

EVANSTON

UNITARIAN NEWS

August
2011



IN THE INTERIM - by Janet E. Newman

I am delighted to have this opportunity to introduce myself to you as your Interim Minister for 2011 – 2013. I look forward to our working well together for a productive transition period.

I grew up in northern Ohio, in a small town on the south shore of Lake Erie. My roots go deep into Canada since my forebears came from there. However, my parents immigrated to the U.S. and raised my two younger brothers and me here.

I did my undergraduate work at Smith College and studied in Spain for a year on the Smith College Junior Year Abroad program. I traveled in Europe during the following summer with Latin American students. In 1967 I graduated with a BA in Hispanic Studies.

I moved to northern Virginia after graduation and began my first profession as a computer programmer/analyst/teacher. I also became an active volunteer in the Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington, Virginia, serving on the Board of Trustees, in the choir, and on almost every committee of the church.

My husband and I were married in that church, and after his death in a car accident in 1978, I began full-time study at Wesley Theological Seminary, United Methodist, in Washington, DC. I was then the only Unitarian Universalist on campus. In 1980, I moved to Chicago.

I earned my MA from the Divinity School of the University of Chicago in 1982 and my Doctor of Ministry from Meadville/Lombard in 1983. I volunteered at the First Unitarian Church of Chicago, except for the time of my parish internship at what is now the UU Congregation at Shelter Rock, NY.

Before entering the interim ministry, I served as a settled minister. My most recent called position was as Second Minister of All Souls Unitarian Church in Tulsa, OK, the largest congregation in North America. I have been honored, since 1987, to serve as Interim Minister to many wonderful congregations. If you give me time, I can list them for you!

Janet E. Newman

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YOUR AUDIT GROUP HARD AT WORK

by Michael Anderson, Chair, Integrated Stewardship Committee

The UCE Audit Committee — Nancy Owens, chair; Marc Rolfes and Michael Anderson — met on July 5. We opened the meeting by reviewing the church budget for 2011-2012. In early budget drafts, before the Annual Pledge Drive was completed, we had allocated \$2,000 a year for three years intending to fund a full financial audit to be done by an outside accounting firm. However, in the final draft, presented to and approved by the Annual meeting of the congregation on May 15, that allocation had to be eliminated. Our targeted income from pledges had not materialized and it was necessary therefore to make adjustments. The Integrated Stewardship Committee (ISC) recommended giving priority to other line items—notably the staff compensation restoration pool and UUA dues. In addition, we were able to avoid any cuts in programs. But because we did not have the funds needed to comply with our by-laws, which mandate a periodic audit, we decided to pursue a somewhat scaled-back approach, keeping the spirit, if not the letter, of the law.

Our first step is to define and implement Internal Controls, e.g. the way in which we handle cash and make deposits. These are the kinds of controls any auditor would be looking for and it made sense to us to get this work done before an audit was ordered. Marc Rolfes has done some research on best practices in this area, checking with other UUA churches. He will continue to do that and then present a recommendation to the ISC. After ISC review we would present a draft of such control procedures to the Board of Trustees for their approval.

In the meantime, chair Nancy Owens will be looking for a qualified member of the congregation who can complete an Agreed-Upon Procedures report, which is less than a full audit. Such a report might include an evaluation of our internal control systems and other items, such as a review of cash balances and the accounting for payroll. According to one source, in an Agreed-Upon Procedures report “the auditor provides no opinion, certification, or assurance that the assertions being made in the financial statements are free from material misstatement. The users of reports based on agreed-upon procedures must draw their own conclusions on the results of the tests reported.”

Our goal is to have the internal controls procedure approved by October and to have the Agreed-Upon Procedures report completed by the end of 2011.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE

More good news about improvements for UCE from our Capital Campaign funds! Our outgoing Board of Trustees Chair Marc Rolfes has notified us that our new heating system has saved us approximately 50% (about \$4500 this year) of our former annual gas bill. Thanks to all of you who have paid your pledges over the four years of the Campaign. Your generosity has helped us in so many ways.

