

Services in September

September 12

10:30 A.M.

"A Time for Every Purpose"

Rev. Edward Searl

Chris Garofalo, Piano

We'll take a quick look back over the now receding summer of 2010 and a quick look forward into the coming Church Year for Themes and Programs.

September 19

10:30 A.M.

"Do We Need Nature More Than Ever?"

Rev. Edward Searl

Jonita Lattimore, Soprano and Chris Garofalo, Piano (Guest Musician Sponsors: Dennis & Rhea Mason)

We're just beginning to begin to explore the changes that electronic communication and associated social networking have presented for us, and particularly for our children. To be considered in regard to these changes is the idea that an abiding, transcendental sense of Nature is embedded in the Unitarian Universalist way.

September 26

10:30 A.M.

"Making the Most of World Religions"

Rev. Edward Searl

Celebration Singers and Chris Garofalo, Piano

We revisit one of UCH's ongoing interests: world religions. How is globalism once again finding great commonalities among the varied faiths? This service launches a weeknight seminar, details to be announced, beginning in October that will focus on essential truths from seven world religions.

Greetings from the Committee on Ministry

Within the framework of Congregational Polity, each Unitarian church strives to serve all its members on their religious journey. Hinsdale's Committee on Ministry, formed late last year, looks upon itself as "facilitating direct and constructive communication among members of the congregation and between the congregation and the minister." Or, as the Rev. Anne Heller explains, "Committees on Ministry are designed to track the heartbeat of ministry within a congregation; how the members . . . take care of themselves and each other, how the lay ministerial leadership serves a congregation; and how the called minister serves the congregation. It seeks to understand, assess, support, and advocate for robust ministry throughout the context of congregational life." At this church, honest concerns as well as applause can be conveyed to any of its COM members, knowing that it will be kept confidential and in the spirit intended. Members of the Committee on Ministry are Beth Staas, Ed Searl, Julia Beckman, Bob Daniel-Wayman, and Suzanne Williams. You can learn more about Julia, Bob, and Suzanne in the "Meet Three. . ." feature later in the newsletter.

Warmly,
Beth Staas

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THE UNITARIAN CHURCH OF HINSDALE
THE TOUCHSTONE

Children and Youth Religious Education

Pam Fodor, Director of Religious Education

Religious Education for September

Preschool 10:30 A.M.

9-12 I am Special
9-19 I Have Two Hands and Two Feet
9-26 I Can Move, Bend and Stretch

Kindergarten And First Grade 10:30 A.M.

9-12 Knowing Me, Knowing You
9-19 Our Room, Our Community
9-26 A Walk Around My Meeting Place

Chapel Service (Grades 2-6) 10:30 A.M.

9.12 We Are All Beautiful
9-19 Building Community through "Show and Tell"
9-26 Creating a Dream Quilt

Junior Youth Group (Grades 7-8) Senior Youth Group (Grades 9-12) 10:30 A.M.

9-12 Regular Meeting
9-19 Regular Meeting
9-26 Regular Meeting

Celebrating Me And My World

Preschool ages 3-5

As Unitarian Universalists, we believe that each and every person is important and unique. Over the next few sessions the children will explore the differences in themselves, their hands and feet and bodies. Through movement and play they will discover that it is fun to learn!

Around The Church, Around The Year

Kindergarten and first grade

These first few weeks introduce the children to one another and to their surroundings. They come to know the teachers, their meeting place, and the spaces used by the entire congregation. By participating in a classroom covenant and seeing its relationship to UU values, the children discover the reasons people become members of a religious community.

Chapel Service

Grades 2-6

This year in Chapel Service, the children will explore each of our UU principles as reflected in the colors of the rainbow. Our first rainbow color is Red, which represents *Respect* for the importance of every person. We will affirm to each other that we see the beauty in others, applaud each other's talents, and share each other's dreams. Do we, as a church community, have a hand in helping others reach for our dreams?

Junior High Youth Group

Grades 7-8

Before the junior youth start their Our Whole Lives (OWL) curriculum. They will have several regular meetings to get to know one another and have a chance to talk about some other activities that they might like to do during the year. Announcements about the start of OWL and the parent meeting will be coming soon.

Senior High Youth Group

Grades 7-8

It is always fun for the youth to reconnect with each other after the summer. A few regular meetings will allow for catching up and planning activities for the coming year.

Religious Education Special Events

Popsicle Party

Come get reacquainted with your church friends on Saturday, September 11th from 4-5:00 p.m.! You can check out your classroom, meet your teachers and play outside in our garden and playground, too. Moms and Dads will have a chance to register and ask questions about curricula.

