, and we recognize this obstacle to full attendance, but hope that with this advanced notice, members with children who need supervision will be able to make some plans to allow parents to attend. If you are able to help with child care, please contact Pam a.s.a.p. If enough volunteers step up, R.E. will provide activities and snacks, and hopefully it will be a nice day so that the children can play outside.

Upcoming Events – May

Social Justice Collection: Sudanese Community Center

Sunday, May 3

Decades of civil war in the Sudan—and the recent genocide against residents of Sudan's Darfur region—have killed hundreds of thousands, left millions homeless, and caused the flight of thousands of others as refugees, many of whom have settled in Illinois. The Sudanese Community Center serves as a hub for the Chicago area's humanitarian efforts geared towards ending the suffering of the people of the Sudan and serves as the Chicago-area headquarters for *Save Darfur*. Center personnel work to link Illinois residents of Sudanese descent with social services available to them in the community. The Center hosts Sudanese community meetings and educational forums, in particular seminars focused on women's empowerment.

Please use the following guidelines in making your donation:

- If you wish to write a check directly to the organization, make it out to "Sudanese Community Center."
- If you prefer to make your donation via a check written to UCH, you must indicate "Sudanese Community Center" in the memo. Save the canceled check for tax deduction purposes, as such donations through UCH will NOT be reflected on your year end statements from UCH.
- If you are placing a pledge payment or other contribution to UCH in the offertory, please indicate your intention in the memo of the check.
- If the memo line is blank, the check will go to the church operating fund.

Manna Orders Due

Sunday, May 3

We will have one more MANNA order this year. Forms will be available in the Alice Warren Room starting April 19 and will be due May 3. Cards will be available for pick up May 17 and May 24th in the Alice Warren Room or in the church office after that. If you have not picked up your cards from the last order, please do so at the church office. Next fall, we will be having monthly orders with the orders due the second Sunday of the month and cards available for pickup the fourth Sunday. We are doing this to encourage broader participation by allowing participants to plan purchases on a consistent basis further in advance. Contact Dana White with questions (ddws69@earthlink.net).

Volunteer Greater Chicago Food Depository

Saturday, May 9, 1:30 - 4:30 PM

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

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

Upcoming dates for 2009:
Jun 13, Jul 11, Aug none

Women's Alliance Meeting

Thursday, May 14, 10:30 A.M.

On Thursday, May 14 at 10:30 A.M. Women's Alliance is visiting Country Garden Cuisine Cooking School at 3N369 La Fox Rd. in St. Charles. Garden walk in their herb garden begins at 10:30, followed by a Class with Entertaining and Cooking Ideas from seasonal herb gardens. Next, a lunch with home-grown produce and herbs from these gardens will be served. Cost is \$28 for all three events! Dress comfortably. Checks should be made out to Country Cuisine Cooking School. This event is open to spouses and friends, and we plan to carpool from various locations. To Sign up contact Jackie Bruns at 630-920-1603 or email Butterfluffy@gmail.com. DEADLINE for sign up is MAY 10. For more information on the cooking school, check out the website at www.countrygardencuisine.com.

Non-Fiction Book Group

Thursday, May 21, 7:30 P.M.

The Non-Fiction Book Discussion Group will hold its last meeting this spring on May 21 at 7:30 P.M. in the Alliance Room. Please check Sunday announcements for the book to be discussed. Please bring suggestions for books to read next fall. Contact person: Jane Foulser.

UU Book Discussion Group

Tuesday, May 26, 7:30 P.M.

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

Neighbor Nights

Call the hosts listed below to RSVP to this invitation.

