

Services in November

November 1

10:30 A.M.

"Ethics for Postmoderns"

Rev. Edward Searl

Chris Garofalo, Piano

We live in the midst of uncertainty—so says postmodernism. Yet we have a panoply of twentieth century ethics to draw from. Perhaps the postmodern dilemma, regarding ethics, is the number that demands our attention.

November 8

10:30 A.M.

"The Seven Deadly Sins Redux"

Rev. Edward Searl

Jonita Lattimore, soprano and

Chris Garofalo, piano

Inspired by a challenging set of painting by Jamie Wyeth, seagulls depicting each sin, I'll take another look at what the deadly sins means in 2010.

November 15

10:30 A.M.

"The Examined Life: Lessons Learned by One of Life's Pilgrims"

Rev. Edward Searl

The Celebration Singers and Chris Garofalo, piano

I'll offer advice on how to go about "examining your life," a process I've begun and find rewarding.

November 22

10:30 A.M.

All-Community Worship/Stone Soup Sunday

"What We Can Do When We Work Together"

Pam Fodor, DRE, and Ed Searl, Minister

Chris Garofalo, piano

Join us for our annual Stone Soup Sunday! We will worship together and hear the story of Stone Soup. Please bring and drop off in the kitchen a cut up vegetable, small pasta, beans, herbs, etc. During the service, our Stone Soup chef will simmer the vegetarian soup and then we will enjoy lunch together. To round out our meal please bring bread and cheese to share.

November 29

10:30 A.M.

"The Spirituality of Christmas"

Worship Committee

OctaVoce

With Thanksgiving over, the Christmas season begins in earnest. This service sets the tone with Christmas music by OctaVoce and an exploration of the spirit and spirituality of Christmas through essays by members and others.

Greetings

On the upstairs bulletin board in the RE Building I posted a reading by Beth Casebolt for the beginning of the church year.

As you enter or leave this place, bring or take with you

A sense of joy from the gifts

we've been honored with

A sense of appreciation

for the work of others

we benefit from

A sense of commitment

to the strengthening of our church

A sense of love

from those who support us in this community

And a sense of awe

for what we can accomplish

when we work together

in our faith.

This poem has become an inspiration for me as I work. I am blessed to have a staff of volunteers that are dedicated to sharing their gifts. I appreciate the relationships I have with the other staff and am grateful for the work of all the church's committees. I feel that our decision to combine our two services into one has energized our members and has helped us to open our doors to visitors and to welcome new members. I am honored to be a part of this strong and loving community. Together we truly have the ability to work toward accomplishing great things.

Our upcoming Care and Share project is a wonderful way for us to work together to spread holiday cheer to those less fortunate. Look in early November for the opportunity to sign up to purchase clothing or toys for the children in the Head Start program or donate money to be used to provide Jewel Gift cards to the families.

With love in faith,

Pam Fodor, Director of Religious Education

Volume 10, Issue 3

November 2009

In This Issue

Sundays in November	1
Religious Education for Children and Youth	2
Church Announcements	3
General Announcements	11
Among Ourselves	12
Upcoming Events	15



Children and Youth Religious Education

Pam Fodor, Director of Religious Education

Religious Education for November

Chalice Children: Preschool, 10:30 A.M.	Treasure Hunting: Kindergarten And First Grade, 10:30 A.M.	Chapel Service (Grades 2 -6), 10:30 A.M.	Coming Of Age (Grades 7-8), 9:00 A.M.	Senior Youth Group (Grades 9-12), 10:30 A.M.
11-1 Chalice Flannel Board	11-1 Making Peace with our Worries	11-1 All of Us Together	11-1 Meet Your Mentor	11-1 Regular Meeting
11-8 Helping Others	11-8 Laughter is Good Medicine	11-8 Seeds of Understanding	11-8 Who Wants to be a Donut-aire?	11-8 No Meeting
11-15 Thanksgiving with Chalice Children	11-15 Our Helping Hands	11-15 A Time of Thanks	11-15 Bad Things	11-15 Regular Meeting
11-22 Thanksgiving All-Community Worship Service	11-22 Thanksgiving All-Community Worship	11-22 Thanksgiving All-Community Worship	11-22 Thanksgiving All-Community Worship	11-22 Thanksgiving All-Community Worship
11-29 Annual Deck-the-Halls Workshop	11-29 Annual Deck-the-Halls Workshop	11-29 Annual Deck-the-Halls Workshop	11-29 Annual Deck-the-Halls Workshop	11-29 No Meeting

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

Chalice Children (Preschool Ages 3-5 Yrs)

Through the Chalice Flannel board activity, our preschoolers will associate their class group as part of UCH's community and begin to learn how to make friends in the group and the congregation. Young children love to help do chores and other things as a way of showing that they are growing up. In this week's activity, they will discover that a church is another place where they can help others. What better time than Thanksgiving to help small children understand the idea of being thankful for all they have. All are welcome at our Fifth Annual Stone Soup Thanksgiving All-Community Worship Service and Luncheon. Please join us for holiday crafts and merriment at our annual Deck-the-Halls workshop.

