

Services in September

September 13

10:30 A.M.

"Summer 2009"

Rev. Edward Searl

This isn't "what I did on my summer vacation." No, this is what ran through my mind from June through September--the bits and pieces that have relevance from a religious perspective.

Music: Chris Garofalo, Piano

September 20

10:30 A.M.

"The Worm in the Apple"

Rev. Edward Searl

Health care reform raises the ire of seniors who fear the diminution of Medicare and a specter of "death boards" who might deem to "pull the plug on grandma." End of life care in a time of longer lives and diminishing resources has become a prominent ethical conundrum of the day.

*Music: Jonita Lattimore, Soprano
Chris Garofalo, Piano*

September 27

10:30 A.M.

"Exemplars and Heroes"

Rev. Edward Searl

Children and youth join in the beginning of this service dedicated to heroes and exemplars of the liberal religious way of our merged tradition--Unitarian and Universalist.

To symbolize our gathered community, we're going to observe an autumn rendition of "Flower Communion." So bring a flower(s) or sprig to gather into a great communal bouquet. Learn about the Czech Unitarian Norbert Capek who created this beautiful ceremony for his Prague Church and who was martyred by the Nazis as a threat to the state.

*Music: Celebration Singers
Julia Beckman, Director
Chris Garofalo, Piano*

Greeting From The Minister

Welcome...

Welcome back! One of my favorite aspects of our congregation is the summer holiday we take from mid-June through the Sunday after Labor Day. I like the implicit message of religious freedom, fallowness, and faith (trust that all will return).

Welcome home! We're always seeking our home and we're always coming home. Ultimately and essentially home is a reflection of Self.

Welcome to you! In this Church of the Human Spirit we appreciate all that is universal. At the same time we respect the uniqueness and value of each person. In the words of our founding anthem (1889): "Here be no one a stranger, no holy cause be banned; no good for one not counted, a good for all the land."

Welcome back! Welcome home!
Welcome to each of you!

Rev. Edward Searl



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Children and Youth Religious Education

Pam Fodor, Director of Religious Education

Religious Education for September			
	September 13	September 20	September 27
Nursery	Open	Open	Open
Preschool	Welcome to Chalice Children	A Tour of Church	Making Chalices
K-1	Hurray for Differences	Each Person is a Treasure	The Power of Our Minds and Hearts
Chapel	UU and Inner Quests	Mystery and Action Quests	Reflections
Coming of Age (COA)	Meet with YG at 10:30 A.M.	Orientation and Opening Ceremony (9:00 A.M.)	Getting Started (9:00 A.M.)
Youth Group (YG)	Meet at 10:30 A.M.	Regular Meeting	Highway Clean-Up

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).

September 13

Welcome Back! All the children and youth will meet in their classrooms with their teachers to get reacquainted and hear what will be happening during the year. Preschoolers, Kinders and First Graders will be welcoming each other by celebrating how they are alike and different. Chapel Children will explore the ideas of going on quests and discovering where these quests might lead them. Junior and Senior High youth will meet together at 10:30 for welcome back hugs and good conversation.

September 20

Preschoolers will have a chance to get acquainted with our church by taking an in-depth tour of our church buildings. Don't be surprised to see little faces in the sanctuary! Kinders and First graders will affirm that each and everyone one of us is a treasure, reflecting our first and most wonderful principle! There are many great mysteries in life. Chapel service children will journey to seek answers for them. At 9:00 A.M., COA families will meet together for their first meeting. Youth Group will meet to write a covenant for their year together.

September 27

Our youngest members will learn the meaning behind our chalice symbol and make their very own chalice. Kinders and First Graders will explore ways to help change the world using the power of their minds and hearts. Chapel children will look into the chalice to find meaning in its light. COA youth will get a look at what the year has in store for them. Youth Group will travel to clean their adopted section of Ogden Avenue.

Church Announcements

RE Announcements

RE Registration

In order to have accurate records we need every family to submit completed registration forms and the appropriate fees as soon as possible. Thank you for your cooperation.

Coming Of Age Orientation And Opening Ceremony

All Coming of Age families should plan to attend the Orientation and Opening Ceremony on Sunday, September 20th from 9:00-10:30am. The opening ceremony is emotionally powerful for both parents and youth and offers a great way to kick-off the year!

Popsicle Party

Come get reacquainted with your church friends on Saturday, September 12th from 4-5pm! What color popsicles do you like best? You can check out your classroom and play outside in our garden and playground, too. Moms and Dads will have a chance to register for the year and ask questions about curricula.

Notice Something Different About Your Touchstone?