AREA 1 Hinsdale, Clarendon Hills Wed. April 29, 7:30-9 P.M. Rose Matousek, 820 W. Maple, Hinsdale (630-323-5647 or nmjmat@aol.com)

AREA 2 Willowbrook, Darien, Westmont Sat. April 25, 3 P.M. B & J Wayman-Dodd 248 Robinson Lane, Westmont (630-725-1089 or bonjonwd@sbcglobal.net)

AREA 3 Indian Head Park, Western Springs, La Grange Highlands Sat. May 16, 7:30-9 p.m. T. Olson & D. Potthoff, 4053 Woodland Ave, Western Sprgs. (708-246-745 or olsonpotthoff@gmail.com)

AREA 4 Elmhurst, Villa Park, Des Plaines, Schaumburg, Niles Sat. May 16, 7:30-9 p.m. J. & D. Foulser, 384 Hill Ave., Elmhurst (630-833-3028 or jfoulser@mindspring.com)

AREA 5 Glen Ellyn, Lombard, Wheaton, Naperville, Oak Brook, Oakbrook Terrace Sun. May 3, 3-5 p.m. E. & A. Studzinski, 309 N. Park, Glen Ellyn (630-942-0670 or andreastudzinski@sbcglobal.net)

AREA 6 Westchester, Brookfield, Lyons, River Forest, Riverside, Chicago Sat. April 25, 7-9 p.m. Joyce & Jay Van Cura, 181 Scottswood Rd., Riverside (708-447-1812 or jvancura@sbcglobal.net)

AREA 7 La Grange Park, La Grange, Countryside, Burr Ridge, Willow Springs Sun. May 17, 1 p.m. Janice & Hans Lonroth, 212 S. 9th Ave., La Grange (708-579-1165 or lonroth@sbcglobal.net)

AREA 8 Downers Grove Sat. May 30, 6:30-9 p.m. Kim & Kevin Ryan, 1918 Hitchcock, Downers Grove (630-241-0044 or kimjnsn@comcast.net)

AREA 9 Woodridge, Bolingbrook, Lemont, Lockport, Manteno, Oswego, Plainfield, Romeoville, Homer Glen, Lisle Sun. May 31, 2 p.m. J. & J O'Brien, 16620 W. 140th St., Lockport (815-834-1142 or jaobriensr@yahoo.com)

Hosts will provide coffee and tea, so guests are asked to bring an appetizer or dessert and/or beer or wine or such if so desired.

May UCH Lunch Bunch

Thursday, May 28, 1:00 P.M.

On Thursday, May 28 at 1:00 P.M. the UCH Lunch Bunch will meet at Reza's Restaurant in Oak Brook at 40 N. Tower Rd., which is between Rt. 83 and Meyers Rd (closer to Meyers Road). Tower Road is just north of Butterfield, just west of its merger with 22nd St. Choose the buffet or an entrée at this fine Mediterranean restaurant. To sign up contact Cathy Goering at 630-325-0310.

Upcoming Events – June

Social Justice Collection for West Suburban Humane Society – June 7

Animal shelters are part of the animal rights movement, a movement that works to change oppressive human behavior toward animals. Founded in 1972 as a lost and found referral center, the West Suburban Humane Society (WSHS) is a volunteer-based animal welfare organization in Downers Grove dedicated to operating an animal shelter and finding safe, permanent, compatible homes through adoption of domestic dogs and cats. WSHS is committed to educating the public in the humane and responsible care of dogs and cats, to ending the unnecessary euthanasia of adoptable companion animals, to controlling pet overpopulation by spaying and neutering, and to micro-chipping as a means of identifying lost dogs and cats so that they may be returned to their owners. WSHS works diligently to remain financially solvent by continually finding new sources of revenue to fund its services and achieve its goals. Laurie Goshorn and Kathy Foulser are among people associated with UCH that volunteer regularly and/or have volunteered at WSHS.

Please use the following guidelines in making your donation:

---If you wish to write a check directly to the organization, make it out to “West Suburban Humane Society.”

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

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

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

UCH Artistic Event

Sunday, June 7

Beat the economic blues. Join us at an artistic event on June 7 after the church service for an exhibition and sale of items ranging from original paintings to photography to published books and handiwork. Featured artists will include our church talent as well as members from our local community. The event is free and will be opened to the public. A percentage of the profits will go to the UCH Endowment Fund. Refreshments will be served. Please contact Carolyn Sibr (630-920-0972) or the church office for further information.

Upcoming Social Action Committee Meetings – June 7

In June, the SAC will meet at its normal first-Sunday-of-the-month date/time slot: June 7, 12:30 to 1:15 p.m. The meeting will take place in the R.E. Building.

Women's Alliance Luncheon – June 11, 1:00 P.M.

