

# EVANSTON

## UNITARIAN NEWS

September  
2011

### **The Good News - A New Kitchen at the Good News Partners Jonquil Hotel**

This summer, five men in our congregation have been working hard to renovate the kitchen at the Jonquil Hotel. A generous donation from Marc Rolfes of his kitchen cabinets, a side by side refrigerator, and counter tops started a project that will be sure to change lives! Mark Miller drew up architectural plans. A huge thank you to Doug Erickson, Robb Geiger, Steve Serikaku, Warwick Stevenson, and Hank Strickler for their dedicated and talented work. They demolished two old pantry areas, uncovered a hidden window, tiled the floor to blend with the existing floor, painted walls, and installed the cabinets.

We will inaugurate the new space with a brunch party on September 17 to honor everyone who worked so hard on the kitchen. We are looking for volunteers to work with the children at the Jonquil Hotel to make the food. We are also looking for donations for the meal. Contact Carol Nielsen [carolsnielsen@sbcglobal.net](mailto:carolsnielsen@sbcglobal.net) if you want to help with this celebration.

### **Food and Shelter Team Announces Baking Schedule for the Jonquil Hotel - Saturdays, 9:45 to 12**

The third Saturday of the month is now scheduled for baking and cooking at the Jonquil Hotel. We will be identifying the baking and cooking projects soon. We are looking for leaders for each month and anyone who wants to join us in this satisfying activity. If you would be willing to lead a Saturday, and organize the volunteers, and donate ingredients, please contact Carol Nielsen. Baking Saturdays are scheduled for: September 17, October 15, November 19, December 17, January 21, February 18, March 17, April 21, May 19.

### **Our Giving House - 2011-2012**

September's Giving House will be a Kitchen Shower for the newly renovated kitchen at the Jonquil Hotel. We are asking you to bring used or new items to stock the kitchen. In the past, we did not have enough storage space to leave baking and cooking equipment at the kitchen. We will now have plenty of cabinets. We are looking for everything from dinner plates, silverware, baking bowls, cookie sheets, spatulas, measuring spoons and cups, cake pans, cutting boards, knives, dish towels, mixers, wooden spoons, and muffin tins. New or used items are welcome. Clear out for fall and donate what you don't need.

### **INSIDE THIS ISSUE**

From the Ministers . . .	2
Sundays at UCE . . .	3
News from Congregational Leadership . . .	4
Religious Education News . . .	5
UCE Marks Peace Events . . .	6
Social Action News . . .	7
On our Calendars . . .	8
Membership News . . .	9
@ UCE - News & Notes . . .	10, 11
Spotlight on Staff . . .	11



Member login on the website  
[www.ucevanston.org](http://www.ucevanston.org)  
just got easier!

After you click on "Member  
login," and are logged in,  
you'll be taken directly to the  
home page.

And remember, you only need  
to log in to get "protected"  
information, such as the  
member directory.

## IN THE INTERIM . . . .

by Janet Newman



Thanks to you who have asked me how I am getting settled in. I'm glad to be back in Chicago, and the boxes at home and in the office are now more unpacked than packed. So I'm getting along fine!

Here are several details as we begin together – they can make a real difference in helping us understand each other.

I will be keeping regular office hours at the church. I imagine I'll be there between 9ish and 5, with time away for meetings and home visits. So if you would like to meet with me – and I hope you will -- please call ahead to make an appointment. That way, I can set aside time specifically for you. Or, if you wish me to visit you in your home, we can schedule a time to do so.

Friday is my Sabbath day, and I don't schedule myself for congregational events or appointments then. However, I do want to be informed about emergencies, especially life or death emergencies, any day of the week, including Fridays. So in such cases, please call the church office, and the staff will contact me.