Treasure Hunting (Kindergarten And First Grade)

Unitarian Universalists treasure the ability to make peace with our worries. Our Kindergartners and first graders will try using worry dolls and worry stones to help find peace within themselves. After a week worrying about worries, this class will have some fun because laughter is good medicine! UUs treasure our helping hands. What better time of year to discover how to help others! All are welcome at our Fifth Annual Stone Soup Thanksgiving All-Community Worship Service and luncheon. Please join us for holiday crafts and merriment at our annual Deck-the-Halls workshop.

Chapel Service (Grades 2-6)

All of Us Together is a lesson which will lead the children on a journey that explores diversity in the classroom and in our denomination. Although our congregation is rich in diversity we are a community of people all questing and searching together for ideas and beliefs. The young people in Chapel Service will explore the six sources recognized by UUs as important to their spiritual ideas. This time of Thanksgiving lends itself well to discussing the idea of ritual and why it is so important to us. All are welcome at our Fifth Annual Stone Soup Thanksgiving All-Community Worship Service and Luncheon. Please join us for holiday crafts and merriment at our annual Deck-the-Halls workshop.

Coming Of Age (Grades 7-8)

(Meets at 9:00 AM)

The month of November is an exciting one for the Coming of Age youth because they will meet their mentors and have several weeks to play games and get to know each other. All are welcome at our Fifth Annual Stone Soup Thanksgiving All-Community Worship Service and Luncheon. Coming of Age will not meet on November 29th.

Senior Youth Group (Grades 9-12)

Senior Youth Group will have regular meetings on November 1st and 15th. Youth will not meet on November 15th or 29th. Enjoy your Sundays off! All youth are welcome at our Fifth Annual Stone Soup Thanksgiving All-Community Worship Service and Luncheon.

Church Announcements

Social Action Committee (SAC) Meetings

The SAC meets the 1st Sunday of each month -- same day as the monthly collection -- at 12 NOON in the Library, second floor of the R.E Building. Join us!

November 1st Social Justice Collection

The November 1st Social Justice Collection will go to the Greater Chicago Food Depository. About 95,000 people - including seniors, children and working families - rely on the Food Depository every week for food. The Food Depository distributes donated and purchased food through its network of 600 qualified agencies throughout Cook County, such as soup kitchens, shelters and pantries. The agencies then distribute the food to hungry men, women and children in their neighborhoods. These days, the need is greater than ever before. The December 6th Social Justice Collection will go to Family Shelter Service of DuPage County.

Women's Alliance News

On Thursday, November 12, David Owen O'Quill, founding pastor of Micah's Porch, will be speaking to the members of the Alliance. Micah's Porch is a Unitarian Universalist missionary outreach in the Wicker Park neighborhood of Chicago. The church is housed in the wonderfully eclectic theater spaces of the Chopin Theater at 1543 West Division. Micah's Porch attracts young people in their 20's and 30's who are more likely to listen to Red Hot Chili Peppers than NPR, may or may not have college degrees, and are put to sleep by choir music. Join the members of the Alliance as we welcome David O'Quill and learn more about this progressive Unitarian Church. Bring a bag lunch at 12:15 or come for the program at 1 PM. Hostesses for the month will be Ruth Wilson and Betty Mathias. For more information contact Grace Abrahamson (708-485-5983; teacherspr@aol.com).

Holiday Harvest News

Holiday Harvest—November 14!

- The planning is done—let the partying begin! Enjoy delicious dinner fare, silent and live auctions, raffles, door prizes, entertainment, and a chance to socialize with your friends. In fact, bring some friends!
- To see what's available or to make a donation, take a look at our Holiday Harvest website: <http://sites.google.com/site/holidayharvestsite/donations-2009>. No more paper donation forms to fill out! Could we possibly make it easier for you?
- See you at Holiday Harvest on the 14th at 5:00. Tickets are on sale for \$15 (\$20 at the door), and child care registration ends Nov. 8 (\$10 per school age child). We still need helpers for the evening! If available, contact Karen McDowell (can2dowell@sbcglobal.net). Much thanks to all who have contributed to the evening's success. Results of the evening will be posted in the December Touchstone.