RE Registration

In order to have accurate records, we need every family to fill out and submit a registration form and the appropriate fee as soon as possible. Please contact Pam Fodor (re@hinsdaleunitarian.org; 630-323-2885) with questions or for more information. Thank you for your cooperation.

Upcoming Events

Volunteer Greater Chicago Food Depository—Saturday, September 11, 1:30 - 4:30 pm

Please call Jean Noble (708-485-0281) in advance if you plan to attend.

Upcoming dates for 2010: Oct 9, Nov 20, Dec 11

MANNA Orders for September

MANNA will kick off the new church year with the first order due Sept. 12 . You can pick up an order form and submit your order in the Alice Warren Room. Just remember to bring your checkbook. Orders will be available for pick up Sept. 26th. In October, we will start our regular order cycle with orders due the first Sunday of the month. (For next month, that will be Oct. 3.) As usual, we will have grocery cards for Jewel, Dominics, and Whole Foods available for immediate purchase. For further information, contact Dana White (630-910-6557).

Women's Alliance Field Trip September 16

The Field Museum is considered one of the finest natural history museums in the US, securing international acclaim when Steven Spielberg made it the home base for the esteemed archeologist in his Indiana Jones movies. Please join the members of the Alliance as we travel to this renowned Chicago institution on Thursday, September 16. Find your inner scientist as you explore the Romance of Ants exhibition, or discover how even small changes can add up to help reduce global warming in the Climate Change exhibit. We will determine transportation to the museum a bit closer to the date. Most likely, some of us will be taking the train while others will carpool. We have passes for the museum so there will be no admission charge. All are most welcome to attend. For more information contact Betty Mathias (708-482-0892; bettyloumathias@yahoo.com).

Getting to Know Us Conversations—Third Sunday of Each Month

Curious about UUism and the Unitarian Church of Hinsdale? If so, join Rev. Ed Searl and other members, friends, visitors and newcomers to Unitarian-Universalism in the church living room right after the service on the third Sunday of every month. The first Conversation will take place on **September 19** with a brief discussion on the values and history of our local church and our denomination.

Activity Fair at UCH September 19 AND 26

You know you want to get more involved with the church; of course you do. You want to do more, accomplish more, have more fun, meet more people. The only thing keeping you back is how and where. Your problem has been solved: You can meet up with every committee about every activity in the church at our Activity Fair in the Alice Warren Room downstairs of the church, on two consecutive Sundays, September 19 and 26, right after the service. Learn how and where you fit in, then line up and sign up. You won't regret it.

Lunch Bunch—Thursday, September 23

The UCH Lunch Bunch will meet on Thursday, Sept. 23 at 1:00 p.m., at Casa Margarita, 32 S. La Grange Rd. in La Grange (next to Al's Char house). The restaurant offers fine Mexican cuisine from a buffet or menu; American fare is also available. For fun, you may want to check out the musical website www.casamargarita.com. To sign up contact Cathy Goering (815-761-7322; cathgoer@aol.com) or Jackie Bruns (butterfluffy@gmail.com). We hope to see you there!

First Friday Fun Night—October 1, 7:00 p.m.

Join us for pumpkins, black birds, and “scary” stories at the church at 7:00. Bring pumpkins or gourds to carve and big pinecones, if you can find them. We will have pumpkin carving stations and tables set up to make bird feeders out of the pinecones. To get you in the mood, we’ll share a Halloween story. You can even model your Halloween costume if you’d like! To learn more about FFFN, contact Kari Freeman (hollowcastle@gmail.com).

First Sunday Collection for Social Justice—October 3

The October 3rd Sunday morning worship offertory will benefit the *Dupage Community Clinic*, Wheaton, Illinois. DuPage County’s only free healthcare clinic, DCC provides primary and specialty medical care, dental care and mental health services to low income, medically uninsured residents of DuPage County. (See <http://www.dupagecommunityclinic.org/index.html>.)

The process for First Sunday Collection will be the same as last year:

- Cash placed in the collection plate on that Sunday will go to the charity.
- If you wish to write a check as your contribution, you may make the check 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 of your check the charity/agency that will benefit from the donation. In either case, simply drop the check in the collection plate.
- Any checks made out to UCH without a notation in the memo line will go to the general operating fund.
- If on the first Sunday you wish to make your pledge payment, please make checks payable to UCH and write “pledge” in the memo line.