And one last note: Name-tags. Blessings on you who wear them at all congregational events! It helps me enormously when I can see your name at the same time as I hear it and see your face. Remember when you were a newcomer in a room full of Unitarian Universalists who all seemed to know each other? All those faces, unfamiliar to you, and few if any name-tags? 'Nuff said! *I'm enjoying our time together!*

*Janet Newman, your Interim Senior Minister*

## EDUCATING RELIGIOUSLY . . . .

by Connie Grant



In 1837, the usual method of religious education was catechism, a set of questions with prescribed answers to be memorized. In an address to the Unitarian Sunday School Society our Unitarian forebear William Ellery Channing denounced that method: "The catechism is a skeleton, a dead letter, a petrification.... I do not think that so much harm is done by giving error to a child as by giving truth in lifeless form." Channing advocated for a different approach, radical then and now:

The great end in religious instruction... is not to stamp our minds irresistibly on the young, but to stir up their own; not to make them see with our eyes, but to look inquiringly and steadily with their own; not to give them a definite amount of knowledge, but to inspire a fervent love of truth; not to form an outward regularity, but to quicken and strengthen the power of thought; not to bind them by ineradicable prejudices to our particular sect or peculiar notions, but to prepare them for impartial, conscientious judging of whatever subjects may, in the course of Providence, be offered to their decision; not to impose religion upon them in the form of arbitrary rules which rest on no foundation but our own word and will, but to awaken the consciousness, the moral discernment, so that they may discern and approve for themselves what is everlastingly right and good.

Channing's words, poetic if quaint, provide the best summary I know of our Unitarian Universalist approach to religious education and to our religion in general. I have Channing's words on a little laminated card that I like to carry in my wallet. If you'd like a copy, please let me know! *In faith,*  
*Connie*



## WORSHIP SERVICES

10:30 a.m.

**September 4 “The Wacky World of Work and our Wacky Relationship to It”** What does work mean to us? What’s the American dream about work? Are we defined by our titles or by our efforts or results? Do we value the work itself or only what we can do *because we work*? **Dianne Michels speaking.**

In her current role as a human resources professional, Dianne Michels works to liberate people from being stuck in wrong jobs and/or with the wrong people. Besides an extensive career in human resources that has included interviewing thousands of people and hiring a few hundred, Dianne has transitioned through 10 major careers and 23 different jobs during her 30 years of work experience. Dianne has been a member of UCE since 2002.

**September 11 “Healing Waters Flowing Free”** **The Rev. Constance Grant and the Rev. Dr. Janet Newman** This service for all ages has several themes: homecoming after the summer season, remembering the tragedy of ten years ago and rededicating ourselves to peace, and pouring healing waters that connect us to this place. 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).

*More details about the PeaceAble Cities Evanston Walk are elsewhere in this newsletter. All are invited to walk and talk for peace after the service.*

**September 18 “Hospitality as a Radical Practice”** **Rev. Dr. Janet Newman** A book titled *Radical Hospitality* makes us think more deeply about the meaning and implications of what it means to practice hospitality. The way a congregation relates to its guests and newcomers reflects its identity. How do you live your identity? A brief ceremony of installation of the interim ministry will help us make our relationship “official.”

**September 25, “Moses and the Trapeze Artist”** **Rev. Dr. Janet E. Newman** As we enter into our time of ministerial transition time together, I want to point out some of the interesting vistas on the journey. Who better to invoke as a leader on a journey than Moses? So the “Moses” of my sermon title refers to me as I accompany you through the wilderness of change. And you are the “trapeze artist” in this process as you learn the hard lessons of holding on to security and then letting go.



## CRACKERBARREL DISCUSSION GROUP

9:15 a.m.

**September 11, “Since Last We Met”** As is our tradition, we’ll talk about events that have transpired since our last session in June.

**September 18, “Why Do Humans Reason? Arguments for an Argumentative Theory”** The evolutionary hypothesis (Mercier & Sperber, 2011) is that the function of human reasoning is one of advocacy, intended to persuade. Skilled advocates are not after the truth but after facts supporting their views. This explains the notorious “confirmation bias.” When people reason alone (or in ideologically monolithic groups) they are prone to all sorts of biases. Because they only find facts supporting what they already believe, they become even more persuaded they are right, and develop more polarized attitudes. If they manage to discuss the issues more with people who disagree with them, then reasoning should produce very good results without having had to be reformed. – Scot Campbell

**September 25, “Can the Federal Government Actually Default?”** Section 4 of the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution says, “The validity of the public debt of the United States, authorized by law, including debts incurred for payment of pensions and bounties for services in suppressing insurrection or rebellion, shall not be questioned. In this session we’ll talk about the implications of that language on future situations where Congress may refuse an increase in the debt ceiling, despite continued Federal deficits.