A warm weather luncheon at the home of a gardener is always a treat. Please join us for our annual steering committee meeting and luncheon at Sally Packard's home in Westmont. Bring your favorite potluck dish along with ideas for next year's meetings. We'll meet at Sally's home at 1:00 P.M. on Thursday, June 11. Sally's address is 216 S. Hudson. She lives between 55th St. and the railroad tracks; Hudson is 5 blocks west of Cass. We hope that you'll be able to attend this important planning session. Happy Summer from the Alliance!!!

Volunteer Greater Chicago Food Depository – June 13, 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 GCFD, 4100 W. Ann Lurie Place (42nd Place), Chicago. Call Jean Noble (708-485-0281) for directions/further information.

Upcoming dates for 2009: Jul 11, Aug none

UCH Annual Picnic

Sunday, June 14

Enjoy your family and church friends at our end of the year celebration and picnic!

WHEN: Sunday, June 14th immediately following the single 10:00 A.M. service

WHERE: On our church lawn

WHAT: Participants should provide their own lunch, plates, silverware, a blanket to sit on, lawn chairs, etc. The church will provide drinks.

WHAT ELSE: Some games will be provided for the young and young at heart!

Mark your calendars and join us for the fun!

UU Book Discussion Group – June 23, 7:30 P.M.

The UU Book Discussion Group will meet Tuesday, June 23 at 7:30 P.M. in the church basement. Check the Order of Service or the web calendar for the book title as that date nears. For questions or additional information, please contact Jay Van Cura (jvancura@sbcglobal.net). Please note that we plan to meet during the summer as well—July 21 and August 25.

June UCH Lunch Bunch

The UCH Lunch Bunch usually meets on 4th Thursday of the month, location to be determined. Contact Cathy at 630-325-0310.

Church Messages

Caring Committee Special Request

With the approval of the UCH board, the Caring Committee wishes to assist longtime members Becky & Iain Tilbrook & their three daughters through the creation of a medical assistance fund to be overseen by the church. Many of you may know that Iain first joined our church over 20 years ago. Becky grew up in the church, the daughter of longtime member Jean Kapucik. Iain's paralysis has for some time required a driver to get him to work at Argonne, and principally that driver has been Becky. The family would like to purchase a van which would accommodate Iain's wheelchair and allow Iain to drive himself to work using hand controls. This would then free up Becky to move back into the workforce to help with their many other medical fees. Our goal is to provide the family with a down payment for the van—approximately \$8,800—after which the Tilbrooks would continue with the payments. We hope you will consider a generous offering to help support these members of our church family in this time of need. Envelopes labeled "Tilbrook Medical Assistance Fund" will be in the pews through the end of the church year and can be dropped in the offering plate. A check can also be sent directly to the church, just include "Tilbrook Fund" in the memo. Should you wish to donate time to help the family with driving until the van can be purchased, please contact Debbi Daniel-Wayman or Darline Petersen of the Caring Committee.

Ushers Needed

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

So Good to Talk To You. . . .

In keeping with their fiscal responsibility to the church, the Finance and Membership Committees are working together to update and maintain membership files this year. This effort is in accordance with our bylaws that state that one membership requirement is to pledge financial support to the church. That pledge helps pay for our support to the UUA denomination with an \$82 annual contribution per member. As of now, approximately 70% of member pledge responses to UCH have been completed, a result of contact by the Finance Committee. Members who have moved or simply do not want to maintain membership may need to be taken from the roles in order to keep our church and denominational records current. The membership committee will be contacting non-pledging members in the coming months to determine the intentions of these members. If you have not submitted a pledge, or cannot because of these tough times, we certainly understand. An exception can be made after contacting the office. Knowing the exact numbers in our current membership will help us anticipate expenses for the coming year and plan programs to serve you better. And if this prompts you to volunteer, attend regularly, and participate more fully, we will have achieved our goal: to make the Unitarian Church of Hinsdale a vital part of your life.