New Member Signing Ceremony November 15

Have you been attending church for the past few weeks, months, years, but never got around to signing the Membership Book? The Membership Committee believes that this important event should be shared by the entire congregation. During the November 15 service, you will have the opportunity to become an official member of the Unitarian Church of Hinsdale. Participants in the Oct. 20 –Nov. 10 New UU Class will be invited to sign the Membership Book, along with several others already familiar with our denomination. If you are interested in being a part of this service, contact the church office (630-323-2885; office@hinsdaleunitarian.org) or contact Jane Foulser, Membership Chair (630-833-3028; jfoulser@mindspring.com). Should this date not work for you, prospective members also have the option of signing the book in the presence of our minister, Ed Searl. Please call the church office if you would like to do so.

Seasonal Decorations Sale through November 15th

UCH Youth Group is selling natural balsam wreaths, swags, garlands, mantelpieces, fire kits, Yule logs, and candle rings this fall. Wreath prices start at \$15 for a 20" diameter wreath and scale up to \$57 for a 60" wreath. The products will be available for pick-up by December. Stop at our table in the Alice Warren Room.

Third Tuesday Movie, Tuesday, Nov. 17, @ 7:30 p.m: *Dogtown and Z-Boys*

Ed Searl hosts this ongoing series. This documentary chronicles the relationship between skateboarding and surfing, circa 1970 California. A new skateboarding style/life-style emerged during a drought when backyard pools went dry and became the arena of change.

Non-Fiction Book Group

As the leaves turn color and the winds blow sharp, it feels good to put aside the lighthearted summer and hunker down with an apple and a good book. The non-fiction book group welcomes onlookers and new members as it moves into its third season. They meet on the third Thursday of each month in the cozy Alliance Room where conversation leaps between the whimsical and the profound. No need to have read the book. Just come and join in the mental gymnastics that are friendly and fun. For more information, contact Jane Foulser (630-833-3028; jfoulser@mindspring.com).

Nov. 19 *The Invention of Air* by Steven Johnson

Dec. 17 *Thomas Jefferson* by Christopher Hitchens

Jan. 21 *The Structure of Scientific Revolution* by Thomas Kuhn

Feb. 18 *River of God* by Karen Armstrong

All-Community Thanksgiving Worship Service and Stone Soup Luncheon

Be sure to join us on Sunday, November 22nd at 10:30 for our Fifth Annual STONE SOUP SUNDAY! Bring and drop off in the kitchen before the service a cut up vegetable, pre-cooked beans, rice, or small pasta to add to our soup. In the sanctuary, all ages will gather to worship, enjoying the smell of our soup as it cooks! After the service all are invited to a luncheon of delicious, vegetarian soup. Please bring bread and cheese to share. For more information contact Director of Religious Education Pam Fodor (re@hinsdaleunitarian.org; 630-323-2885, ext 110).

Deck-the-Halls—November 29

On Sunday, November 29th all children ages three and up will meet in Joshi Chapel for our annual Deck-the-Halls Workshop. Children will rotate around stations where they will make a variety of holiday decorations to don our hallways and classrooms. If you have a great holiday craft and would like to share your time and talents with the children please contact Pam Fodor (630-323-2885, ext. 110; re@hinsdaleunitarian.org).

Care and Share Project

The Religious Education Committee and Social Action Committee are very excited to be working on a special holiday project! Our church family will adopt the 34 families that attend the Head Start Program that runs during the week in our RE Building. These families have limited income and all qualify for government assistance for food and education for their children.

Each Head Start family has made a wish-list of toys and clothing that they would like to receive as gifts. You will have the opportunity to show how much you care and want to share by fulfilling their needs and wants. Beginning on Sunday, November 8th we invite you to sign up to purchase a gift or two or maybe even to adopt a whole family. In lieu of collecting food this year, we will collect donations to give each family a \$50 gift card to Jewel Food Store.

On Saturday, December 12th from 1-3pm we will host a Care and Share Party here at the church. The gifts and Jewel Gift Cards will be distributed, and our community and the Head Start families can share some holiday cheer. Please mark this date on your calendars and commit to helping us with this project!

Please direct questions or offers to volunteer to Pam Fodor (re@hinsdaleunitarian.org or 630-323-2885, ext 110).

MANNA Cards Available

MANNA gift cards are now being sold in the AWR before and after church service each Sunday. The selection is limited. Order forms are also available and are due Nov. 1 with cards available for pick up Nov 15. You may also download the order form from the UCH web site. Don't forget to plan for Christmas. Manna cards make great stocking stuffers.

What is the Spirit of Christmas to You?

The Worship Committee is soliciting essays on what the spirit/spirituality of Christmas means to you. Essays will be read as part of the 11/30 service. Essays should be approximately 300 words and describe what Christmas means to you. Essays should be completed and returned to jeannoble03@hotmail.com by Sunday 11/22 to be included in the service.