## BOARD OF TRUSTEES REPORT

By Mike Tracy, President

The new 2011/12 Board convened on July 20 and elected Mike Takada as Vice President, Marc Rolfes as Treasurer, and Robb Geiger as Vice Chair of the ISC (Integrated Stewardship Committee). The Board also approved a Ministerial Transition Committee to work closely with Rev. Janet Newman during the two year interim period. Members include: Steve Serikaku, Jim Kepler, Margaret Shaklee, Johna Van Dyke and Susan Carlton.

We also met for our annual retreat on the weekend of August 5 and 6. On Friday evening, we met Janet Newman, many of us for the first time, then reviewed last year's Board goals and accomplishments.

On Saturday, Rev. Newman walked the Board through her vision for the next two years and what the congregation can expect to accomplish. After that, we received updates on the Social Action Council from Eileen Wiviott; the ISC and Pledge Drive Committee from ISC Chair Michael Anderson; the Covenant of Engagement from Rev. Connie Grant; the staff from Executive Operations Director Sandra Robinson, and a review of policies and procedures from Marc Rolfes.

The August Board meeting was primarily about formulating goals for the 2011-12 year. The preliminary goals for the Board include: arriving at a consensus on Policy-Based Governance for UCE before the new Search Committee is formed in the Spring; continuing the discussion on a "Covenant to Thrive"; recruitment and development of new lay leaders from the congregation, and furthering the financial health of the church. The Board's goals should be finalized at the September meeting.

## INTEGRATED STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

By Michael Anderson, Chair

I'm delighted to report that Robb Geiger has agreed to serve as Vice-Chair of the Integrated Stewardship Committee for the current fiscal year. Robb will serve for a two-year term, assuming the chair in fiscal year 2012-2103.

Robb has a long history of involvement at UCE, most notably as a member of the choir. He has served prior terms on the Board of Trustees and has also been active in programs of the Social Action Council. Welcome, Robb, to the ISC!

Because the Board of Trustees has recently reduced the number of its members, the ISC has also reorganized. Starting this fiscal year, we will have 9 full voting members, with our two church ministers serving in an ex-officio, non-voting capacity.

The Committee will have the following composition for the 2011-2012 fiscal year:

One Board member serving a 2-year concurrent term (chair of the ISC): **Michael Anderson** (Term Expires 2013)

One Board member serving a 2-year concurrent term, staggered with the other Board member (Vice-Chair of the ISC): **Robb Geiger** (Term Expires 2013)

The chair of the Annual Pledge Drive (APD), serving a one-year concurrent term: **Jean Butzen**

The chair of the Endowment Trustees, serving a one-year concurrent term: **Barb Butz**

One at-large member of the congregation serving a 2-year term: **Trink Newman** (Expires 2013)

One at-large member of the congregation serving a 2-year term, staggered with the other member

of the congregation: **Harry Hirsch** (Expires 2012)

Church Treasurer (**Marc Rolfes**); Executive Operations Director (**Sandra Robinson**); Accounting Manager (**Chris Isely**); Ministers serving ex-officio (**Rev Janet Newman and Rev Connie Grant**)

Finally, we want to thank ISC members who will be chairing our seven working groups:

Annual Pledge Drive, Jean Butzen; Budget Working Group, Marc Rolfes; Capital Campaign, Sandy Danforth; Education & Communication, Barb Butz; Endowment, Barb Butz; Fundraising, Sandra Robinson; Information, Sandra Robinson

We're looking forward to a great year together. Thanks for your support again this year.