Cardboard City

Members and friends from ages 5 to adult participated in our Cardboard City. On Saturday, March 21st we slept outside on our church lawn in tents, cardboard boxes and in cars to raise awareness and support for homeless families in our communities. Congratulations to the Elliott Family, the Daniel-Wayman Family, the Jain Family, the Fodor Family, the Wayman-Dodd Family, the Lonroth Family, the Rao Family, the Teppema Family, Samantha and Emily Tilbrook, Freddy and Lydia Zimmerman, Rachael Meadors, Rachel Clivaz, Owen Burton, Emily Ferrando, and Paige Costello for raising over \$800 for Bridge Communities. Our brave participants joined with “sleepers” from 15 other area UU churches to raise awareness for the homeless in our communities. Our efforts were praised in the Hinsdale Doings, the Chicago Tribune and the UU World.

Here are some reactions and comments from the participants about their experience....

“At night I was really hot. Then in the morning I was really cold. It made me appreciate my jacket when I put it on.”

“As we drove to church with a car full of sleeping bags, pads, and a tent, I thought about how hard it would be to carry all that around if I really were homeless.”

“Overall, I thought it was a great experience, but I’m really glad to have a home.”

“Cold, noisy, hard, lumpy, but glad it wasn’t raining. Yet, the whole time I knew in the morning it would be over; back to the warm world with food and comforts. How awful it would be if I didn’t have that to look forward to.”

“I was a little scared, warm and cozy in my sleeping bag even though it was cold outside. I had a heating pad to warm me up. Since I was warm, I didn’t go inside the church building. Even though I was cozy, I know many homeless people are not as cozy. I hope that they can be cozy and have a home soon.”

“This night was very enlightening. I slept in a car, something I’ve never done before, and it was incredibly cold. I had a sleeping bag and was sharing a coat with someone else, and it was freezing, which makes me think. Yesterday was a relatively warm day, one of the first days of spring, but the night was still absolutely freezing, so how cold must the winter nights be? Was sleeping in a tent or box worse? I’m sure it would be, especially if it was windy, or raining, or snowy. I find I am incredibly lucky. I have a house. Warmth. A bed. Good food. A shower. Clean clothes. Life could be so very different, and homeless people must be very strong to live through it.”

Thank you to everyone for their participation in our Cardboard City and the many other projects in our No More Turning Away Program!

No More Turning Away Update

All this year here at UCH, Pam Fodor, the Religious Education Committee, with support from the Adult Education Committee and the Social Action Committee have been coordinating opportunities for worship, curricula, and activities for children and youth that focus on and create awareness, education, and action to end homelessness. This multi-church, district wide effort is titled No More Turning Away.

Two local organizations have benefitted from our donations that will help provide services to the homeless and those in transitional housing: Bridge Communities (www.bridgecommunities.com) and Sharing Connections (www.sharingconnections.com) We have also continued to reach out to the Head Start program housed in our Religious Education building and to volunteer with the Greater Chicago Food Depository.

The total of our activities is as follows:

- donated 14 handmade, fleece blankets to Sharing Connections
- donated 50 Halloween Candy bags to Sharing Connections
- painted and sold ceramic bowls, the proceeds of \$260 were donated to Bridge Communities
- participated in our annual Care and Share program, giving away \$2000 in grocery gift cards and purchasing 215 gifts for our Head Start families
- delivered more than 100 gently used coats to Sharing Connections
- continue to maintain a well stocked emergency food bank for our Head Start families

- members, friends, and families worked at the Greater Chicago Food Depository
- members and friends contributed to the special first Sunday collections to support Night Ministry and Walk-In-Ministry of Hope
- senior youth group participated in a Youth Conference on Homelessness
- collected hundreds of small travel size toiletries for DuPage Pads
- about 40 members participated in Cardboard City project and collected \$858.41 to be donated to Bridge Communities
- our youngest members collected teddy bears to be giving to needy children whose families receive services from Sharing Connections.

Thank you to everyone who has generously donated their time and money. We are so very proud of our church family and the contributions that we have made!

Electronics Recycling News

The Green Sanctuary electronics recycling event on Sunday, April 19, took in over 1,600 pounds of e-waste, including contributions from three of our neighbors in Hinsdale. The total exceeded the 1,500 pound mark from our last event in 2007, and the big items this year were big analog TVs.

Board Briefs – April

The Board of Trustees must meet the challenges of operating UCH affairs in a fiscally responsible way while being compassionate, creative, and sensitive to a variety of tastes and traditions. Thus shapes the pattern of the monthly agenda. April brought four items of change to fruition.

