

## Music Schedule

**September 7**

Chris Garofalo, Piano

**September 14**

Jonita Lattimore, Soprano

**September 21**

Chris Garofalo, Piano

**September 28**

Celebration Singers

## Services

**September 7**

9:30 and 11:00 AM

*"What I Did During My Summer Vacation"*

Rev. Edward Searl

I'll talk about a book that greatly affected me, about my intentions to initiate a congregation-wide, year-long conversation on race, and about a new book project you can help me with. There'll also be time for a Board of Trustees report on the outcome of its several summer retreats.

**Monthly Collection For Social Justice: Knoxville Relief Fund** (See article on page 8 for more information.)

**September 14**

9:30 and 11:00 AM

*"Ethical Building Blocks"*

Rev. Edward Searl

Last year in a sermon on Evolutionary Biology's take on ethics, I listed five areas of universal ethical behavior: do no harm, community, fairness, authority, and purity. In this service I'll challenge you to thoughtfully order your life along these five areas. This will serve as a helpful means to cultivate the Life Ethical.

**September 21**

9:30 and 11:00 AM

*"Looking into the Abyss"*

Rev. Edward Searl

Two prominent UUs, struggling with terminal cancer at relatively young ages, have provided inspiration and insight: Forrest Church, for many years the senior minister of All Souls UU Church in New York City, and Randy Pausch, the Carnegie Mellon professor whose "Last Lecture" became popular on the Internet and was transformed into a best-selling book. UUism leads the way in coming to terms with mortality—just in time for the Baby Boomers entering their final decades.

**September 28**

9:30 and 11:00 AM

*"Fifth Annual W.C. Gannett Awards"*

Rev. Edward Searl

This is one of my favorite annual services. I highlight five or six aspects of our common life that I think noteworthy for their excellence. The awards are given in honor of the first minister of UCH, William Channing Gannett, and his enduring principle of "domesticating the infinite."

## A Blog Invitation

Reverend Searl invites you to visit his blog—[edsearl.blogspot.com](http://edsearl.blogspot.com)—for commentary on religion in America, especially politics and religion this election year.

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THE UNITARIAN CHURCH OF HINSDALE

*THE TOUCHSTONE*

# Religious Education

## Welcome Back! Pam Fodor, Director of Religious Education

I had a wonderful summer spending lots of time at the pool and in Colorado with my family, but I missed church and my church family! I am so excited about this year. We are implementing a lot of new programs and are offering many new curricula, not to mention we have a fabulous group of volunteers. Every year I say it will be a great year, but I am especially looking forward to our line up of programs! Check out what we have planned!

## Nursery

Ages: Birth – 2 years  
Time: 9:30 and 11:00  
Location: Room 1 (lower level of RE Building)  
Two trained and nurturing youth provide childcare for infants and toddlers in our secure nursery room. The nursery is well-stocked with books, toys, a crib, a changing table, and a phone for emergencies.

## Preschool

Ages: 3, 4, and Pre-K 5  
Time: 9:30 only  
Location: Room 4 (lower level of RE Building)  
This program runs on a three-year rotation. The curricula are based on the premise that young children learn through experience. The class is held in a large and well-maintained room used during the week by a Head Start program.

*We Are Many, We Are One*  
The curriculum we'll use this fall offers young children the opportunity to learn about their religious community and tradition, as well as the freedom to discover and express their uniqueness. The four units in this program encourage children to use their minds, bodies, and emotions to develop their sense of identity and self-esteem within their Unitarian Universalism community and their world.

## Kindergarten And First Grade

Grades: Kindergarten and First  
Time: 9:30 only  
Location: Room 2 (lower level of RE Building)  
This program runs on a two-year rotation. Combinations of curricula are used over the course of this two-year program.

### *The Haunting House*

This curriculum develops the theme of “home” as a religious search for our place in the universe. The children conduct this search by their purposeful work and play, and in conversation with other children and the caring adults who share their environment. Along with this curriculum we will also offer Our Whole Lives (OWL). This age-appropriate sexuality education program promotes personal/sexual health and safety.