The CC Continuation Committee

EVANSTON UNITARIAN NEWS

The UCE newsletter is published monthly. All newsletter articles should be sent to **Editor Judith Ramey** at jramey@ucevanston.org. Submissions may be sent by email (preferred), or as legible ‘hard copy.’ **WANT MORE NEWS? Join the UCE Announcements list for email news items throughout the week. Call or email the office, uce@ucevanston.org, 847-864-1330.**

UNITARIAN CHURCH OF EVANSTON
1330 Ridge Ave., Evanston, IL 60201
www.ucevanston.org

Ministers: Rev. Janet Newman, Interim Parish Minister (ext. 201); Rev. Connie Grant (ext. 103) **Staff:** Bart Bradfield, *Director of Music*; Gregory Shifrin, *Pianist*; Sandra Robinson, *Executive Operations Director* (108); Chris Isely, *Accounting Manager* (109); Judith Ramey, *Communications Director* (114); Eileen Wiviott, *Membership Director* (111); Carli Maggel, *Administrative Assistant* (102); Brenda Dunkins, *Church Assistant* (101); Eric Webber, *Custodian*; Lindsey Kennedy, Liz Kennedy, and Jonathan Motley, *Lobby Staff*.

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AUGUST WORSHIP SERVICES - 10:30 a.m.

Sunday, August 7 “The Transformative Power of Service” Ronn Frantz, guest speaker. Mr. Franz is a Mennonite minister and Executive Director of Good News Partners, whose mission is to provide affordable housing in the North of Howard neighborhood of East Rogers Park. GNP works “to end homelessness and hopelessness with everyone God brings to us, to foster justice, and to build bridges of reconciliation” by providing education, community development, and a continuum of housing including the Jonquil Hotel.

Note: Join Ronn, Eileen Wiviott, and the Food and Shelter Team after the service for a discussion on volunteering with Good News Partners - experiences you've had and/or interest in volunteering in the future.

Sunday, August 14 “TBD” The topic of the sermon is “to be determined.” Who's on first? Rev. Connie Grant speaking.

Sunday, August 21 “Building Bridges and Crossing Them: the Hope of Interfaith Dialogue” Religion means “binding back to the source.” To take it further, I think it means the continual quest to understand our source and the source of all things – where we come from, who we are and why we are here. In that sense, we are religious beings. However, the fastest growing religious category in America is “spiritual but not religious.” At the same time fundamentalism and fanaticism maintain a powerful place in our societies. The world needs a stronger voice for reli-

gious pluralism. Is there any hope that interfaith dialogue - embracing our similarities, rejoicing in our differences, and finding common cause – could overcome the ignorance and hatred in the world? I believe it is our only hope. Eileen Wiviott speaking.

Sunday, August 28 “Our Ministries” Rev. Janet Newman, who will be our Interim Parish Minister for the next two years, and Rev. Connie Grant, who is entering her fourth year as our Minister for Lifespan Religious Education, will respond to each other's questions about their ministries, including how they differ and how they complement each other.

SUMMER SUNDAY CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY PROGRAM

On Sunday mornings at 10:30 am (during the worship service) through September 4, children who will be entering kindergarten through sixth grade are invited to participate in a multi-age program of crafts, games and other activities. Child care will be provided for nursery and preschool children.

“Walking the Path of Peace” will be our special program for children on August 7 and 28, led by UCE member Donna Schiller. During these classes, we will share the mission of the Children's Global Peace Project: to help children find peace and strength within, harmony with others, and beauty in diversity. The peace skills we will learn include: finding peace within, peace with others and peace in community. There will be a creative activity as well as Dances of Universal Peace.

Religious Education Teacher Orientation - Saturday, September 10, 8:30 am-noon. For Religious Education teachers for preschool through eighth grade classes. Together with our community of teachers, meet with Rev. Connie Grant and the Religious Education Board to share inspiration and ideas about classroom management, to learn procedural information, and to plan together for the new year. RSVP to RE@ucevanston.org.

Religious Education Family Orientation Potluck - Friday, September 16, 6:30 – 8:30 pm. Get to know your children's teachers and find out about curriculum for 2011-2012; meet your children's classmates and their parents. Please bring a dish to share. RSVP to RE@ucevanston.org.