UCH Announcements and News

The New UU Program Begins October 12

Are you new to our church or denomination? Have you been looking for more information about Unitarian Universalism? Are you thinking about becoming a member? If so, the New UU course may be for you. In four interactive sessions, participants will enjoy the opportunity to share their personal religious journeys and learn more about Unitarian Universalism and the various activities of the Unitarian Church of Hinsdale. Guests of the program will include Rev. Ed Searl, representatives of the Board of Trustees, and members of various church committees. We will meet on four consecutive Tuesdays, October 12, 19 and 26; and November 2. Class facilitators will be Marian Honel-Wilson and Jodi Cicirello. Because this program is more formal than the drop-in Getting to Know You gatherings on the third Sunday of each month, we ask participants to sign up. To register, contact Coordinator Jane Foulser (630-833-3028; jfoulser@mindspring.com) or the church office (630-323-2885; office@hinsdaleunitarian.org).

A New Picture Directory Is on the Way

We are excited to announce that we are going to create a new pictorial directory of our church family. Plan now to schedule your appointment when regular church services resume September 12. At your appointment time, a professional photographer will take your family's portrait at the church, and a Portrait Consultant will meet with you. Each participating family household that selects a pose for the directory will receive a free directory and a complimentary 8 x 10 Custom Natural Portrait.

Olan Mills Studio will take pictures of UCH members and friends on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, October 20 – 22, from 2:00 p.m. – 9:20 p.m., and Saturday, October 23 from 9:30 a.m. to 5:10 p.m. at the church. Please participate so this directory can help newcomers and old-timers alike connect names with faces. For more information, contact Pat Miller at (ajaymaya@att.net) or Jane Foulser (jfoulser@mindspring.com).

Social Action Committee Plans Collections for the Church Year

Forthcoming Collections Recipients

The recipients of UCH Monthly Collections for Social Justice for the balance of the fiscal year will be as follows. As in the past few years, these collections will occur on the first Sunday of the month.

November	Family Shelter Service
December	Walk In Ministry of Hope
January	Planned Parenthood
February	Kids Off -the-Block
March	Unitarian Universalist Service Committee
April	Student Conservation Association
May	Pillars (local social service organization)
June	Campaign for Real Choice (a disabled people's rights organization)

Social Action Committee members are Velaine Carnall, Jane Foulser, Joan Prims, Kim Johnson/Ryan, Paula Sejut-Dvorak, Frank Wanderlich and Charlie Fischer. For more information on the Social Action Committee or on the Monthly Collections for Social Justice, contact any committee member.

Small Groups in the Works

Ongoing committees and interest groups are eager to welcome visitors and new members. Now is the time to get acquainted or re-acquainted. Call the contact person for further information.

Caring Committee

Send a note, cook a meal, knit a shawl for someone who's hurting. Contact Debbi Daniel-Wayman (debbidw@comcast.net ; 630 495-8761).

Chalice Circles

Small group gatherings to learn more about one another. Each may focus on a particular interest or need and continues as long as the members want. Contact Marian Honel-Wilson (708 352-0350; mhonelwilson@gmail.com).

Finance Committee

Overseeing our financial needs, this committee keeps us fiscally sound. Contact Chris Hainey (630 782-5590; hainey@comcast.net).

Gardening and Landscaping

Spring and summer work for just a few hours each week in a designated section keeps our grounds beautiful. Contact Charlie Fischer (630 734-8279; cfis@sbcglobal.net).

Green Sanctuary

To save, protect and restore the planet. Contact Frank Wanderlich (708 458-2914; frankwanderlich@yahoo.com).

Holiday Harvest

Help with our annual fundraising event which is also our biggest social event. Contact Karen McDowell (630 852-6864; can2dowell@sbcglobal.net).

PFLAG

Embracing minorities of every stripe, be they Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual or Transgender. Contact Jackie Frett (630 920-1444; jackieKF@aol.com).

Lunch Bunch

An opportunity to visit local bistros at a modest price with like-minded friends. Contact Catherine Goering (cathgoer@aol.com; 630 325-0310).

Membership Committee

Serving as outreach to visitors as well as those who are part of our church family. Contact Jane Foulser (630 833-3028; jfoulser@mindspring.com).

Non-fiction Book Group

Reading a wide-range of topics including Judaism, Christianity, Islam or the science of the human brain. Discussion is lively and informal. Contact Jane Foulser (630 833-3028; jfoulser@mindspring.com).

Religious Education Committee (Children and Youth)

Working with our Director of Religious Education to coordinate, contribute and oversee the program that is a vital part of our church life. Contact Pam Fodor (630 323-2885 ext. 110; re@hinsdaleunitarian.org).

Women's Alliance

Learning about ecology, medicine, world affairs and the arts with those who are curious and open to new ideas. Contact Grace Abrahamson (708 485-5983; bgabra@aol.com).