Our small but intrepid newsletter committee is re-designing the newsletter with two primary goals in mind: 1) to make the newsletter reader-friendly for those who receive it via USPS and for those who receive it electronically 2) to invigorate the newsletter as a source of practical information but also as a reflection of our church community. To these ends, we have changed the format of the newsletter, streamlined some sections (such as Religious Education for Children and Youth and Upcoming Events), and added some special features, such as the opening greeting letter, the Did YoUU Know? Column and the Meet Three . . . feature in the Among Ourselves section. We hope you enjoy our new and improved Touchstone! Special thanks to Dan Speziale, Lisa Heckler, Beth Staas, Darline Peterson, Susan Hebble and Steve Trout for their input and work.

Manna

The first order cycle for our MANNA fundraiser will be Oct 4 (orders due) and Oct 18 (cards available). Forms are in the MANNA folder in the Alice Warren Room. Throughout the church year, orders will be due the first Sunday of the month and cards available on the third Sunday. This schedule should allow for better planning and increased participation. If you have questions, contact Dana White (630-910-6557).

Got A Clunker?

UCH will host a "Donation for Clunkers" fundraiser this year. You can donate your old car to the church, earn a tax deduction, and provide some extra bucks for UCH. Dana White is coordinating the project (630-910-6557 or ddws69@earthlink.net).

The New UU Program —

An Introduction To Our Denomination, Church, People, And Committees

In this month-long, interactive program, new members and friends of the church will enjoy the opportunity to share their personal religious odysseys and to learn more about Unitarian Universalism and the various activities at the church. Guests of the program include Reverend Ed Searl, representatives of the Board of Trustees and members of various church committees.

We will meet on Tuesdays from 7:00 – 9:00 P.M. Oct. 20, 27, Nov. 3 and 10 in the Alice Warren Room. NOTE: If you are unable to attend the first class on Oct. 20, please register for the next offering of the New UU. To register, contact Jane Foulser (630-833-3028; jfoulser@mindspring.com) or the church office (630-323-2885; office@hinsdaleunitarian.org).

First Sunday Charitable Collection

This coming church year the Social Action Committee will continue to promote UCH's "First Sunday Collection." This special collection is taken on behalf of a selected charity announced each month. The congregation of the Unitarian Church of Hinsdale can be very proud of our participation in this effort, initiated in 2007. Last year, nearly \$11,000 was collected at First Sunday charitable collections on behalf of the following organizations: Breast Cancer - Access DuPage, the Conservation Foundation, the Equal Justice Initiative, Family Shelter Services, the Knoxville Relief Fund, Pillars, the Sudanese Community Center, the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC), the Walk-in Ministry of Hope and the West Suburban Humane Society.

The process for collecting for these charities/agencies is:

- Cash placed in the collection plate(s) on that Sunday will go to the charity/agency.
- If you wish to write a check as your contribution you may make the check out directly payable to the charity/agency that month OR you may make out your check payable to the Unitarian Church of Hinsdale (UCH) and note in the memo line of your check the name of the charity/agency that will benefit from the donation. In either case, simply drop your check in the collection plate.
- Any checks made out to UCH without any notation in the memo line will go to the church's general operating fund.
- If on the first Sunday you wish to make your pledge payment, please make the check payable to UCH and mark "pledge" in the memo line.

This process will enable the ushers and church office to handle all funds efficiently.

If you have any questions on this process, please contact Luan Burton at the church office (630-323-2885; office@hinsdaleunitarian.org). Also a copy of this process will be placed on the UCH web site, www.hinsdaleunitarian.org.

Keeping Things Cool

The attic insulation project was a huge success—so successful, in fact, that the entire Chicago area has cooled off! Seriously, though, we installed over 2000 pounds of blow-in insulation in the church attic in June, boosting our insulation value to R-19. This improvement should mean warmer winters, cooler summers, money savings, and less energy use. Thanks to Steve Trout, Brant Abrahamson, Bob Daniel-Wayman, Dave Lloyd, Hans Lonroth, Mike Pabian, Dennis Sejut, Elliot Stein, and Fred Zimmerman for your help with this project. And thanks to all those who contributed through the “Buy An R” fundraising event!

Board Of Trustees Has A Busy Summer

Meeting on the first Tuesday of each month throughout the year, the Board of Trustees held its July meeting looking forward to the coming year. As part of its fiscal responsibility, the Board reiterated its policy regarding special gifts and fundraising, which should always go through the Board before being implemented. There was also a clarification regarding the First Sunday donations to specific causes, namely that cash and checks with the name of the organization on the memo line would be classified as such. All other checks would be considered part of ongoing pledges or for the church’s operating expense. There will be further reminders at the time of these collections.

The Board also voted to have Paula Sejut-Dvorak serve as Denominational Affairs Trustee, filling the unexpired term of Janice Sejut who resigned because of family concerns.