Crackerbarrel Discussion Group is on hiatus until fall. Join **NEWS GROUP** this summer, 9:15 a.m., Room 3.



Sunday Morning Yoga Practice

Designed to reduce stress, bring relaxation, increase range of motion, and find balance, Yoga is learned by doing. Drop in, wear comfortable clothing for stretching, and try it. Community yoga mats provided if needed. Led by UCE member Doug Erickson, a certified Yoga instructor. Sundays 9:15 – 10:15 am.

GRANT REPORT TO UU FUND for SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

By Eileen Wiviott

Last summer we received the good news that UCE would receive a grant from the UU Funding Program to further our community volunteer efforts. Members of the Community Volunteer Opportunities Team had applied for the grant to continue the work they began in the fall of 2009. We received \$5,000 as a direct grant to fund 5 hours of time a week for our Social Action Coordinator, a position that I currently hold. We also received \$1,500 as a challenge grant to support volunteer efforts in the community. The challenge grant meant raising \$1,500 from our congregation and we exceeded that goal in a very short time.

HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR ACTIVITIES

We initiated the **Social Action Council** to coordinate the efforts of our four social action teams: Peace & Justice, Green Sanctuary, UCE Rainbow Alliance, and the Food and Shelter Team. The Council provides a good platform to chart a coordinated approach to the church's social action projects.

We made good use of the grant funds and the challenge grant funds by funding a **variety of programs**. On a monthly basis, we showed social action films, highlighting issues related to the work of these four teams. The film series was well attended both by congregants and by others outside of the church. We benefited from the civic reflection process with Adam Davis of the "Project on Civic Reflection," helping us to find deeper meaning and connection through service.

Hilda's Place Shelter of Connections.

Throughout the year, we supplied food — including tuna, dried fruit and nuts, fruit and juice, and granola bars as well as other needed items — long underwear, gift cards, blankets, sheets, holiday gifts, tools, socks, and boxer shorts. See an impressive list of how many of each item we donated on the bulletin board in the lobby. We began a **Saturday Morning Baking Program** at the Jonquil Hotel of Good News Partners, baking with children and building community. We are continuing to improve the project by helping **Good News Builders** to remodel the kitchen in the hotel. We fed people in Evanston at 8 soup kitchens throughout the year. We became a support

congregation for **Family Promise of the Northshore**, working with our friends at Northminster Presbyterian Church three times this year to provide housing and food to families in homeless situations. Our Community Connections book group with the women from the Family Housing Program of Connections did not continue due to lack of participation but we found new ways to reach out.

We will continue building relationships within our church, local, and global communities. And your generous spirits will continue to live out the mission of this congregation: to nurture the human spirit for a world made whole. This year, check the bulletin board in the lobby or click the Social Action tab on our website to learn how you can participate in continuing volunteer opportunities. Join us as we learn, teach, and grow. You might

- Bake on Saturday mornings.
- Participate in a soup kitchen.
- Support Family Promise by sharing a meal or helping with homework.
- Be a co-sponsor of Our Giving House.

Thank you for your efforts, your support, and for making good use of the resources we received.

Family Promise Chicago North Shore: NEXT VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY Sunday, August 14 – Saturday, August 20. Family Promise provides temporary shelter for families who are in homeless situations through the hospitality of local churches. The families are housed in alternating churches for one week at a time. Northminster will host families the week of August 14-20 and we will again have the opportunity to work with them as co-hosts. Please sign up to volunteer on the volunteer bulletin board in the lobby, on our website at <http://www.ucevanston.org/volunteer-opportunities>, or contact Eileen Wiviott at ewiviott@hotmail.com.

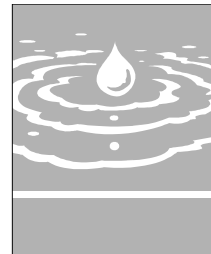
MONDAY LUNCH AT 2nd BAPTIST CHURCH - We continue our tradition of serving Monday lunch once a month at Second Baptist Church this summer, with one remaining, on August 22. We feed approximately 100 people and need lots of help! Please look for the sign up sheets on the volunteer bulletin board in the lobby or on our website www.ucevanston.org. Please contact Eileen Wiviott at ewiviott@hotmail.com with any questions.