## ENDOWMENT NEWS

By Barbara Butz

We are very happy to announce that **Jinny Niemann** has become the latest person to join the Nellie Brough society - church members who have included UCE in their estate plans. As a member of the Endowment Committee until recently, Jinny knows first hand how important Endowment funds are in supporting special church initiatives. Jinny, we thank you for your generous spirit! **Barbara Butz and Robb Geiger** have made a gift to the Endowment Fund in memory of **June Carvell**, long-time member of UCE. June died a few weeks ago in Portland, where she had moved last year to live with her daughter. For many, many years, she and her husband Allan were stalwart members of the church. She is much missed! June gave to the Endowment Fund for many years in honor of the birthdays of her grandchildren.

**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.

**FAMILY ORIENTATION  
POTLUCK**

**Friday, September 23, 6:30 – 8:30 pm.** Get to know your children’s teachers and find out about curriculum for 2011-12; meet your children’s classmates and their parents. Please bring a dish to share. RSVP to RE@ucevanston.org by September 18.

**OPEN HOUSE**

On Ingathering Sunday, September 11, from approximately 11:30 am (after the worship service) until 12:30 pm, the Religious Education Board will sponsor an open house for parents and others who are interested in learning about our Religious Education Program for Children. Teachers will be available in classrooms (locations will be posted), so that children and their parents can meet them and ask any questions. Religious Education Board members will also be available to answer questions.

**CLASSES BEGIN**

10:30 am Religious Education Classes for Children in preschool through eighth grade begin September 18 (the week after our Ingathering Worship for All Ages service on September 11). The Senior High Youth Group also begins meeting September 18, at 11:45 am at the church.

**“OWL” SEXUALITY  
EDUCATION OFFERED  
FOR 7th & 8th GRADERS**

“Our Whole Lives” Sexuality Education will be offered for seventh- and eighth-graders (and any ninth graders who have not previously participated) on Sunday evenings from 6:00 – 8:30 pm. The schedule begins in October and continues into April, mostly meeting every two to three weeks. This schedule provides the opportunity for each family to decide whether their children are developmentally ready to participate and to make a commitment to the program, while still providing regular Sunday morning religious education opportunities for all. Parent orientation, which is required, will be offered on Sunday, October 2, 6:00 to 9:00 pm (with a a make-up session to be offered if necessary). RSVP to Rev. C o n n i e G r a n t (cgrant@ucevanston.org) by Sept 25.

**SPECTRUUM: Music**

Play instruments; sing in harmony; move to music; participate in the creation of new musical compositions. For children in kindergarten – sixth grade, Sundays 9:15 – 10:15 am.



**PARENTS’ FORUM**

An opportunity for parents to learn from each other and discuss books and articles of interest. We'll begin by exploring themes from the book "Tending the Flame: The Art of Unitarian Universalist Parenting" by Michelle Richards (available at the Book H). Sunday mornings, 9:15 - 10:15, beginning September 18, facilitated by Andrew and Julie Bernstein and others.

**ADULT RELIGIOUS  
EDUCATION**

**TRANSCENDENTALISM &  
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISM**

*“Let us learn the revelation of all nature and thought, that the Highest dwells within us, that the sources of nature are in our own minds.” - Ralph Waldo Emerson, from “The Oversoul”*

Transcendentalism was a literary, philosophical, and religious movement of the nineteenth century, stressing feeling, intuition, and the importance of the individual. A major movement in American literature and in our Unitarian history, Transcendentalism played a major role in shaping Unitarian Universalist thought. This class will focus on Ralph Waldo Emerson, Theodore Parker, Margaret Fuller and Elizabeth Peabody, including mini-lectures and discussion of readings. \$5 paid in class will cover the cost of hand-outs. Facilitated by our affiliated community minister, the Rev. Dr. Jerome A. Stone. Tuesday evenings Sept. 13 – Oct. 12, 7-9 pm. Sign up on the RE bulletin board or register with the UCE office (847-864-1330 ext 102 or RE@UCEvanston.org) by Sept 11.