In August, the Board met and heard the financial report from Shelley Hendrickson indicating that revenues were above budget by \$5,450 and expenses below budget by \$13,270 but reserve fundraising plus pledge income were below budget by a total of \$7,100. The Board also heard from Larry Price, Finance Trustee, regarding the Finance Committee that had met previously, suggesting that small fundraising (like care wash or plant sales) be acceptable without Board approval when under a specific amount. The Finance Committee also proposed that the upcoming pledge drive encompass three budgets: high, medium and low. Its purpose would be to present a choice between bare bones activity and a more challenging program. The Board instructed Price to pursue that avenue for the fall.

In addition to the required Board meetings, the trustees also scheduled monthly “summer retreats” in June, July and August lasting some four hours each intended to plan for the coming year. The theme for the retreats was growth and development. Ideas were classified according to 1) avenues of growth, 2) fun and entertainment, 3) helping and serving, and 4) finance. Further organization was to focus on projects and events rather than abstract principles that could be hard to implement.

Except when in Executive Session, Board meetings are open and welcome visitors who wish to attend. Minutes are kept in the church office and may be reviewed during office hours.

Where Is Your Green Sanctuary?

Comb through your photo albums, or fire up your camera, and get a photo of a place in nature that's special to you. 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.

October 4 Social Justice Collection

The October 4 Social Justice Collection will help defray the expenses of UCH participation in the Katrina project service trip to Hancock County, Mississippi. See related Touchstone article below for details.

Hurricane Katrina Recovery Volunteer Opportunity

Many of us remember the devastation that Hurricane Katrina caused on the Gulf Coast. We watched in horror as families were separated and homes were destroyed. There was an outpouring of compassion for those affected by the catastrophe. However, few are aware of the continuing struggles of people in that area. In many places, people continue to need help with rebuilding their homes and communities. In the face of such destruction it is hard to imagine how one individual can be of much use.

This is why UCH is partnering with the DuPage UU church in Naperville to sponsor a service trip to Hancock County, MS. This area was ground zero for Hurricane Katrina and much rebuilding remains to be done. By coming together, not only with other UUs, but with people of other faiths as well, we can help with the efforts of Camp Coast Care and Habitat for Humanity.

We are looking for volunteers to travel to Mississippi to help with the construction efforts. No special skills are required, so please do not let a lack of experience stop you from volunteering for this effort! There will be a small cost associated with the trip. However, we hope to offset this cost with donations from the congregation. We depart on November 15 and return the following weekend. Minimum age for participation is 16 (youth must accompany a parent). We need people to commit by September 30. Contact Luan Burton (630-323-2885, ext. 101 or office@hinsdaleunitarian.org).

Non-Fiction Book Group Invites Participation

Beyond the pleasant diversion of summer reading, some books are worth pondering. This is the purpose of the non-fiction book group that meets once a month, starting its third season on September 17 at 7:30 in the Alliance Room. Beginning with concerns such as who wrote the Bible, the book group has also considered current perspectives about the Bible, reading works by Paul Tillich, Elaine Pagels and Garry Wills, and has explored other religions, with books touching upon Islam and its impact on Christianity. This year, the focus will cover notable people and ideas within the world of religion and science. Books under consideration are *Structure of Scientific Revolutions* by Thomas Kuhn, *Freethinkers* by Susan Jacoby, *American Gospel* by Jon Meacham, *Thomas Jefferson* by Christopher Hitchens and *The River of God* by Gregory Reilly. Here among Unitarian Universalist friends, the give and take is forthright, respectful and fun, covering topics hardly dealt with at local library clubs. Visitors are always welcome. There is no need to have read the book. Just come and participate in the lively discussion, which is over by 9:00. For further information contact Jane Foulser (630-833-3028; jfoulser@mindspring.com).

Host A Neighbor Nights Gathering

Neighbor Nights is our program of casual UU member-gatherings in local communities. Because our church serves about 35 different towns and villages, we have organized nine local areas so you can become better acquainted with those in our church congregation who live nearest you. Hosting is simple: You open your home and supply the coffee and tea. Guests bring appetizers or desserts or other drinks as desired. If you feel your home is smallish, you can use the church, which will also guarantee the party is handicapped accessible. You can arrange your event to suit your tastes. The recent successful Downers Grove gathering at the Ryan-Johnson's was a picnic with pizza. We also have one host who has volunteered to do a gathering for families with young children. Pick a date for mid-October to early November and SIGN UP TO BE A HOST ON THE CHART IN THE LIVING ROOM UPSTAIRS OR THE ALICE WARREN ROOM DOWNSTAIRS or contact Jane Foulser (630-833-3028; jfoulser@mindspring.com).