Joys & Concerns of Our Community

Members & friends may share personal news by writing brief notes to be read at Sunday morning services or by sending items to the church office by email or another legible form. **Editor's note:** Beginning in September, the Joys & Concerns of our Community will be found in the members' password protected area of the UCE website, www.ucevanston.org. At that time, they will no longer appear in the Evanston Unitarian News. By sharing members' personal information in that private way, rather than in the newsletter, which is widely distributed, we will more adequately protect our members' privacy. We will also have printed copies available at the Member Services table in the lobby.

This content has been redacted for the web edition of the newsletter.

Gathering the Waters



At our worship service at 10:30 am on Sunday, September 11, we'll bring together the waters that symbolize where we have been and what we bring to this religious community. Please bring a vial of water from your travels near or far (or from your backyard). This will be a worship service for all ages.

MEMBERSHIP AT UCE

Introduction to Unitarian Universalism: Sunday, August, 14 11:30 am - 1:30 pm Newcomers to our church and our faith are invited to join us for a deeper understanding of Unitarian Universalism. This 2-hour session, led by our Minister for Lifespan Religious Education Rev. Connie Grant, will provide an overview of Unitarian Universalist history, the seven principles of our faith, church governance, and how we live in beloved community. It is designed for anyone who wants to know more about our UU faith, and is **also** the first step if you are considering membership at The Unitarian Church of Evanston.

Orientation Toward Membership (OTM): Saturday, August 20, 9 am - 12 pm What is the meaning of membership? How will your life be different if you join UCE? If you've been asking yourself these questions and have participated in an Intro to Unitarian Universalism class, please consider signing up for **OTM**. This class will address our various spiritual journeys and the principles of Unitarian Universalism, as well as UCE culture and programs. By the end of the session, you'll have a good sense of the rewards and responsibilities of membership at the Unitarian Church of Evanston, and whether you're ready to join.

Please register for **Intro to UU** and/or **OTM** at the Guest & Member Services table in the lobby or contact Membership Director, Eileen Wiviott, at 847-864-1330 x111 or ewiviott@hotmail.com.



UCE TO MARK PEACE EVENTS IN SEPTEMBER

Sunday, September 11, 2011: the 10th Anniversary of the 9/11 Tragedy

Join us for a vigil on UCE's lawn following the service. It is important for UCE to have a public presence advocating Peace and Justice on this historic date. At 2 pm, UCEers will join "The Peaceable Cities Walk and Talk" beginning at the Dar-us-Sunnah-Masjid, 2045 Grove, then proceeding down Dodge to the Jewish Reconstructionist Congregation. More than a dozen faith communities as well as civic organizations and Peace groups will be participating in this march to demonstrate their commitment to Community Building.

International Day of Peace: Wednesday, September 21

At 7pm, in Room 3, the Social Action Council will show the film "O Little Town of Bethlehem."

Between September 11 and September 21, the Peace and Justice Program will provide ideas for 10 peace practices so individuals can observe 10 Days of Peace.

Soup Kitchens this Fall: September 28, October 5, 12, and 19, 2011

On these dates we will host soup kitchens at UCE while our neighbor, Beth Emet, celebrates Jewish holidays Yom Kippur, Rosh Hashanah, and Sukkot. We welcome approximately 100 people to UCE for a meal, a bag lunch for the next day, and our hospitality.

Volunteers from UCE cook or purchase food, set up and make lunches, prepare and serve lobby beverages, serve dinner, or clean up. Children old enough to work with their parents or independently are welcome to participate.

Do you belong to a Covenant Group or other small group at UCE? Consider adopting a soup kitchen night and all sign up together.

More detailed descriptions and sign up sheets will be available online* and in the lobby starting in late August. Watch the listserv for continuing announcements. Questions to Janet Hartmann, jtwros1@comcast.net.