Flower Dedications

Flower dedications are still available for November and beyond. Commemorate a loved one, birthday, anniversary or important event with a flower dedication. See the sign up book at the Membership table or contact Jean Noble for details.

DID YoUU KNOW?

In 2007, a survey by the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life found that about 340,000 adults in the U.S. consider themselves Unitarian Universalist. That's about 0.3 percent of the adult population. The UUA website lists 1096 UU congregations worldwide.

Chalice Circles: Forming Now. The Circle Won't Be Complete Without You!

We all race the clock, play catch-up, and multi-task on a daily basis. Would you enjoy having some stress-free moments strengthening your relationships with friends at UCH? Then you should join a Chalice Circle.

Chalice Circles bring together 6-12 people once or twice a month for two hours to practice the art of being fully present in the moment. A facilitator guides the meetings. During these two hours, participants share ideas, feelings, values, and experiences, deepening relationships among the group. But attentive listening is equally important to build trust and acceptance. Having a chance to speak from the heart and be heard is a true gift.

If you are interested in forming or joining a Chalice Circle, contact coordinator Luan Burton at office@hinsdaleunitarian.org.

Ushers Wanted

Ushering is a fun way to volunteer and meet new people in the congregation. If you are interested in being an usher, for more information, please contact Jean Noble (708-485-0281 or jeannoble03@hotmail.com).

Worship Committee Opportunity

Have you always wanted more input into our services? Wanted a service on a particular topic? Here is your chance. Fourth Sundays are designated for Intern, All Community, Youth Group and Lay led services. Jean Noble, Worship Trustee, is forming a Worship Committee to help plan the lay led services. This group will plan the sermon topic, find speakers within or outside our church community, and select appropriate readings. If you are interested, contact Jean Noble (708-485-0281; jeannoble03@hotmail.com).

The Endowment Fund

The UCH Endowment Fund is an important part of guaranteeing that the Unitarian Universalist experience will always be available in the western suburbs. Our Endowment Fund is separate from the operating budget of the church, and is funded entirely by specific, designated contributions. A gift to the Endowment Fund provides an excellent way to honor a loved one or an occasion, to remember someone who has passed, or simply to help ensure the continuity of Unitarian Universalism in the area. Designating the Endowment Fund in your will or trust will ensure that your gift endures long after you.

Small gifts to the Endowment Fund are gladly accepted. In the past year, the Endowment Fund received 13 gifts, totaling more than \$3000. These ranged from \$1500 to \$25, and most were in honor of deceased members or celebrated significant events.

Endowment Fund brochures and gift envelopes are available in the church literature rack. For more information, contact the church office (630-323-2885; office@hinsdaleunitarian.org) or consult the Endowment link at www.hinsdaleunitarian.org.

Where's Your Green Cathedral?

Think of a place in nature that has a spiritual meaning for you; that's your green cathedral—or green temple, or green mosque, or green sacred grove. Comb through your photo albums, or fire up your camera, and get a photo of your special place. It could be a park or a forest preserve, a faraway mountain or a quiet spot in your own garden. The Green Sanctuary committee plans to use pictures of spiritual places in a service in the spring. In the coming months, we'll tell you where to send your photos.

Produce Exchange Program Marks Successful Debut

The Green Sanctuary Produce Exchange Program lasted through the first frost and ended the year in the green. Over a dozen UCH home gardeners participated, sharing tomatoes, peppers, squash, zucchini, potatoes, carrots, chard and herbs. The exchange is part of our effort to promote organic and local food. We also thank those who couldn't bring in their own produce, but made cash contributions, which went directly to the church. Search the seed catalogs this winter and plan to join in the exchange next year!

Women's Alliance Honors Louise Noble

Louise Noble was a beloved member of the Unitarian Church of Hinsdale. Since Louise's death, the Women's Alliance, of which she was a dedicated member, has considered ways of memorializing her. Over the past years Louise worked with the Religious Education program and was involved in the education of the children in many ways. We thought it would be appropriate to set up a Memorial Scholarship Fund for religious education in her honor. The fund will assist members of the congregation who would otherwise have a hard time paying their religious education fees. Louise's indomitable spirit will be sorely missed by her countless friends in the congregation. Let this small tribute then serve as a symbol (or reminder) of her lifelong, tireless efforts on behalf of others. To donate, please make checks out to UCH, indicating in the note that the funds go to the Louise Noble Memorial RE Fund.

Head Start Moves On; New Tenant Needed

The Head Start program coordinator has informed us that Head Start will be leaving their space in the RE building around the end of this December. We have had a relationship with Head Start for many years, and we will miss the interaction with their staff, the children, and their families.