**FAITH LIKE a RIVER: THEMES  
from UU HISTORY**

Exploring such themes as orthodoxy and heresy; reason as a religious source, congregational polity, and religious freedom, we'll consider the dynamic course of Unitarian Universalist history through stories of people and events. Engagement with our history grounds us in a wider tradition and offers a context for deepening faith, values, and spirit now and in the future. Facilitated by Meadville Lombard theological student Ian W. Riddell and Rev. Connie Grant. Sunday mornings Sept. 25 – Dec. 11, 9:15 – 10:15 am. Sign up on the RE bulletin board or register with the UCE office (847-864-1330 ext 102 or RE@UCEvanston.org) by Sept 18.



## Page 6 - UCE TO MARK PEACE EVENTS IN SEPTEMBER



In memory of the tenth anniversary of September 11, 2001, and in commemoration of the International Day of Peace, September 21, the Peace and Justice Committee of the Unitarian Church of Evanston will sponsor and co-sponsor with others, 10 days of events, the purpose of which will be to reflect upon and deepen our commitment to peace. We believe that peace should be both a solemn and a joyous practice, a way of life. ***Toward that end, we invite all who can to support and to participate in as many of the planned peace activities as you are able. Please join us as we affirm the goal of a peaceful world through reflection, contemplation, dialogue, and action.***

**Sunday, September 11, 2011**, the 10th anniversary of the 9/11 tragedy. On this historic date, it is important for UCE to have a public presence advocating peace and justice. After our worship service, we will hold a vigil on our lawn.

At 2 pm, we will join **"The Peaceable Cities Walk and Talk: Evanston"** beginning at the Dar-us-Sunnah-Masjid, 2045 Brown, 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. (Read more in box at right.)

### TEN PEACE PRACTICES September 11 - 21, 2011

Every day between the tenth anniversary of the September 11 attacks and the International Day of Peace on September 21, join us in participating in an activity to create peace -- within yourself or in the world at large.

**You could:**

- \* Write a letter in favor of peace to your Congressman / the President;
- \* join a peace organization or volunteer at an organization you already belong to;

- \* create inner peace: meditate for half an hour;
- \* forgive a friend or family member who has angered you;
- \* forgive yourself;
- \* give money to a peace organization;
- \* write a poem about peace;
- \* read a book or article about the effects of war or a solution to a world conflict;
- \* attend a peace demonstration or a lecture about an international 'hot spot';
- \* fast for a day and remember those suffering the effects of war and occupation.



### International Day of Peace: Wednesday, September 21 Film Screening

A special celebration for the International Day of Peace on Wednesday, 9/21/2011 will be the film screening of *Little Town of Bethlehem*. It's a powerful documentary highlighting the lives of three men of three different faiths and their lives in Israel and Palestine. The story explores each man's choice of non-violent action amidst a culture of overwhelming violence. The film will start at 7 p.m., discussion afterwards. Free will donation to promote peace activities.

### PeaceAble Cities: Evanston 9/11 Walk and Talk - Transforming Our Community Through Dialogue

by Mary Dudek

On the 10th anniversary of the tragic acts of violence that changed so much, we are promoting a Walk with a simple agenda - to meet and talk to a new neighbor and start creating a new "we," an Evanston we all belong to, contribute to, and care about. This will be a day to inspire in all our residents the desire to build a transformed city, a city of connections, compassion, and radical inclusion - a peaceable city.

While there will be an inter-faith component to this walk, it is also an event for all to participate in - community groups, families, neighborhood groups, etc. We'll be working on a carpooling option from UCE for those interested. . . or just meet us at the mosque. More details to follow.

We hope you can join us - it's a great opportunity to make a positive community statement about unity and peace. For more information, see the website [PeaceAbleCitiesEvanston.org](http://PeaceAbleCitiesEvanston.org)

**HEARING THE CALL  
ACROSS TRADITIONS:  
STRENGTHENING OUR  
VALUES IN ACTION**

This will be a monthly discussion group facilitated by Cathy Deamant and Eileen Wiviott on the 2nd Thursdays of each month, October 2011 through May 2012 7:30 – 9pm.