## *Age Of Reason (Spring 2009) Stepping Stones*

The Age of Reason Program of Religious Becoming is a six-week workshop for first graders through which the children are affirmed in their Unitarian Universalist faith and embraced by our community. The children experience a formal rite of passage to honor their religious growth and to foster their identities as young Unitarian Universalists.

### Children's Chapel

Grades: 2-6

Time: 9:30 only

Location: Joshi Chapel (upper level of RE Building)

This program runs on a five-year rotation, using several curricula. In addition, several social events are held throughout the year to help develop friendships and community among the children. Fifth and sixth graders are given special opportunities to develop leadership skills and to prepare for participation in our youth groups.

Opportunities to interact with adults in the congregation are provided via guest speakers at Chapel, intergenerational social action projects, social events, and workshops.

We'll begin Children's Chapel with this curriculum, which poses life's big questions. How did the world begin? How did I begin? How can I live my life worthwhile? Why do people die? What is right and wrong? We will take small jumps on stepping stones to begin exploring the answers to these questions.

### Fifth And Sixth Grade Workshops

Time: 9:30 only

Location: Room 5 (upper level of RE Building)

In order to supplement the 5th and 6th grade students' religious education and spirituality development, we will offer three additional workshops during Chapel Service each year.

#### *Travel In Time (Fall 2008)*

This workshop is about Unitarian Universalism, its history in North America, its affirmations and principles, and the many ways in which individual UUs live their religious beliefs. The program helps young people to become aware of their own understandings and feelings about their religious identity and leads them on a journey to new understanding.

## Upcoming September Events

Mark your calendars!

**Friday, September 5th**

### **Welcome Back Family Pizza Party**

Come get reacquainted with your church friends while you dine on pizza and veggies! You can check out your classroom and play outside in our garden and playground, too. Moms and dads will have a chance to register and ask questions about the curricula. Pizza, veggies, and beverages will be provided, but donations to help defray the cost will be greatly appreciated.

**Sunday, September 7th**

First Church Service for the New Year

Be sure to be back with us on the first day! All children will meet in their classrooms to find out what their teachers have in store for the new year.

### Registration

Please be sure to stop by at the registration table outside the RE Building on September 7th to drop off your family's registration paperwork and to pick up our new comprehensive program guide. Pam Fodor is available any time to speak with you further about your child or our program. Please feel free to contact her at 630-323-2885 or [re@hinsdaleunitarian.org](mailto:re@hinsdaleunitarian.org).

## Youth Group Activities

### Roy Fleet, Youth Director

#### **For new readers:**

Activities include community service/social action, education, worship, leadership, and recreation. As always, the emphasis is on having fun while applying UU Principles and Purposes.

YG's community service/social action efforts include Crop Walk, a coat drive, IDOT's Adopt-a-Highway, a team building course for the Our Whole Lives Sexuality Education Program (OWL), and gifts to OWL and graduating members. Beginning this year, YG's education efforts will feature the Neighboring Faith program with visits to area houses of worship in addition to the usual discussion of current events vis-a-vis UU Principles and Purposes, use of curricula relevant to current events, Bridging programs, and OWL. Junior YG and Senior YG have worship during meetings and conduct a Sunday service each year. YG members have hosted weekend diversity conferences and have other opportunities to hone leadership skills. This year, YG's recreation activities will include conferences, lock-ins, and a year-end retreat to Lake Geneva. YG will also begin developing a service trip for the summer of 2010.

Fundraising supports the majority of YG activities, including snacks. Our fundraising includes sales of coupon books, seasonal wreaths, and a variety of plants in the spring. Each YG member has a fundraising account to support his/her participation in conferences and the retreat. As in the past, general YG funds will be prorated by level of participation, so weekly attendance counts toward the individual accounts.