First, after several months of exploring options, the Board approved the establishment of a special needs account, channeled through the Minister's Discretionary Account, to allow for a central site for donations to fund the down payment of a modified van for Iain Tilbrook (see separate article). Then the BOT listened to a presentation in support of finding creative ways to help the Acoustic Renaissance Concert series to continue, despite its struggle to stay in the black. There followed a brief discussion of the final wording of a By-laws change, hammered out jointly by the RE and Membership Committees, to provide for teen membership (to be presented for vote at the Annual Meeting).

Finally, with the goals of A) reaching as many members as possible far in advance of the Annual Meeting B) saving printing costs and C) saving production time for Luan, the Board approved posting all Annual Reports (submitted by every trustee, the minister, church administrator, RE director, youth group leaders and others) on a special blog site. For directions to the blog, check the Back Page announcements in the Sunday Order of Service, or the weekly Friday e-mail announcements. A minimum number of hard copies of the reports will be available for those without access to the internet. It's GREEN, FISCALLY RESPONSIBLE, and 21st CENTURY. Change is good!

The Board implores every member, friend, and interested visitor to take the time to read these reports conscientiously to better understand the operations of the church in preparation for informed voting at the Annual Meeting on May 17th. That is the process which makes UU congregation unique: we vote, make decisions, have a say. We don't just leave it to others to tell us how things are going to be. It is our privilege and responsibility to be informed, be involved, and be supportive of our church home and family.

General Announcements

Children's Bereavement Day Camp Planned for Summer

****Our own Cathy Blanford works with Tommy's Kids****

Hinsdale – Adventist St. Thomas Hospice is offering its fourth annual Tommy's Kids Summer Camp, a children's bereavement day camp that is the only one of its kind in DuPage County. While the death of a close friend or family member can be a painful and confusing time for anyone, it is especially difficult for children. Adventist St. Thomas Hospice offers support throughout the year for grieving children through a program called Tommy's Kids Support Group. Tommy's Kids Summer Camp allows the hospice to serve an even larger population of kids. Designed for children ages 5 to 12, the camp will take place daily from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. July 13-17 at Arabian Knights Farms, 6526 Clarendon Hills Road, Willowbrook. The cost is \$50 per child with some scholarships available. Enrollment is limited to 30 children because the ratio of campers to counselors is one to one. The Camp is staffed by Adventist St. Thomas Hospice staff and specially-trained volunteers. For more information about volunteering as a camp counselor or to register a child for camp, contact Heather Kochen at (630) 856-6985.

Activities include nature hikes, arts and crafts, miniature golf, obstacle courses and water balloon battles. Campers will learn to express themselves through bereavement activities including journaling exercises, discussions and a nurse and therapy dog visit. Children should bring a sack lunch each day, including a drink, and wear comfortable shoes. "It's important for grieving children to know that it is okay to still laugh and have fun," said Kochen, youth coordinator for Adventist St. Thomas Hospice, "and at the same time, the camp gives the children the tools and resources to work through their loss." The Hinsdale Hospital Foundation is seeking sponsorships and underwriters on behalf of the hospice. For more information, call (630) 856-2000.

Among Ourselves

Thank You!

Submitted by Pam Fodor and the Religious Education Committee
The Religious Education Committee would like to send a special thank you to the second semester teachers: Kathleen Torquato, Lisa Stukel, Miriam Cleveland, Hans Lonnroth, Liz McDonald, Robyn Abend, John Wayman-Dodd, Linda Elliott, and Susan Hebble. We thank these volunteers for the enthusiasm and love they have put into teaching this semester! A most heartfelt thank you also goes out to Karen Hays and Sara Teppema for their dedication to bringing us the beauty of young voices, and to Roy Fleet and Luan Burton for their tireless hours of work with our youth. Elizabeth Mooney, Emily Mooney, Anna Hebble, Raina Burton, Alyssa Ferrando and Maya Rao should be commended for the loving care they have provided to our youngest children. Thank you everyone! It has been a wonderful year!!

New Touchstone Submission Guidelines

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

Order of Service Announcement Deadline

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

Contacts

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

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

Look for a special summer issue of the Touchstone in mid-late July!