Social Action

Embracing the Unitarian Universalist pursuit of truth and meaning, this committee reaches out to various community concerns. Contacts are Frank Wanderlich (frankwanderlich@yahoo.com; 708 458-2914) and Kim Johnson (kimjnsn@clear.net).

Sunday Morning Worship

Coordinating lay-led services and supplementary music. Another good way for new people to become involved is by serving as ushers, greeters or making the morning coffee. Contact Kathy Salzano (ktsalz@sbcglobal.net; 630 202-1900).

Holiday Harvest scheduled for Saturday, November 20

The biggest social event of our year, Holiday Harvest, is November 20, beginning at 5:00 p.m. We are in foremost need of an adult to supervise childcare for the evening, and as the date nears we will need help with all sorts of tasks to prepare for and coordinate the event. Participating in Holiday Harvest promises not only a great evening but also a great way to meet new people. Therefore, we especially encourage new members to jump into the fun! Chef Tim Dvorak promises a return of the gourmet pizzas; Tony Meadors' band will again provide jazz and dance music, and there will be a new wine grab (details later). We'll gear up in October with personal donations for the auction and task sign-ups, but for now, remember to take a Business Donation form to your favorite place and contact Karen McDowell ((630-852-6884; can2dowell@sbcglobal.net) or Pam Fodor (630-323-2885, ext 110; re@hinsdaleunitarian.org) if you can help with childcare.



General Assembly 2010 in Minneapolis

On June 23-27, UCH members Dave Lloyd and Suzanne Williams attended the Unitarian Universalist General Assembly (GA) in Minneapolis. Held annually, the GA gathers hundreds of UUs together not only to discuss and vote on specific issues but also to share ideas and experience. Dave and Suzanne came back from their first GA "inspired, energized, and proud to be UUs." Below you will find reports of their experience.

An Eyewitness Report

Submitted by Dave Lloyd and Suzanne Williams

During the course of several business meetings (called plenaries), we had the opportunity, as delegates from UCH, to vote on a number of business and policy measures. The first major vote was on a Statement of Conscience on Creating Peace, which had been developed over the course of several years. The statement has been revised numerous times to take into account a wide variety of opinions. For example, the resolution, which can be found on the web at <http://www.uua.org/socialjustice/socialjustice/statements/13394.shtml>, acknowledged that some of us believe that "force is sometimes necessary as a last resort," while some of us believe that "nonviolence is adequate in all circumstances." The resolution also supported veterans, members of the armed forces, and their families, as well as conscientious objectors. The resolution did take a stand against "aggressive and preventive wars . . . [and] unilateral interventions and extended military occupations." In its final version, the Statement of Conscience on Creating Peace received overwhelming support from the UU delegates. A number of resources are being developed about this topic, which you can find on the web at <http://www.uua.org/socialjustice/issuesprocess/currentissues/peacemaking/index.shtml>.

Another important vote focused on the location of the 2012 General Assembly. By chance, the 2012 GA had been scheduled for Phoenix, Arizona, before the Arizona government adopted its anti-immigration law that commands police to detain anyone who even "appears" to be an illegal immigrant. The debate at GA was whether to boycott Arizona and change the location in 2012. The original proposal was to do just that, but based on arguments made during several "mini-assemblies" earlier in the week, including those by members

of Arizona congregations, the Assembly voted to hold the 2012 GA in Phoenix, conduct the minimum required amount of business, and devote the majority of the assembly to supporting immigrants and their families, by opposing the law and engaging the authorities on immigration policy—a “social justice” GA, if you will.

The delegates at GA also showed their concern over immigration policy by their choice of a study action issue for the coming years. Every four years, the GA votes on an issue for congregations to concentrate on; this year’s Statement of Conscience on Creating Peace was the product of just such a process. To that end, we considered a number of issues for focus: economic reform; energy, peace and justice; slavery; revitalization of American democracy; and immigration. The majority of delegates chose to zero in on immigration policy, and we will be seeing a number of initiatives and programs around Immigration as a Moral Issue in the next few years. More information about the Immigration as a Moral Issue study/action Issue is available on the web at <http://www.uua.org/socialjustice/issuesprocess/currentissues/152647.shtml>.

An impressive part of GA was the voting on these potentially divisive issues. There was open and, sometimes, impassioned debate before each of these votes, but the discussions were always civil and informed. A great deal of credit for setting the stage for a civil and collegial gathering goes to Garner Takahashi Morris and Scott McNeill, conveners of the GA Right Relationship Team. The moderator for the plenaries, Gini Courter, also did an excellent job of balancing the right of everyone to be heard with the need to come to a conclusive and timely decision. In these days of shrill and bitter political contention, we were proud to see our fellow members put our fifth principle—the use of the democratic process—into action.