The loss of the Head Start rental income will have a financial impact on the church. We are therefore seeking a new tenant as soon as possible to make up the loss. Zoning regulations limit us to an educational or charitable use, and of course we would want a tenant consistent with our UU principles. Any member or friend of the church who has a contact with a school or other agency that might use one or more of the rooms in our RE building should contact use-of-space manager Gene Parvin (genenpd@msn.com or 630-833-7012) or Dave Lloyd (davelloyd@mindspring.com or 708-485-2296).

Please be aware that we still plan to host the Care and Share Project and Party for the Head Start families in November and December. (See Care and Share article in this issue.)

UCH Monthly Collections for Social Justice 2009-2010 and Suggestion Box

The list of recipients for 2009-2010 is as follows:

October 4, 2009—Camp Coast Care
November 1, 2009—Greater Chicago Food Depository
December 6, 2009—Family Shelter Service
January 3, 2010—Planned Parenthood Illinois
February 7, 2010—Southern Poverty Law Center
March 3, 2010—Unitarian Universalist Service Committee
April 4, 2010—Growing Home
May 2, 2010—Puppies Behind Bars
June 6, 2010—Disabled Veterans of Illinois

This church year, the UCH Social Action Committee will collect your ideas for future recipients. Just put your suggestion(s), along with your personal contact info, in the suggestion box at the south end of the church building in the Alice Warren Room. The box will be installed after Holiday Harvest.

Entertainment Books Available

UCH's Youth Group is selling "E" books again this year! The 2-for-1 coupon books offer great savings on dining, movies, attractions, travel, and shopping, covering Chicagoland's West/Central, North/Northwest, and South/Southwest areas. Look for us in the Youth Group corner of the Alice Warren Room.

So how are the new announcements going?

One of the distinct changes to the service is the move of the announcements to the beginning of the service. We are having a different member of the board of trustees, or committee chair, make the announcements each week. If you have an event to highlight, you can find the name of the week's Announcer in the Friday e-mail notices, and send your news to that person; or, if necessary, talk to the person wearing the distinctive Announcer nametag before Sunday service. And we want your feedback! Contact Jean Noble (jeannoble03@hotmail.com or 708-485-0281) to let her know what you think about the announcement program.

Treasurer's Corner

At the May 2008 Annual Meeting, the congregation passed the 2008-09 Budget, but with the addendum that if income exceeded the budget, bonuses of up to 5% of the salaries of Pam Fodor, Ed Searl, and Chris Garofolo would be distributed at year end. Although Current Pledge income fell below budget, our overall income (less the restricted gift income for music) exceeded budget by \$934.57. This surplus income amount (less than 0.66% of the combined salaries) has been distributed proportionately.

	ACTUAL	BUDGET	VARIANCE
Total Revenues	\$333,560	\$331,487	\$ 2,073
Total Expenses	\$321,797	\$331,487	\$(9,690)
Net Operating Inc./Loss	\$11,763	\$0	\$11,763

DID YoUU KNOW?

In 1861, President Abraham Lincoln asked Unitarian poet and lecturer Julia Ward Howe to write an inspirational marching song for the Union troops. Howe penned "The Battle Hymn of the Republic", set to the tune of "John Brown's Body." After the Civil War, the anthem became even more popular nationwide. Howe also served as the first president of the New England Woman Suffrage Association.

Board of Trustees Notes for October

After reports from committees and activities, the Board took up items of old business.

- Dave Lloyd reported that there was no verbal communication with Head Start regarding their vacating our facilities in January.
- Hans Lonnroth announced that plans to paint the Alice Warren room were advancing but other decorating was postponed because of financial constraints.
- Debbi Daniel-Wayman reported the Tilbrook fund-raising project was a success, with 75% of the money coming from church member donations.

New Business consisted of the following:

- Membership Trustee Fred Bloss has tendered his resignation from the Board and names were given to Dave Lloyd as a possible replacement.
- Jean Noble reported on the need for more hymnals now that we have switched to a single service on Sundays. She moved that **we solicit donations for 30-40 hymnals to bring the total inventory to 100. Motion carried (unanimous).**
- Dave Lloyd announced that the Committee on Ministry was complete with the following members: Bob Daniel-Wayman, Suzanne Williams, Julia Beckman and Nancy Holt along with Ed Searl.
- Debbi Daniel-Wayman presented an estimate of \$2500 as the cost for replacement of RE furnishings after Head Start vacates the building. This does not include the cost of activities' equipment that supports curriculum for pre-school. She **moved that the Board support an expenditure not to exceed \$4,000 for equipment that would furnish the pre-school room. Motion carried (one nay)**
- Charlie Fischer reported on a desired bike rack on church grounds estimating a cost to range from \$255 to \$526. Debbi Daniel-Wayman **moved that we approve the bike rack installation on church grounds provided that private funding is made available. Hans Lonnroth seconded. Motion carried (unanimous).**
- Chris Hainey reported the sense of the Finance Committee regarding the motion at the 2008-09 annual meeting concerning staff bonuses. Debbi Daniel-Wayman **moved that revenue based on under-spending or unexpected income for 2008-09 be allocated to the minister, DRE and music director, the money divided proportionately. Jean Noble seconded. Motion passed (unanimous).**
- Luan Burton reported that Dana White would head an automobile donation project with Tri-State Auto, a program that had been successful in the past.