### OWL

Our Whole Lives - Sexuality Education for 7th, 8th, and 9th graders will start on **Sunday, September 14th** with a get-acquainted activity at the Lincoln Marsh Teams Course in Wheaton from 1 to 4 PM. Then there will be 23 weekly meetings from 9:15-10:30 beginning **Sunday, September 21st** through April. The group will meet in Room 6. In order for a youth to participate, at least one parent must attend one of the orientation sessions listed below, and both parents must sign a permission form. Facilitators Joyce Agner, Pam Fodor, Tony Meadors, and Roy Fleet have been trained by the UUA and have years of experience working with youth. Please check the calendar on page 5.

## Neighboring Faiths

Neighboring Faiths will be offered for Junior and Senior YG members in October, March, and April. This program encourages youth to learn about various religions, with 2 or 3 facilitated sessions on Sundays at 11 AM and then a visit to the place of worship being studied. The curriculum will be facilitated by Pam Fodor and the YG Advisors. Please check the calendar on page 5 for specifics.

### Junior Youth Group

JYG is for youth in 7th and 8th grades. JYG will enjoy Neighboring Faiths meetings, as well as regular meetings throughout the year. Mike Ferrando and Bill Wilson are the advisors. Please check the calendar on page 5.

### Senior Youth Group

SYG is for high school youth and YG alumni. SYG meets on Sundays in the Room 6 at 11 AM. Luan Burton and Roy Fleet are the advisors. Please check the calendar on page 5.

## YG Activities for September

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

6	Saturday	OWL:	Parents' Orientation: 10 AM -12:30 PM, Room 6
7	Sunday	YG: OWL:	RE registration 9:15 and 10:45 AM & Meetings Parents' Orientation: 12:30 – 3 PM, Room 6
14	Sunday	YG: OWL:	Meetings Lincoln Marsh Teams Course: 1-4 PM
20	Saturday	Advisor Training @ Bradford Community Church, Kenosha, WI	
21	Sunday	OWL: YG: OWL:	Session 1: Introduction to the Program Highway Clean-Up: 11 AM Rain Date for Teams Course: 1-4 PM
28	Sunday	OWL: SYG:	Session 2: Examining Values Meeting

# Board Briefs

The Board met five times during the summer, which included two retreat sessions. We welcome new trustees: Debbie Daniel-Wayman (RE), Shelley Hendrickson (Treasurer), Jean Noble (Faith in Action/Denomination), and Janice Sejut (Worship).

Dave Lloyd has switched hats to oversee the Membership portfolio, and has many ideas and plans for our main focus: improving how we put on a friendly face and extend a welcoming hand to visitors and members alike; how we follow-up with new members; and how we minister to the cares and concerns of everyone in the congregation. If he has not already contacted you, you will be hearing from him early in September, so think about how you might help with these initiatives.

We are working on getting job descriptions for all paid positions, which began with the need to define the Church Administrator's position now filled by Luan Burton. Ellie Searl has shifted gears to Luan's former job of Assistant to the Treasurer. Susan Hebble (Communications) reported that Shiloh Madsen has been revamping the UCH web site, which relies heavily on many movers and shakers submitting copy to him.

The very impressive new RE pamphlets which outline the entire three-year cycle of the religious education curriculum are ready for the first Sunday.

Finally, we cannot thank Donna Milord enough for the enormous job she did the past two years as Treasurer. Ending the 07-08 year better than \$300 in the black was due in large part to the above-and-beyond hours she spent on the books and her keen oversight and constant reminders to limit spending, as well as to the Finance Committee's careful budgeting and diligence in following-up on delinquent pledges. We recognize the changing economic times and appreciate the many generous volunteers and all who are able to maintain their pledge commitment.

We are eager to begin the new year and welcome everyone back to their church home. Now click your heels three times and repeat, "There's no place like UCH. There's no place like UCH....."

## **FISCAL YEAR 2007-2008 (July '07– June '08)**

### **Financial Highlights:**

	<b>ACTUAL</b>	<b>BUDGET</b>	<b>VARIANCE</b>
Total Revenues	\$ 314,453	\$ 325,973	\$ (11,520)
Total Expenses	\$ 314,110	\$ 325,973	\$ 11,863
Net Operating Inc./(Loss)	\$ 343	\$ 0	\$ 343

### **Treasurer's Corner**

Total Revenues for the year were lower than Budget, mostly due to shortfalls in 'Pledge Payments' which were partially offset by higher revenues from 'Non-Pledge Gifts', 'Fund Raisers (Manna)', and 'Use of Premises'. Approximately 68 Pledgers were in arrears as of June 30th; 51 as of July 31st.