We were also proud to take part in a rally at the Minneapolis Pride Festival supporting gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered people. Over 1,500 UUs and friends attended the “Standing On The Side Of Love” rally in the noon heat on Saturday. The rally featured people who shared their stories of discrimination, speakers from several different faiths who support same-sex marriage, and a number of UU ministers and ministers from other sympathetic denominations who travel to states where same-sex marriage is legal and even arrange bus trips for couples wanting to be married.

In addition to the voting and activism, GA also features workshops on many useful topics. Between the two of us, we attended seminars on building healthy congregations, lay-led worship, membership growth, UU social witness, and other compelling topics. We gained a wealth of insight that we will be putting to use at UCH.

There were other highlights: The Parade of Banners, where delegates march through the crowded convention hall, each congregation carrying its banner; worship services featuring UUA President Peter Morales and other ministers from around the country; even a marketplace for books, social action opportunities, and UU merchandise.

We hope this report gives a flavor of the excitement that was packed into five days of GA and conveys our feeling that everyone should attend GA at least once. So, you may want to plan for next year’s GA, which will convene in **Charlotte, North Carolina, June 22–26, 2011.**



Parade of Banners

The UU United Nations Office: Your Voice of Social Conscience in World Affairs

Submitted by Suzanne Williams

One of the things I got to do during my participation in General Assembly was learn more about the Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office (UU-UNO). Part of that was hearing Ana Levy-Lyons's (one of our past intern ministers) Greeley Award-winning sermon about the work of the UU-UNO. The other was hearing UU-UNO Executive Director Bruce Knotts talk about the many groundbreaking and important UU-UNO initiatives underway on our behalf.

First, some background is in order. The UU-UNO is a non-governmental organization (NGO). The Unitarian Universalist Association's (UUA's) involvement in the United Nations can be traced to the early part of the 20th century. Both the Unitarians and the Universalists were active in the League of Nations Association and later closely monitored the creation of the United Nations. In 1946, the American Unitarian Association appointed Elvira Fradkin as an official delegate to the United Nations. In the 1950s, both the Universalist Church of America and the American Unitarian Association adopted resolutions in support of the United Nations. The founding of the UU-United Nations Office can be traced to April of 1962, when Adlai Stevenson, then U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations (and a Unitarian), wrote to UUA President Dana McLean Greeley suggesting that each UU congregation nominate an envoy.

Fast forward to Minneapolis 2010: after learning about all the important UU-UNO initiatives underway, I found the natural extension of my GA journey was to volunteer to serve as UCH's official UU-UNO envoy. In that role, I will be keeping you informed about all of the important activities of the UU-UNO, telling you when there are opportunities to make your voice heard, and informing you about how you can do that. My job also involves encouraging UUs to become members of the UU-UNO.

The UU-UNO currently sponsors the following programs:

LGBT/SOGI Human Rights

Over the past 40 years, UU congregations have become more aware and supportive of their Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgendered (LGBT) constituents. However, even members of the North American LGBT community and their allies are largely unaware of the dangers faced by LGBT individuals outside of North America: in over 80 countries, people can face criminal prosecution based on presumed sexual orientation or gender identity — sometimes with fatal consequences. Thanks to a generous grant from the Arcus Foundation, the UU-UNO now has new staff dedicated specifically to advocating at the UN for decriminalizing homosexuality around the world. Using its unique position at the UN as a leader within the ecumenical community, the UU-UNO works to garner support among the NGOs, especially the faith-based communities, to end criminal sanctions based on sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI). Additionally, the UU-UNO holds UN ECOSOC consultative status, allowing it to build consensus and coalition among other NGOs with consultative status to support decriminalization.

(www.uu-uno.org/lgbt.)

Every Child Is Our Child

The Every Child Is Our Child (ECOC) Program is a UU-UNO initiative towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG's) that were established by world leaders in 2000. The program consists of offering essential resources and health care assistance to orphans and vulnerable children, enabling them to attend primary school in the Manya Krobo district in Ghana. The ECOC directly contributes to the goals of achieving universal primary education, promoting gender equality, and combating HIV/AIDS. Additionally, ECOC gives priority to girls, in order to help promote gender

equality. Finally, the program contributes to the fight against AIDS, since children are taught about HIV/AIDS prevention in school, starting in Grade 2. The ECOC program provides real life opportunities to practice UU spiritual principles. By providing education to a threatened generation, we further affirm and promote the worth and dignity of every person. (www.uu-uno.org/ecoc.)