DID YoUU KNOW?

Born in Waukegan, IL in 1920 and raised a Baptist, acclaimed science fiction author, Ray Bradbury, is recognized for Unitarian Universalist beliefs evident in many of his works, like *The Martian Chronicles* (1950), *Fahrenheit 451* (1953), and *A Graveyard for Lunatics* (1990). The Harvard Library website includes Bradbury in its list of Famous UUs.

Neighbor Nights

We Invite You to Attend a Fall 2009 "Neighbor Nights" Gathering in Your Area!

Get to know the UU's in your local area. However, feel free to attend another area gathering if you like. *Call the hosts listed below to RSVP to this invitation*

AREA 1: Hinsdale & Clarendon Hills—Sun. Nov. 1, 6:30-8:30 P.M. hosted by Tony & Mona Taylor, 138 N. Garfield Ave., Hinsdale (630-323-5608; anthonyfwcttaylor@comcast.net)

AREA 2: Willowbrook, Darien & Westmont—Date TBA hosted by Dennis & Janice Sejut, 1501 Shelley Ct., Darien (630-963-2351; sejutjanice@comcast.net)

AREA 3: Indian Head Park, Western Springs & La Grange Highlands—Sun. Nov. 1, 5-9 P.M. hosted by Jeff and Susan Hebble, 5329 Lawn Ave., West. Sprgs. (708-784-1688; sjhebble@comcast.net)

AREA 4: Elmhurst, Villa Park, Des Plaines, Schaumburg & Niles—Sat. Oct. 24, 7-9 P.M. hosted by Jane and Dave Foulser, 384 Hill Ave., Elmhurst (630-833-3028; jfoulser@mindspring.com)

AREA 5: Glen Ellyn, Lombard, Wheaton, Naperville, Oak Brook & Oakbrook Terrace—Sun. Nov. 22, 2-4 P.M. hosted by Steven and Julie Oshen, 266 Cumnor Ave., Glen Ellyn (630-469-3859; moodoo@wowway.com)

AREA 6: Westchester, Brookfield, Lyons, River Forest, Riverside & Chicago—Host needed If interested in hosting, contact Jane Foulser (630-833-3028; jfoulser@mindspring.com)

AREA 7: La Grange Park, La Grange, Countryside, Burr Ridge & Willow Springs—Sun. Oct 25 , 3-5 P.M. hosted by Rebecca and Richard Carnall & Velaine Carnall, 5333 7th Ave., Countryside (708-354-2477; buckleswasher@aol.com)

AREA 8: Downers Grove—Host needed If interested in hosting, contact Jane Foulser (630-833-3028; jfoulser@mindspring.com)

AREA 9: Woodridge, Bolingbrook, Lemont, Lockport, Manteno, Oswego, Plainfield, Romeoville, Homer Glen & Lisle—Host needed If interested, contact Jane Foulser (630-833-3028; jfoulser@mindspring.com)

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

General Announcements

Gently-Used Cribs Needed

Sue Ekins, Development Manager of Sharing Connections Furniture Bank in Downers Grove, informs us that SCFB needs gently-used cribs for low-income women who are pregnant or who have a baby. If you have a crib or crib mattress stored away that you no longer need, please consider donating it.

Sharing Connections Furniture Bank, which provides furniture and household items of all kinds to low-income families, also currently needs cleaning supplies and personal care items for their clients. If you can donate any of these items, please drop them off at the SCFB warehouse at 5111 Chase Avenue, Downers Grove, IL. The warehouse is open to receive donations Monday through Friday from 9:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. and Saturday from 9:00 A.M. until noon. Financial donations are also welcome, and all donations are tax-deductible.

Residents of Downers Grove, Burr Ridge, Clarendon Hills, Darien, Hinsdale, LaGrange, LaGrange Park, Oak Brook, Western Springs, and Willowbrook can schedule a free pick up of large furniture, including cribs, by calling (630) 971-0565, x300, or by visiting the website, www.sharingconnections.org, which explains what items are accepted.

Target 350 a Huge Success

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



Among Ourselves

Thank you!

A special thank you is sent to Nancy Holt for donating her time and the materials to make the beautiful stoles for the Coming of Age youth and their mentors. Thank you Nancy for your continued support of our program! Your effort is recognized each Sunday as we put on our stoles!