# Church Announcements

## Volunteer Greater Chicago Food Depository

September 13 1:30 - 4:30 PM

NO COMMITMENT - COME ONCE AND TRY US OUT. This makes an excellent project to bond with friends, kids, and 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. Upcoming dates for 2008: Oct 11, Nov 8, Dec 13. Call Jean Noble (708-485-0281) for directions/further information.

## The Celebration Singers Needs – Singers!

The Singers is a group of volunteers who enrich our Sunday services with a wide variety of music - folk, classical, spirituals, and secular. We rehearse on most Sunday mornings at 9:30 AM in the RE Building with performances once a month at both services. New singers (men and women) are always welcome in every section. The only requirement is that you be able to carry a tune. Please join us at our first rehearsal Sunday, September 14 at 9:30 AM. You'll get a warm, friendly welcome!!

For more information, please call or email Director Julia Beckman at 630-985-4688 or beckman110@comcast.net.

## Women's Alliance Meets on September 11

While enjoying the waning days of summer, be sure and mark your calendar for the Alliance's first meeting of the new church year. On Thursday, September 11, we are pleased to announce that Donna Goetz, a longtime professor at Elmhurst College, will present a program entitled "The Psychology of Religion." This program will explore why people develop their religious faith and how it can be a force for good in the world. All are welcome to attend so please join us for a look at this intriguing topic. Bring a bag lunch and join us at 12:15 in the Alliance Room, or come for the presentation at 1 PM in the Rutherford Room. Our hostesses for the month are Grace Abrahamson and Rose Matousek.

## Rutherford Room Chairs

The project to replace the chairs in the Rutherford Room was initiated by the Alliance. Funds were raised over two years to purchase a gift to the church in memory of Edna Fredericks. Donors are being sought to purchase the remaining chairs of the set of eight. If you are interested in purchasing one of the chairs, please contact Nancy Holt. The cost of each chair, including a brass plaque, is \$200.

## **Monthly Social Justice Collections**

### **September 7 Knoxville Relief Fund**

This year our church will continue to extend our support to greater society with monthly social justice collections. One Sunday each month, all cash and designated checks collected during the offertory will be donated to a chosen organization or institution.

The September 7 Social Justice Collection will be the Knoxville Relief Fund. The Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations (UUA) in collaboration with the Thomas Jefferson District has established the Knoxville Relief Fund to bring ministry, spiritual care, and practical financial assistance to those affected by the tragedy in

## **Entertainment Books Available At The Youth Group Corner In The Alice Warren Room**

Youth Group is selling "E" books covering Chicagoland's West/Central, North/Northwest, and South/Southwest areas. The 2-for-1 coupon books offer great savings on dining, movies, attractions, travel, and shopping.

Knoxville, Tennessee. Your gifts will assist the Tennessee Valley UU Church and the Westside Unitarian Universalist Fellowship and their members, and will show them that they are not alone during this time of shock and grief.

To donate, please use the following guidelines:

- If you wish to write a check directly to the organization, make it out to "Knoxville Relief Fund."
- If you prefer to make your donation via a check written to UCH, you must indicate Knoxville Relief Fund 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.

## **An Intergenerational Chance To Make A Small Difference**

On Sunday, September 21st, come join the members of Youth Group as they pick up the right-of-way along Ogden between Route 83 and I-294. Participants will meet in RE Room 6 at 11 AM to set up work teams. Weather-appropriate clothing including long pants and sturdy shoes will make the work safer. Work is usually finished by noon. Contact Roy Fleet at [frfinc@gmail.com](mailto:frfinc@gmail.com).