Women: Security and Peace

The Women: Security and Peace program promotes awareness and action through education and advocacy in three key areas:

- The effects of armed conflict on women
- The importance of women's role in peace-building and peace-keeping efforts
- Ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of all form of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) by the U.S. and international implementation

The UU-UNO's goal in this area is to encourage the strong voices and actions of women as part of the peace building process. Through this program, the UU-UNO supports and advocates for the global implementation of key international agreements such as Security Council Resolution 1325 and CEDAW. (www.uu-uno.org/wisp)

Climate Change Task Force

The UU-UNO has a Climate Change Initiative, implemented by the UU-UNO Climate Change Task Force and Climate Advisory Group. The Climate Change Portal of the UU-UNO features topical articles, news, and resources for climate change / global warming education from authoritative sources, on science, impacts and mitigation / adaptation strategies, emphasizing **what each of us can do to help**. This portal site is located at <http://www.digitaluniverse.net/uuuno/> (note that you may not want to enable popups for this site, as there are several that are very annoying).

UN Sunday

Every year, UU congregations are encouraged to designate a "UN Sunday." This year's UN Sunday theme is "Ethical Aspects of Climate Change," and it will also be the theme of the 2011 UU-UNO Spring Intergenerational Seminar in New York. This annual activity brings UU youth and adults from throughout the United States and Canada to consider a topic of global concern. You can read more at www.uu-uno.org/getinvolved/un-sunday/

Going forward, look for regular updates to the UU-UNO section of the UCH web site, the *Touchstone*, and the Denominational Relations bulletin board in the Alice Warren Room. If you are interested in becoming involved with UCH's UU-UNO work, please let me know!

Landscape Garden Notes

Plant-A-Row-For-the-Hungry

Thanks to the initiative of Joey Yerger and Tim Johnson and the propagation skills of Dennis Sejut, a trial vegetable garden plot on the south side of the R.E. Building has been a stunning success! Take a look sometime soon, before summer's end. Building on the Yerger/Johnson family's success, we are making plans to expand the vegetable planting in 2011 for the Plant-a-Row-for-the-Hungry program on the grounds of UCH. This program will:

- be done within the confines of the existing planting bed adjacent to the Yerger/Johnson plot.
- offer a wonderful expression of UCH's capacity to help hungry people.
- demonstrate something those of us with property can do in our own gardens to help hungry people.

See the following links for more information on the Plant-A-Row program:

http://www.gardenwriters.org/html/par/pdfs/10_par_mkt_brochure.pdf

<http://www.comportone.com/cpo/garden/articles/plantarowform.htm>

Children's Garden of Wildflowers

Plans are underway to establish in 2011 more native wildflowers and woodland plants in the Children's Garden at the west end of the R.E. Building.

Sandra Price Memorial Conversation Circle

Progress continues to be made on obtaining the Village of Hinsdale's permission to build the circle in its designed location southeast of the tower of the church.

Contact Charlie Fischer for more information on these and other UCH landscape garden matters (cfis@sbcglobal.net; 630-734-8279).

Board Notes

Report of the Board of Trustees

Submitted by Beth Staas, Board Secretary

Over the summer, the Board of Trustees format was to meet monthly in formal session followed by an idea-generating Retreat. The June Board session began by planning the coming year's committees that would be activated, namely Bylaws, Fund Raising, Music, Adult Education, and Program and Social Events. Darline Peterson, Board Vice President, then reported that Delphi Academy, a non-profit school, was interested in renting three rooms in our Religious Education building for \$1000 a month and a ten-month lease. Realtor Lynn Brackett said we would need a special use permit that might take a long time to implement. Ms. Petersen would keep the Board informed. Dave Lloyd, Board President, summarized events at the General Assembly; he also indicated that the "Heifer Project," a program to support people in undeveloped countries, would be incorporated into a presentation by the Youth Group some time in the coming year.

The Board then convened as a retreat, during which Steve Trout, Communications trustee, reviewed Hinsdale's website, which has been considerably upgraded. Rich Lomansney, member of the Web Committee, reported that our Facebook presence has 86 members and that we receive some five or six Tweets per week, these monitored by Kari Freeman. Under consideration is use of Metrix, a service to enumerate Web activity. The Board then turned to the Touchstone and its presence on the Web versus hard copy, suggesting added links such as YouTube and the UUA site.

At the August Board meeting, Steve Trout, Communications Trustee, presented a Consent and Waiver form for those pictured on our website or in the Touchstone but agreed to formulate a shortened version. New committees were once more discussed. Dave Lloyd, Board President, reported the meeting of Board officers on August 11th to analyze our compensation program in conjunction with UUA guidelines. They will continue their review in preparation for the coming fiscal year and report their findings to the Board as they progress. Darline Petersen, Vice President, reported that cost and lease limitations might bring in less income from the Delphi Academy rental in the Religious Education building because of filing delays and fees for certain permits. The Board felt that the agreement was still worth pursuing, and Ms. Peterson was asked to continue exploring that rental possibility.