Bicycle Rack Vote

When regular church services resume in September, ballots will be distributed to UCH people of all ages to cast a vote for their favorite one of a few potential locations for a bicycle rack at UCH. We will install a bicycle rack in the location that receives the most votes. Simultaneously, ideas are brewing on how to fund the bicycle rack. Watch for the ballots!

Social Action Committee Update

The SAC held its annual retreat on Saturday, August 15th. Among other decisions, nine projects/organizations/agencies were selected to benefit from UCH's program of First Sunday Special Collections for Social Justice this church year. The list of the year's recipients will be posted in the near future. The next regular meeting of the SAC will take place at noon, Sunday, October 4, 2009 in UCH's library, second floor of the R.E. Building. Contact Paula Sejut-Dvorak for more information (815-210-1909; psejut-dvorak@sbcglobal.net).

Green Fair At Cantigny Park

UCH's Green Sanctuary Committee (GSC) will staff a booth at the Green Fair at Cantigny Park in Wheaton, Saturday, September, 26, 10:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M. Attend the GSC's meeting in UCH's Church lower level Alice Warren Room, Wednesday, September 2, 2009 at 7:30 P.M. to get involved and help out.

The Green Fair is intended to celebrate green successes in our communities and promote the positive effects of living Green. The Fair will offer workshops, guest speakers, activities for kids and families, music, organic wine tasting, vegetarian cuisine, a recycled art contest, and a FashionEconista show. The event is free, but parking fees apply.

In related news, high school and college students are encouraged to enter the recycled art contest for the Green Fair. For more information, see: <http://www.cantigny.org/pdf/Events/ArtContestPoster.pdf>

Celebration Singers Want You!

Welcoming all who can carry a tune and love the joy of singing, we sing a variety of music from folk to classical. We perform once a month for Sunday services from September through May. Come to our first rehearsal on September 13 and give us a try. We meet at 9:30 A.M. in the R.E. Building, lower level. You won't be disappointed! For more information, contact Director Julia Beckman (630-985-4688; beckman110@comcast.net).

Holiday Harvest 2009

It's that time of year again and the Holiday Harvest machinery is oiled up and raring to go! We've picked the date, 11/14/09, so put it on your calendars now. We already have our first business and personal donations, so let's keep the ball rolling. Both the business and personal donations forms are included in this month's Touchstone for your use. Please print them out and give them to businesses you patronize, and then consider what you wish to give. For further information, contact Jay Van Cura (708-447-6500).

DID YoUU KNOW?

Did you know that this year, 2009, marks 50 years since construction of our Religious Education Building was completed and the doors opened to generations of children's and adult liberal religious education. It's true! Doors opened in 1959.

DID YoUU KNOW. . . both Unitarianism and Universalism have been around since the first century and both arose from the Christian faith. But orthodox Christians considered followers of both religions heretical because Unitarianism rejected the idea of the Holy Trinity and Universalism was based on the idea of universal salvation. In the early centuries, many followers (and leaders) of Unitarianism and Universalism were arrested and some even executed for heresy.

General Announcements

Gently-Used Furniture Needed

Sharing Connections Furniture Bank provides furniture and household items to low-income families. We ask for your support in helping neighbors in need to turn a bare apartment or house into a home. The warehouse is critically low on kitchen tables and chairs, cribs, and dressers. We also need kitchen items, including silverware, dishes, small appliances, and pots & pans. The website www.sharingconnections.org explains what items are accepted. 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. 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 by calling (630) 971-0565, x300, or by visiting the website. Please note that we are unable to pick up small items. For more information, contact Sue Ekins, Development Manager for Sharing Connections Furniture Bank (630-971-0565, x225; www.sharingconnections.com)

TOMMY'S KIDS and TEENS FOR TEENS Grief Support Group

"If you are old enough to love, you are old enough to grieve."

Helping children who have experienced the death of someone they love is one of the most difficult tasks a parent or other relative may ever face. Tommy's Kids (for children ages 4-11) and Teens for Teens (for ages 12-17) help children express their feelings, learn healthy ways of coping with loss, and build confidence for their future.

The six week Fall session meets on Thursday evenings from 6:00-7:30 P.M. September 17 through October 22, 2009. The groups are held at Adventist St. Thomas Hospice, 8230 S. Madison Street, Burr Ridge, IL 60527. For more information or to register, call Rosie Cohen (630-856-6993) or Heather Kochen (630-856-6985). Group size is limited and free to all members of the community.

Teach-In To End Torture And Human Rights Abuses

Sunday September 13 at 4:30 P.M., the Unity Temple of Oak Park (875 Lake Street) will host a program that includes a short film, a panel discussion, a reception, and a workshop focused on the issues of torture and human rights abuse. This event is free. For more information, visit www.unitytemple.org or call Unity Temple (708-848-6225).