Meet Three . . . Religious Education Volunteers

Susan Mooney

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

A. joined in 1996, but had been coming off and on for several years before I joined. When I first started coming to church I had very small children at home and the Sunday morning services were my peaceful interludes in otherwise hectic weeks. They gave me time to think, relax, and recharge. As my children grew I was also drawn by the many opportunities offered to them in the RE program..

2. *Q. Briefly describe your religious background.* A. I was raised Catholic until age 5 when my parents divorced. My mom married a wonderful man (who happened to be Jewish) on my 8th birthday. They found a place to feel welcomed and at home at the Unitarian Church in Flushing, New York. I learned a little about being a UU there, but it was a very small church and had a very small RE program and by the time I left for college I didn't have much of a connection to being a UU. I developed a much better sense of my own beliefs and understanding of Unitarian Universalism by visiting all sorts of churches (including UU churches) as I moved around the East Coast from college to grad school to work. My own little "church across the street" experience!

3. *Q. How do you explain our beliefs to your non-Unitarian friends (or family)?*

A. I tell them we are an open-minded community; respectful and interested in the lives and beliefs of others. We are all able to develop our own spiritual beliefs and they may vary widely but we are all connected in some way to the 7 principles.

4. *Q. In what way has this church impacted your activities from day to day (if at all)?* A. There are specific activities I do related to church commitments, like RE or being a volunteer escort at the health clinics or learning how to knit so that I can SOMEDAY (I'm a VERY slow knitter) donate a care shawl! I am also part of a Chalice Circle that has offered me a different way to get to know other members and think about and discuss interesting topics.

5. *Q. In what way(s) do you contribute to the UCH Religious Education program?* I'm the Chair of the RE Committee and a volunteer teacher for the pre-school class. I've been on the RE Committee for many years.

6. *Q. What do you most enjoy about helping with R.E.?* It's been a great way for me to meet other members and families. I also love listening to and talking to the children and youth. It is good to be reminded of how they see and experience the world.

7. *Q. What do you want UCHers to know about Religious Education for kids and youth at UCH?*

A. We should all be very proud of the religious education program offered to our children and youth. Having attended a church that did not have a robust RE program, I am grateful for the many opportunities our children have to really explore not only what it means to be a UU but also to learn about the other religions of the world and to develop their own faith statements. Our children have these opportunities because we have a very dedicated Director of Religious Education and Youth Advisors and because so many UCHers give their time and talents to teach and mentor our children. I'd encourage anyone who hasn't had a chance to volunteer in the RE program to give it a try!

Roy Fleet

1. Q. *How long have you been a member of UCH and what was it that drew you to this church?*
A. After Jeanne and I attended a wedding performed by a UU minister, we agreed that's what we wanted. We found UCH and Ed, and he led our marriage service in June 1984. We joined in 1988 – for RE - when Sarah was three (going on 6) and Eric was recently dedicated (by Ed, of course)
2. Q. *Briefly describe your religious background.*
A. I was raised Episcopalian, dropped out in high school, found Buddhism in the seventies, moved on to atheism, and found a religious home at UCH.
3. Q. *How do you explain our beliefs to your non-Unitarian friends (or family)?*
A. On the light side: no heaven, no hell, summers off, give thanks, and golden rule. When things get heavy: UU principles and purposes.
4. Q. *In what way has this church impacted your activities from day to day (if at all)?*
A. Continuing commitment to the youth of UCH: education and UU-centered activities.
5. Q. *What is your all-time favorite movie and why?* A. Mel Brook's *Blazing Saddles*. It has everything.
6. Q. *Alive or not, whom do you admire most?* A. My Dad: taught by example and admitted to not always being right—so watch out. Two lessons: work hard (Merchant Marines for 18 years with war commission, electrician for 35 years) and take care of your family.
7. Q. *In what way(s) do you contribute to the UCH Religious Education program?*
A. Since 1992 youth advisor and since 1994 sexuality education facilitator for youth in grades 7 – 12.
8. Q. *What do you most enjoy about helping with R.E.?*
A. Watching our UU youth mature and prosper in a very non-UU environment
9. Q. *What do you want UCHers to know about Religious Education for kids and youth at UCH?*
A. For all R.E. youth: This is the best and sometimes the only place where they will find acceptance, camaraderie, and affirmation.
10. Q. *If someone wrote your biography, what would you suggest as a title?*
A. "He Always Knew Where his Towel Was"

Lisa Stukel

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

A. My husband Tom and I and our sons have been members since January of 2005. I was looking for a place for my sons so they could have a spiritual background and be open minded to all faiths. My friend suggested a Unitarian Church. I had never heard of the Unitarian faith, so I looked it up and researched it. I shared this with my husband as well. I then went online and found The Hinsdale Unitarian Church and decided to visit. I loved it right from the start, then dragged my husband (unwillingly I might add) and he was pleasantly impressed. We then had our sons dedicated at a child dedication service and we have been members ever since.