At the subsequent Retreat, Board members brainstormed about the coming theme of the year--Wealth, Poverty and Class--suggesting programs, projects, and volunteerism to benefit others.

New Beginnings

Submitted by Dave Lloyd, Board President

Your Board of Trustees has maintained a busy schedule over the summer and looks toward forming the following committees to be filled this coming year. Can you help? If so, talk to any member of the Board (listed on our website) or David Lloyd, Board President (708 485-2296; www.davelloyd@midspring.com).

- **Bylaws Committee**
To examine the entire document for contradiction and repetition. This committee's mandate is that it meet throughout the year, presenting a Bylaws revision at the annual meeting in 2011 for congregational approval.
- **Fund Raising Committee**
Initiated by the Finance Committee, its purpose would go beyond raising money to encourage new activities that enhance church life.
- **Music Committee**
To coordinate with Worship Committee and enhance our lay-led Sunday mornings.
- **Adult Education Committee**
To organize and present talks, seminars, programs, classes on current and classic church related topics.
- **Social Committee**
To coordinate events to enhance members' interaction with one another beyond Family Night. Some ideas might include movies and a monthly potluck after the Sunday service. (The potluck event is already in the works to begin October 3rd.)

General Announcements

Chris Garofalo in Performance September 26

Chris Garofalo will perform Mozart's *Piano Concerto No. 23 in A Major* with the **Sinfonietta Bel Canto** on Sunday, September 26 at 3:00 p.m. at Immanuel Lutheran Church, 5211 Carpenter St. in Downers Grove. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$12 for seniors and \$5 for students. For more information, visit sinfoniettabelcanto.org.

Piano Lessons with Chris Garofalo

Chris Garofalo has openings this fall for piano students—beginners through professional coaching. Lessons are given at UCH and in Westmont. For more information, contact Chris (630-968-7649).

Meditation Blog Offered by Ohio UU

Member of UU Church of Akron, John Kirszenberg has created a blog focused on Meditation and Spiritual Growth: www.meditationandspiritualgrowth.com.

Food Pantry Needs Volunteers

The People's Resource Center is in need of regular and one-time volunteers for its Wheaton food pantry on Saturday mornings from 8:45 until noon. Volunteers must be 13 or older. Please contact Kimberly Thacker, interim volunteer coordinator (630 682-5402, ext. 243; ldoyle@peoplesrc.org).

Among Ourselves

Meet Three Members of the Committee on Ministry

Suzanne Williams

How long have you attended UCH, and what do you most enjoy about our church? *I think we [Dave Lloyd and Suzanne] joined in 2004. Of the UU churches I had attended up to that point in the Chicago area, I felt most comfortable here. I had met a lot of people at UCH with whom I felt a fast affinity, and from a theological perspective, I felt that UCH was a close match to my own spiritual pulse. I think what is most important to me about UCH is the community.*

In what faith/church (if any) were you raised? How does that experience inform your UUism? *I was raised in the Episcopal Church, but began exploring Unitarian Universalism my 20s. As an Episcopalian, I was always asking 'why?' and I almost did not go through with my confirmation because of those questions. But ultimately, it took well into my adulthood for the doubts about Christianity to penetrate deeper into my psyche and take root. Now I describe myself as a Unitarian Universalist with Buddhist and earth-centered leanings.*

Explain your reasons for joining the newly created Committee on Ministry? In what ways do you see this committee benefiting the church? *As I understand it, UCH always used to have a standing Committee on Ministry, but that went away at some point, maybe around the early or mid-1990s. Most UU churches have standing committees on ministry. It seemed strange to me that there WOULDN'T be such a group at UCH – most UUs I know see ministry in a larger context than do members of many faith traditions, and believe that we have a responsibility to work together with our called minister to create the kind of ministerial environment that our members say they want.*

In what other ways have you been involved in UCH? *I have been a member of the Green Sanctuary Committee since it began in 2005, and I have co-chaired the Holiday Harvest Inventory Receiving team with both Nancy Weill and Dave Lloyd.*

What do you see as UCH's greatest asset and why? *Without a doubt, it's the people. Although we don't always agree about things, we strive to form a caring community that rarely acts in hostile or uncompassionate ways, which has not always been my experience in church families.*