Among Ourselves

Meet Three . . . UCH Board Members

For our new feature, “Meet Three. . .”, we ask three congregants to respond to at least six provocative questions—we hope you’ll enjoy learning about these members of our church family and, by extension, learn a little something about UCH.

BETH STAAS (Beth joined the UCH Board this year as its Secretary)

1. *Q. How long have you been a member of UCH and what was it that drew you to this church?*
A. As a longtime Humanist, I felt immediately at home here. I also felt intellectually challenged. And best of all, I loved the music..
2. *Q. Briefly describe your religious background.* A. Reared Missouri Synod Lutheran, I dabbled a bit in the Baptist Church and landed at Third Unitarian, Chicago, when my children were babies. I’ve been a Unitarian ever since.
3. *Q. How do you explain our beliefs to your non-Unitarian friends (or family)?*
A. It was very difficult with my family although my wonderful brother, an avowed skeptic, was my guide. Ultimately, we have made our peace, namely, we simply don’t discuss it. They go their way; I go mine.
4. *Q. In what way has this church impacted your activities from day to day (if at all)?*
A. It has become my Spiritual Home.
5. *Q. Unitarians sometimes refer to an “Aha!” moment when they experience some distinct joy or insight that is forever remembered. Has this happened to you? Can you describe it?*
A. My children were born under the old-fashioned protocol: Mama in the delivery room, Papa pacing outside. So when I actually saw my granddaughter born, I was overwhelmed. It somehow helped when so many of my loved ones aged and died. That’s the other part of the miracle—humanity itself.
6. *Q. If someone offered you a series of free dance lessons, would you be tempted to enroll? Why or why not?*
A. Been there; done that. Thanks anyway.
7. *Q. What is your all-time favorite book (or movie) and why?*
A. All Quiet on the Western Front – book and movie. In some of the most poetic passages, it cries out for life.
8. *Q. Who in your family would you say you most resemble? What makes you say so?*
A. I look in the mirror and see my mother. Then I put on some makeup and I’m back to being me.
9. *Q. Alive or not, whom do you admire most? Explain.*
A. I’d rather say that I’m fascinated with people in all their permutations..
10. *Q. If someone wrote your biography, what would you suggest as a title?*
A. “Better Late Than Never”

FRED BLOSS (Fred has re-joined the Board of Trustees this year and is managing the Membership Portfolio)

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

A. I have been a member of the Unitarian Church of Hinsdale for over 6 years now. We chose to attend UCH when we moved back into the Chicago area in 2003. We moved to Lemont, so UCH was close and accessible. We attended Unity Temple when we were in the Chicago area (Bolingbrook, specifically) before and thought we would give UCH a try because it was closer.

2. Q. *Briefly describe your religious background.*

A. As a child I was a member of the First E.U.B. (Evangelical United Brethren) congregation in Waren, OH. They were absorbed by the United Methodist merger at about the same time the Unitarians and Universalists merged. When I went to college I fell away from religion but came back as a U.U. after my current partner, Ray Masterson, and I got together in the early '90's.

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

A. I jokingly refer to us as "religion lite", but explain that it is a congregation of like-minded, free-thinking people that do not desire to follow a specific dogma or creed. We adhere to 7 principles that, loosely, encompass the philosophy of the "Golden Rule".

4. Q. *In what way has this church impacted your activities from day to day (if at all)?*

A. We got involved at UCH right away, having been active members of several other U.U. churches in the country in the past. We knew that the best way to get to know a church and get the church to know you is to get involved. So as our list of activities and volunteerism grew at UCH, it became a greater part of our lives over time.

5. Q. *Unitarians sometimes refer to an "Aha!" moment when they experience some distinct joy or insight that is forever remembered. Has this happened to you? Can you describe it?*

A. It has not happened to me as yet. But, then, I'm not exactly looking for any kind of epiphany, just a satisfying relationship with a group of people that share common interests and concerns for our life here on earth.

6. Q. *If someone offered you a series of free dance lessons, would you be tempted to enroll? Why or why not?*

A. Probably not, for 2 main reasons. My life is full enough of activities now and I never really was a very good dancer, though I enjoy many types of music.

7. Q. *What is your all-time favorite book (or movie) and why?*

A. Without question it is "Gone With The Wind", both the book and the movie. It is a sprawling saga of a lifestyle long gone. Though I do not agree with the underlying tensions of slavery that it represents, it was a struggle that both sides of the issue worked through, not unlike many issues today.

8. Q. *Who in your family would you say you most resemble? What makes you say so?*

A. I've been told I resemble my mother, which pleases me greatly. I remember her as a kind, gentle, fun-loving woman who made the best of her life that she could.