## Floral Dedications Needed

The flowers at each week's service are donated by members, so I am actively seeking floral dedications for September 14, 21, and 28. Donors may either bring in their own flowers or work with the church office to have a florist arrangement delivered. If you would like to provide flowers for September or would like further information, please send me an e-mail at [jeannoble03@hotmail.com](mailto:jeannoble03@hotmail.com). I will have a sign-up book for next year's services available on September 7.

## UCH Film Series 2008-2009

Reverend Ed Searl will again host a monthly film discussion series. This year's focus will be Documentary Films--An Exploration of Truth and Image. We will meet the third Tuesday of each month at 7:30 P.M., from September through May in the Sanctuary.

The first film of the series will be shown Tuesday September 16. *Nanook of the North*, considered to be the first documentary made, was directed as a silent film by Robert Flaherty in 1922. Music was added to the film in the 1990s. Follow the fate of Inuit Nanook and family as they brave the harsh cycle of a year in the barren Arctic.

## A Conversation On Race

This year's presidential campaign has highlighted the need, once again, for a national conversation on race. This church year, Reverend Ed Searl will lead the congregation in a variety of programs to facilitate this conversation.

For one program, One Book, all UCH members and friends are encouraged to participate in a book discussion of one of the classic "slave narratives" penned by Frederick Douglass in 1845. Without a sense of the reality of slavery, a conversation about race is hollow, so discussion of this powerful portrayal of one slave's condition from within the experience should prove both engaging and enlightening.

An easy way to acquire the text is through Project Gutenberg's free download:  
<http://www.gutenberg.org/etext/23>

The book may also be ordered from online sources and purchased through brick and mortar bookstores.

## Garage Sale 2008

### Ray Masterson and Nancy Holt, Co-Chairs

Thanks to many who made donations to the garage sale and to the devoted crew who worked from July 21-26, the income from the sale was \$2700. Set-up for the sale began on Monday and many volunteers worked throughout the week to prepare for the sale that began at 8 AM on Saturday. The sale ended at 2 PM, but that was not the end of the work. Another enthusiastic group arrived to clean up and load the unsold items on the truck supplied by The National Children's Cancer Society. Donations of unsold items were also made to the Visiting Nurse Association in LaGrange, Catholic Charities, and a fifth grade classroom in Chicago Ridge. The following volunteers are to be commended for their commitment to the Church:

Julia Beckman	Cathy Blanford	Fred Bloss
Luan Burton	Tori Carnall	Velaine Carnall
Norteen Costello	Al Fischer	Betty Fischer
Charlie Fischer	Jane Foulser	Cathy Goering
Tiffany Glass	Susan Hebble	Herb Hiestand
Roy Holt	Phyllis Janek	Karin Janoski
Dave Lloyd	Hans Lonnoth	Janice Lonnoth
Stephanie Kirk	Betty Mathias	Karen McDowell
Liz McDonald	Pat Miller	Annie Pax
Joan Prims	Sally Packard	Laurie Pontarelli
Maya Rao	Ed Searl	Ellie Searl
Dennis Sejut	Janice Sejut	Martha Simmons
Beth Staas	Sara Teppema	Jeff Teppma
Nancy Weill	Suzanne Williams	Ruth Wilson

### Are You Good At Greeting People? Can You Make A Pot Of Coffee?

I am actively seeking volunteers for ushers and coffee for the upcoming year. Both "jobs" provide a great way to interact with visitors and fellow members, and you'd be an integral part of making our Sundays successful! The commitment is for one service (9:30 or 11:00) per month.

If you are interested or would like further details, please contact me at [jeannoble03@hotmail.com](mailto:jeannoble03@hotmail.com).

### Interested in Joining A Food Cooperative?

Liberal Pantry has called UCH its home for over 11 years and draws its membership from the congregation and surrounding communities. The co-op buys organic and environmentally friendly produced products in case lots from United Natural Foods and repackages the products according to advance orders. Deliveries are received and processed in the Alice Warren Room every 4 weeks on a Monday. Contact Roy Fleet at [rfinc@gmail.com](mailto:rfinc@gmail.com).

## ***New Touchstone Submission Guidelines***

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