It has to be asked: What did you do for your summer vacation? *Well, at the end of May (not really summer, I know), my husband, Dave Lloyd, and I, traveled to North Yorkshire, England. We had a wonderful week seeing castles, cathedrals, abbeys, the City of York, and the Yorkshire Dales. Then, at the end of June, we went to the Unitarian Universalist Association General Assembly (GA) in Minneapolis. It was my first GA, and I had a great time. We also managed to sneak away at the end of July to Spring Green, Wisconsin – our favorite local getaway, for a nice long weekend of theater at the American Players Theatre and taking in the local sites. Otherwise, when at home, it has been a busy summer with too much work and too little play.*

Julia Beckman

How long have you attended UCH, and what do you most enjoy about our church? *I've been a member since 1966 and enjoy most the freedom to find my own religious beliefs and share them with other liberal thinking people. (Of course, I love the music, too!)*

In what faith/church (if any) were you raised? How does that experience inform your UUism? *I was raised Methodist. I carried that faith's tradition of service to others into the UU church, whose tradition is the same. However, I did not bring the prescribed belief system and was glad to leave it behind.*

Explain your reasons for joining the newly created Committee on Ministry? In what ways do you see this committee benefiting the church? *I joined the Committee because I saw the need for better communication of members' concerns with the Board and minister. It will benefit the church by finding issues which may be harmful to our growth and good fellowship and then finding solutions. It may also help us share and grow the good things we are doing.*

In what other ways have you been involved in UCH? *Over the years, I have been a church school teacher, RE Chair, Board member, Chair of Fundraising, Women's Alliance President. I am most proud of my 35 years as Celebration Singers director.*

What do you see as UCH's greatest asset and why? *Our greatest asset is our acceptance of all who are seeking spiritual and intellectual freedom of thought. I believe strongly that we can be a home for the growing number of people in our society who are "fellow travelers." We need to let them know we are here.*

Which of the UU Principles is the most compelling for you and why? *They are all compelling, but I believe #1 (The inherent worth and dignity of every person) is the most so, because it drives the others. If we believe in the worth and dignity of every person, we must follow the other principles.*

Which of your family members—immediate or ancestral—do you feel you most resemble and why? *I resemble most my mother, especially as I grow older. She was a believer in doing for others, lived her beliefs and was a very hard worker. However, I share the strong political activism of my father as well.*

It has to be asked: What did you do for your summer vacation? *I am going to a family reunion in the state of Washington.*

Bob Daniel-Wayman

How long have you attended UCH, and what do you most enjoy about our church? *I have attended since 1986. Debbi and I first came to the church looking for a minister to marry us. Both of our children went through the R.E program. We have enjoyed the spiritual inspiration, intellectual challenge, and the community.*

In what faith/church (if any) were you raised? How does that experience inform your UUism? *I was raised in a Methodist Church. We had a youth group which allowed us to explore our own spirituality. I didn't know it at the time but I was defining a UU view.*

Explain your reasons for joining the newly created Ministerial Committee? In what ways do you see this committee benefiting the church? *I believe that in a congregationalist church the members need to have an active conversation with their minister. The congregation's spiritual needs involve closely held emotions and values. At times this can make the conversation challenging. I hope that the Ministerial Committee can help create a positive and supportive environment for the conversation.*

In what other ways have you been involved in UCH? *I have been on the various committees, served on the Board and the Nominating Committee, and taught AYS (now Owl).*

What do you see as UCH's greatest asset and why? *Our members are thoughtful and have broad interests, experiences, and talents.*

Which of the UU Principles is the most compelling for you and why? *I really can't pick just one.*

It has to be asked: What did you do for your summer vacation? *We spent a week on the coast of Maine just north of Kennebunkport in July. Last week was spent at the Cabbage. The Cabbage is our vacation home on Washington Island, WI. [My daughter] Shelby named it that because it is small enough to be a cottage, has fake log siding to look like a cabin, and was painted a sick green color when we bought it. It is funky more than fancy. We go to read books, watch the water and wildlife, ride bikes and paddle kayaks, and generally relax. Our little bit of paradise.*

September Calendar

Saturday, September 11— Greater Chicago Food Depository volunteer day

Sunday, September 12— MANNA orders due

Sunday, September 12— Schedule appointment for the Picture Directory photo

Thursday, September 16— Women's Alliance trip to The Field Museum

Sunday, September 19— Getting to Know Us conversation with Rev. Searl

Sunday, September 19— Activity Fair, after Sunday service

Sunday, September 26— Activity Fair, after Sunday service

Thursday, September 23— Lunch Bunch (Casa Margarita)

Sunday, September 26— MANNA orders available for pickup

Friday, October 1— First Friday Fun Night

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.

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