9. Q. *Alive or not, whom do you admire most? Explain.* A. I admire Walter Cronkite. He was an electronic father figure to me growing up, though I rarely listened to news as a young child. He was a totally credible person who was truly interested in many of the topics of his day on which he reported and that enthusiasm was contagious!

10. Q. *If someone wrote your biography, what would you suggest as a title?*

A. "Leave Them Laughing!"

FRED ZIMMERMAN (Fred is entering his third year as President of the Board of Trustees; he has been a member of UCH for about 7 years)

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

A. Our story is typical, in that both Cathy & I were Unitarians all of our lives and didn't even know it. We both craved a more open exchange of religious ideas and yearned for a place where our children could freely explore their spiritual lives. Fate seems to have leant a hand in getting us to the UU church of Hinsdale. Cathy kept bumping into the same member (although we didn't know it at the time) in places and striking up an on-going conversation that was totally unrelated to church. Then, a neighborhood friend suggested we check out the UU church of Hinsdale. Upon arriving on our first Sunday, who should be sitting in the seats but the same person Cathy had been bumping into for the past several months. We came for the children and stayed for ourselves.

2. Q. *Briefly describe your religious background.* A. I was raised in a house with a Catholic mother and Lutheran father. My father didn't observe at all, but he "signed the papers" when he got married in the Catholic Church, so my sister and I were raised Catholic and went to private Catholic schools all of our lives.

3. Q. *How do you explain our beliefs to your non-Unitarian friends (or family)?* A. I always start by saying that we are not "anti" any religion at all. In fact, we embrace ALL religions and see the value each brings to the table. As UUs, we believe that our path to spirituality is a personal one, and it can lead to many places. It may lead to Jesus, or Buddha, or Allah, or something else altogether. However, while UUs may be short on metaphysics, as a rule, we are long on morals and personal responsibility. Therefore, I try to explode the myth that UUs just believe anything and nothing. Quite the contrary – we take FULL responsibility for our beliefs.

4. Q. *In what way has this church impacted your activities from day to day (if at all)?* A. As president of the congregation, I am immersed in the day-to-day policy-making of the church. Everything I do somehow impacts what I believe about the church, and the beliefs I espouse.

5. Q. *If someone offered you a series of free dance lessons, would you be tempted to enroll? Why or why not?*
A. Sure! As a Theatre major in college (and a professional actor), I took dance for many years. I love it! I really want to learn to tap. Never did. Always a regret.

6. Q. *What is your all-time favorite book (or movie) and why?* A. That's totally impossible to say. I love different movies and books for different reasons. I love good WWII prisoner movies ("Von Ryan's Express" is my favorite). I love good comedies ("The Producers", and I own the entire series of "The Dick Van Dyke Show"), I love several current TV shows ("Burn Notice", etc.). I also love the history of codes, quantum physics (*The Code Book*, *The Dancing Wu Li Masters*, etc.). My moods dictate what I read, watch, or don't read and watch. I also love to read plays (one of my favorites being "*The Lady's Not For Burning*" by Christopher Fry – very apt for a UU).

7. Q. *Who in your family would you say you most resemble? What makes you say so?* A. My Father: Physically, he had more hair, and I have my mother's coloring, but otherwise, I look and sound like my Dad. My sister is always commenting on how I sound like him. We share a similar temperament, although I share my Mother's heart-on-the-sleeve emotional nature. I, like her, can cry at card tricks.

8. Q. *If someone wrote your biography, what would you suggest as a title?*

A. The only difference between Fred and Freud ... is U.

Thanks From The Prices

The Unitarian Church of Hinsdale was Sandy's valued church home for almost 20 years. In the last year, while she was ill with pancreatic cancer, the church family reached out to her in many generous ways. You provided a loving environment that was of great help as she characteristically maintained her positive attitude and lived as fully as possible. Attending the cancer support chalice circle, singing with the Singers, and serving on the Membership Committee were.. important of a rich life that she lived in spite of being ill. As her strength diminished, more types of support came forth, some organized and some on more individual initiative. The Care Shawl, prepared meals, visits to her bedside, notes written during a Sunday service, cards, emails, and many other expressions let her know that she was far from alone and that many many people cared about her.

After her death, the church was home for a moving memorial service led by Ed Searl with music by Chris Garofalo, Carolyn May, and the Singers. Although it was in the middle of vacation season, many church friends were able to be there.

UCH is a valuable institution for its members for many reasons. One of them is the strong community that is important both when things are going well and when they are not. That community came through for Sandy during her last year. Our families want to express our deep gratitude to UCH for what it meant to Sandy (and me) in the last year and for the last 20 years.