*From www.ucevanston.org new home page > Social Action & Justice > Volunteer Opportunities





STUDY REVEALS TOXINS

Ecotips,
by Lynn Lawson

Early this year a study released by the University of California, San Francisco, revealed that an overwhelming percentage of pregnant women in the US may have highly toxic environmental chemicals--some illegal--in their bodies. These toxins include certain PCBs, organochlorine pesticides, PFCs, phenols, PBDEs, phthalates, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), and perchlorate (Fox News, January 14, 2011). At about the same time, the \$674-billion chemical industry and related consumer-product industries were busy defeating a reform of the ineffective 1976 US Toxic Substances Control Act, by means of lobbying, hefty Congressional contributions, and meetings closed to the press. The House and Senate bills would have made chemical companies accountable for proving the safety of chemicals before they are put on the market (Our Toxic Times, February 2011). **TIP:** Pregnant or not, learn how to protect yourself as best you can.

NEW COVENANT GROUPS COMING

If you have been interested in joining a covenant group, please stop by the Guest & Member Services table in the lobby to sign up. Covenant groups provide a unique opportunity to listen and be listened to. They are groups of about 10 individuals who together create a safe place to share respectfully. A covenant group is an opportunity to "build community ten people at a time." Groups are formed based on the availability of participants and will begin in October and run through May. If you would like more information, please contact Membership Director, Eileen Wiviott at ewiviott@hotmail.com or 847-864-1330 x111.

NON-FICTION BOOK GROUP

The UCE Non Fiction Book Group will meet after church on September 25 to discuss the book *The Strange Alchemy of Life and Law* by Albie Sachs. Please contact John Poust at poustus@hotmail.com if you have questions.



Save the date!
**SERENDIPITY
AUCTION 2011**

Saturday,
November 19, 2011
It's not too early to put
this date on your
calendar!

LAKE GENEVA 2011 FALL WEEKEND - UCE's Longest-running Non-religious Program

by Peg Boccard, Coordinator



A few rooms are still available for this, the 54th annual Lake Geneva Fall Weekend, September 29/30 to October 2, at the George Williams College campus of Aurora University in Williams Bay, WI. (We gather for a sandwich buffet dinner on Friday evening, followed by a get-to-know-you activity. Saturday morning features an all-group program, often thought-provoking and spiritually intriguing, led by one of the ministers. In the afternoon, a number of activities are available, including biking, hiking, art/craft projects, discussions, and a play reading. In the evening: "Cocktails," dinner, an all-group activity (often wild and crazy), then smaller group games. Sunday morning after breakfast is a relaxed time, followed by a Sunday service with readings and music provided by participants. The weekend ends with lunch in the dining hall. A smaller group of attendees come up Thursday afternoon and spend the night in order to do an 8-mile hike along the water's edge into Lake Geneva on Friday morning. (Ask Peggy or another longer-timer for details.) Sundays between now and September 19 you may stop in the church lobby to check out a notebook with photos and schedules of activities from past years. You'll get a flavor of this wonderful weekend that celebrates the opening of fall. We'd so love to have you enjoy it with us. Sign up on Sundays, or send me an email at peg-boc@ameritech.net.





TRANSITION TEAM NAMED

A Transition Team has been named to work with Rev. Janet Newman during our two-year interim period. Members of the Transition Team are Susan Carlton, Jim Kepler, Steve Serikaku, Margaret Shaklee, and Johna VanDyke. Rev. Connie Grant will be an adjunct member of the team.

As recommended by the UUA Office of Transitions, the Transition Team is a group of active congregation leaders, appointed by the Board of Trustees, whose primary work will be developing strategies that effectively further the developmental tasks of interim ministry through analysis, understanding of systems and emotional context, building covenantal relations, and undertaking strategic planning and logistical action.

In addition, the Transition Team will serve as a "think tank" and sounding board for the interim minister. In this capacity, the team and the interim minister will collaborate in discerning the needs and priorities of the congregation through the entire period of interim ministry. The Transition Team also works in full coordination with the congregation's Board of Trustees, and reports to the Board on a regular basis.

THE MINISTERS' SCHEDULES

During August, the ministers' schedules will be irregular. Please email or call for an appointment. In an emergency, you may call one of our ministers at home at any time.

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Rev. Connie Grant

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