2. Q. *Briefly describe your religious background.* A. I was raised Catholic, went to a Catholic high school, and a Catholic University. I was also married by a Catholic priest. I started questioning the doctrine and dogmatic practices in college after taking philosophy classes and dissecting the Bible in a gospel class. I still have my old Catholic prayers and saints, I still do believe in. I call them my "Catholic Ties", but I did not want my children being raised with fear, as I believe that is the basis of the Catholic faith. I do not agree with many of the practices in the Catholic church, predominately their treatment towards women.

3. Q. *How do you explain our beliefs to your non-Unitarian friends (or family)?* A. I have a very difficult time explaining the Unitarian beliefs to my family mostly. My friends all seem to understand, I have converted a few! :) Maybe it is because, I do believe in God and Jesus, and the saints, but also I really feel at home in the Unitarian Church. Some may say I am hypocritical. I call myself a constant questioner....that is why I fit here. But my family really is not happy with our decision to raise our kids Unitarian, as I am the only one in my family to switch religions, so it is a constant battle for me. But I am happy with the decisions I have made along with my husband.

4. Q. *What is your all-time favorite movie and why?* A. My favorite movie is "It's A Wonderful Life" because my favorite actor is Jimmy Stewart. But mostly because the movie is so true in ordinary lives. One life touches the soul of many others. This movie constantly reminds me every year when I watch it, that "no man is a failure who has friends." It is powerful. It is inspiring. It is real. On Christmas Eve, this was our tradition to watch this before Midnight Mass. I can quote every line. It just moves me...no matter how many times I see it, I still bawl like a baby at the end.

5. Q. *Alive or not, whom do you admire most? Explain.* I have many people I admire: Eleanor Roosevelt, Amelia Earhart, Michelle Obama, Barack Obama, ML King, Ghandi, and countless others. I admire people who don't give up, who persevere, no matter what the cost. But out of all these people, I admire my husband the most. He amazes me with his intelligence and his drive to always succeed and never give up. He is my hero. I have done some really important things I don't think I would have done without his drive inspiring me.

6. Q. *In what way(s) do you contribute to the UCH Religious Education program?* A. I contribute to the R.E. program by serving on the RE committee. I also taught preschool last year in the winter session and may teach kindergarten this coming winter. The kids are terrific and I love to be around them. They keep me young!

Upcoming Events

Social Action Committee Meeting—Sunday November 1, Noon. All welcome. Meet in the Library, 2nd floor, of the R.E. Building. For more information, contact Paula Sejut-Dvorak (psejut-devorak@sbcglobal.net).

Neighbor Night— Sunday, November 1, 5-9 P.M.— Area 3: Indian Head Park, Western Springs & La Grange Highlands—hosted by Jeff and Susan Hebble, 5329 Lawn Ave., Western Springs (708-784-1688; sjhebble@comcast.net)

Neighbor Night— Sunday, November 1, 6:30-8:30 P.M.— Area 1: Hinsdale & Clarendon Hills—hosted by Tony & Mona Taylor, 138 N. Garfield Ave., Hinsdale (630-323-5608; anthonyfwcttaylor@comcast.net)

Women's Alliance— Thursday, November 12, lunch 12:15 P.M. , program 1:00 P.M.
David Owen O'Quill, founding pastor of Micah's Porch, will be speaking to the members of the Alliance. Hostesses for the month will be Ruth Wilson and Betty Mathias. For more information contact Grace Abrahamson (708-485-5983; teacherspr@aol.com).

Holiday Harvest--Saturday, November 14, 5:00 P.M.
All are welcome, and bring friends!

Third Tuesday Movie— Tuesday, Nov. 17, 7:30 P.M.: "Dogtown and Z-Boys." Ed Searl hosts this ongoing series in the church sanctuary.

Non-Fiction Book Group— Thursday, November 19, 7:30 P.M., *The Invention of Air* by Steven Johnson. Contact Jane Foulser for more information (630-833-3028; jfoulser@mindspring.com)

Volunteer Greater Chicago Food Depository— Saturday, November 21, 1:30 - 4:30 P.M.
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: Dec 19.

Neighbor Night— Sunday, November 22, 2-4 P.M.— Area 5: Glen Ellyn, Lombard, Wheaton, Naperville, Oak Brook & Oakbrook Terrace—hosted by Steven and Julie Oshen, 266 Cumnor Ave., Glen Ellyn (630-469-3859; moodoo@wowway.com)

New Touchstone Submission Guidelines

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

Order of Service Announcement Deadline

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

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

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