Larry Price

Upcoming Events

Social Action Committee

September 2 7:30 P.M. UCH Alice Warren Room

Contact Paula Sejut-Devorak for more information (815-210-1909; psejut-dvorak@sbcglobal.net).

Women's Alliance

September 10 12:15 P.M. (bag lunch) 1:00 P.M. (program)

Guest presenter Cathy Moran of St. Thomas Hospice. Hostesses are Cathy Goering and Rose Matousek. Contact Nancy Keane for more information (nancy44k@aol.com; 708-352-0454)

Volunteer Greater Chicago Food Depository

September 12 1:30 - 4:30 P.M.

Upcoming dates for 2009: Oct 10, Nov 21, Dec 19
Call Jean Noble (708-485-0281) for directions/
further information.

Celebration Singers First Rehearsal

September 13 9:30 A.M. RE Building

Contact Julia Beckman for more information
((630-985-4688; beckman110@comcast.net

Non-Fiction Book Group

September 17 7:30 P.M. UCH Alliance Room.

Contact Jane Foulser (630-833-3028 or jfoulser@mindspring.com) for further information.

Lunch Bunch

September 24, 1:00 P.M.

La Notte Due Restaurant (8123 S. Cass Ave, Darien) Contact Cathy Goering (cathgoer@aol.com or 630-325-0310) or Jackie Bruns (butterfluffy@gmail.com) for sign up or questions.

Social Action Committee Meeting

October 4, noon

UCH Library (2nd floor RE Building) Contact Paula Sejut-Dvorak for more information (815-210-1909; psejut-dvorak@sbcglobal.net).

New Touchstone Submission Guidelines

The Touchstone submission deadline for the October issue is September 15. 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.

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

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

630-323-2885 www.hinsdaleunitarian.org

Minister—Reverend Edward Searl (ext. 111, minister@hinsdaleunitarian.org)

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

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



THE UNITARIAN CHURCH OF HINSDALE

REV. EDWARD SEARL, MINISTER

FRED ZIMMERMAN, PRESIDENT

Promotional/Advertising Opportunity

Dear Neighborhood Merchant:

We are again offering your business a promotional opportunity and seek your support for the Unitarian Church of Hinsdale's Annual Soiree Auction that will be held on Saturday, November 14, 2009. The Holiday Harvest features music, entertainment, gourmet food with bar, and both live and silent auctions; it is a major fundraiser for the church, and an opportunity for your business to be highlighted.

The Unitarian Church of Hinsdale draws its members from DuPage and western Cook Counties. Through our Festival & Silent Auction announcements, catalog, website, and other publicity, news of our event reaches many people. Many area businesses regard the event as a significant marketing opportunity, as our guests are very loyal to our donors, and word spreads of their delight with the goods and services received.

Many area businesses **contribute merchandise or gift certificates** to our silent and live auctions, and their donations are listed in the auction catalog that is distributed to church families and friends. We also list donated items at our Web site, www.hinsdaleunitarian.org, beginning in late September.

A very prominent advertising choice is **sponsorship or naming rights** for our stage entertainment, raffles, bar, the bistro, silent auction, and the entire event. A banner with your business' name will hang by the area of sponsorship and be seen by everyone who attends; and we will feature your business in announcements and the catalog. At the event we will again publicly recognize your sponsorship and, if you attend, offer you a few minutes to introduce your business to the audience.

We are also offer a choice of **advertisement** sizes, from business card to full page, in our auction catalog.

We would welcome your 1) donation of a gift certificate or merchandise (minimum value \$30), 2) sponsorship, and/or 3) advertisement in the catalog. Please complete the donation form (on the reverse side of this letter) and return it to the church in the enclosed envelope, and include any gift certificates or indicate the merchandise you will donate. To ensure your item's inclusion in the catalog, please return the form as soon as possible, to be received by October 25. You will be sent a written tax receipt. For more information, or to request a pickup for your donation, please contact Steve or Karen.

Steve Trout
Business Donations
708-783-1240
steven_trout@sbcglobal.net

Karen McDowell
Co-Chair, Project Manager
630-852-6864
can2dowell@sbcglobal.net

E. Jay Van Cura, M.D.
Co-Chair, Data Entry
708-447-6500
jvancura@sbcglobal.net

***** PLEASE SEND IN TIME FOR US TO RECEIVE BY OCTOBER 25, 2009 *****

Business Donation Form

Unitarian Church of Hinsdale 2009

Holiday Harvest Festival & Silent Auction

Tax Exempt Numbers: Federal: 36-2478396 IL: 9964-9977-04

Donor Information

Donor Business Name (for catalog): _____

Person Contacted (full name): _____

Address: Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Donation Information

Item: _____ Declared Value: \$ _____

Detailed Item Description for Catalog (60 words or less): _____

Comments/Restrictions: _____

Sponsorship Banners:

Event Sponsor: \$1,000 Stage Sponsor: \$500 Silent Auction Sponsor: \$300

Bistro Sponsor: \$250 Bar Sponsor: \$250 Raffle Sponsor: \$200

Advertisements in the Catalog:

Full Page: \$100 Half Page: \$65. Quarter Page: \$40 Business Card: \$25

Hard Copy Enclosed Electronic Copy sent to jvancura@sbcglobal.net Copy to be Sent

Thank you very much for your support. We will mail you a receipt after November 8.

For Official Auction Use Only

Date Received/initials: _____

Item/s forthcoming. Collection required. No Tracking Labels needed.

Affix Inventory Tracking Labels Here

PERSONAL DONATIONS

PLEASE WRITE LEGIBLY IN BLACK INK: FORM IS FAXED

Unitarian Church of Hinsdale 2009 Holiday Harvest Festival & Silent Auction

Donation Receiving Schedule: Alice Warren Room

Four Sundays: Oct. 4, 11, 18, 25, before and after the 10:30 service

One Weeknight: Wednesday, Oct. 21, 6:00 - 9:00

A trained crew will be there to accept and process your donation.

See the reverse side of this form for important instructions on submitting your donation.

Item Information

Item: _____

Estimated Value: _____

Detailed Item Description for Catalog: _____

Any special display instructions: _____

Donor Information

Name: _____

Full Address: _____

Phone(indicate home/work/cell): _____

E-mail: _____

For Official Auction Use Only

Date Received: _____

Item/s forthcoming.

Collection required.

No Tracking Labels needed.

Affix Temporary Tracking Labels Here

Holiday Harvest 2009 - Personal Donations FAQ

What is the *Deadline* for Bringing Donations?

Sunday, October 25

We want to describe all your valuable donations in a final catalog to be distributed Nov.8, a week before the auction, so all donations **must** be received by **Sunday, October 25!!**

What Should I Donate?

Get creative!! Think of your own talents; or even something you could purchase and donate. Here are examples of some of the personal donations made by church members and friends in previous years:

Sign Up Events

- A Greek dinner for seven at donor's home. First 7 bidders win!
- "What's Up?" Astrology talk given by donor in Church Sanctuary. All bidders win!

Personal Services

- 30 Minutes of beautiful Christmas violin music in your home. Highest bidder wins.
- Full Saturday of lawn services to the highest bidder.

Facilities Rentals

- Western Springs Fire Department birthday party for 12 kids for 2 hours
- Weeklong island getaway at our 3-bedroom cottage in Door County. Highest bidder (live auction)

Gift Certificates or Tickets

- \$40 Gift Certificate to CIDA Thai Restaurant, one of the donor's favorite restaurants.
- 2 tickets to Sox vs. Cubs at U.S. Cellular Field.

Physical Goods**

- Fashion scarf hand-knitted by the donor.
- *The Cat in the Hat* and other Seuss selections basket

****Please note: Physical goods should be new, in like-new condition, or quality "antique" and should be valued at a minimum of \$25.**

Is my Donation Tax-Deductible?

Absolutely!! The Internal Revenue Code, Section 170(a)(1) and 170(a)(2) provides that the individual taxpayer may deduct the fair value of items contributed to charitable organizations which are exempt from taxation under the provisions of Code Section 502c(3). The Unitarian Church of Hinsdale is such a qualified organization. A receipt for your donation will be printed and made available after the conclusion of the Holiday Harvest.

How do I Make a Donation? – Important Instructions

The Holiday Harvest Inventory Management Team kindly requests your assistance in handling and processing your personal donations. Please complete the donation form on the reverse side of this FAQ sheet and follow these important instructions:

- For donations that include physical goods (or documents) to be displayed and/or distributed to a winner, please bring the completed donation form **and** the accompanying goods/documents to the staffed "**Donation Receiving**" site in the Alice Warren Room as scheduled on the reverse side. If you would like someone to pick up your donation or your donation is perishable or time-sensitive, please submit the form and let the "Donation Receiving" representative know about these special circumstances.

PLEASE DO **NOT** LEAVE PHYSICAL GOODS AT THE CHURCH OFFICE

THERE IS NO STAFF TO ACCEPT THEM, NO STORAGE ROOM, & THEY MAY BE MISHANDLED OR LOST

- For donations with **NO physical items for display or distribution**, the completed donation form may be brought to "**Donation Receiving**", OR placed in the Holiday Harvest mailbox in the office, OR faxed directly to Jay Van Cura; if it's a repeat of a previous donation, just call Jay with the update information: 708-447-6500 **fax/phone**.

Thank you for your consideration in this important matter!