Using the book, *Hearing the Call Across Traditions: Readings on Faith and Service*, and drawing from diverse literary genres, religious and philosophical perspectives, and historical periods, we will explore the connections between faith, service, and social justice. These short and provocative readings cut to the heart of the many obstacles and joys that accompany lives devoted to faith and service and illuminate the common ground that is humanity. This rich collection will create a platform for discussing and understanding the faith-based service of others as well as inspire you to reflect on the meaning behind your own commitment to improving the world.

The sessions, facilitated by Eileen and Cathy, both trained in the Civic Reflection process, will prepare us to serve with intention, imagination, and compassion. All are welcome to participate, and people who serve in any number of ways or are considering service may find the experience especially meaningful.

It is recommended that you purchase the book at the book H. However we will have copies of the readings available at each session. Contact Eileen Wiviott at [ewiviott@hotmail.com](mailto:ewiviott@hotmail.com) if you have questions or to register.

**SOUP KITCHENS  
SEPTEMBER 28 and  
OCTOBER 5, 12,  
and 19**



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 throughout September. Watch the listserv for continuing announcements. Questions to Janet Hartmann, [jtwros1@comcast.net](mailto:jtwros1@comcast.net).

*\*From new home page-Social Action & Justice-Volunteer Opportunities.*

**SHARED OFFERING  
RECIPIENTS 2011 - 2012**

After careful consideration and a democratic vote, your Social Action Council chose the following organizations to share our Sunday morning loose plate collections. We received a list of twenty-one excellent suggestions from members of the congregation. Here is the list (next column). Please see the UCE website for more information about each of these organizations.

- September - Great Lakes Ministry
- October - Iraqi Student Project
- November - Deborah's Place
- December - The Mitten Tree
- January - C.L.A.I.M. (Chicago Legal Advocacy for Incarcerated Mothers)
- February - Orchard Village
- March - Engineers Without Borders
- April - Faith in Place
- May - Fabretto Foundation
- June - Metropolitan Family Services
- July - Ted Fund
- August - Housing Opportunities for Women

UCE's Dedicated Funds will share in our offerings on the 5th Sundays, as follows:

- October 30 - Susan Walker Fund
- January 29 - Community Action Fund
- April 29 - Marjorie Fisher Fund
- July 29 - Elaine Mensinger New Opportunities Fund

“There is a deep yearning among the vast majority of people of all religious and philosophical traditions to make real their most enduring shared principles—to care for creation, to serve others with compassion, and to protect and enhance the gift of life.... We believe that reflecting on these principles strengthens our capacity to embody them.”  
—from the Introduction of *Hearing the Call Across Traditions*

### AUTHOR TALK

**“What would Jane Addams Do” Social Justice in the 21st Century** - An author talk at UCE on Wednesday, September 28, 7:30 p.m.

When Jane Addams first took up her work for social justice in the 1890s, she and many other early progressives were optimistic that once Americans were awakened to their democratic responsibilities, the government would do much more to nurture the self-development of its citizens. Much was accomplished by those Progressives, yet much remains to be done.

In her talk "What Would Jane Do?" Evanstonian Louise W. Knight, the author of two biographies of Addams, will discuss Addams's understanding of how to make democracy work better, and consider how some of her insights might apply to the efforts of citizens today.

Knight's books include *Citizen: Jane Addams and the Struggle for Democracy* (University of Chicago Press, 2005), and *Jane Addams: Spirit in Action* (Norton, 2010). The first is about Addams's formative years, and answers the question how she became such an impressive reformer. The second covers her full life and is meant to capture the full range of her accomplishments. Knight has written reviews for the *New York Times Book Review*, the *Wall Street Journal*, and the *Women's Review of Books* and has appeared on C-Span Book TV, the Diane Rehm Show, and the Bob Edwards Show. She is a Visiting Scholar at the Gender Studies Program at Northwestern University.

### INTERFAITH DIALOGUE POTLUCK SUPPER



Mark your calendar for an Interfaith Dialogue Potluck Supper at UCE on Wednesday, October 26, 6:30 p.m. The Unitarian Church of Evanston and Interfaith Action of Evanston are pleased to invite members of all faith traditions to share a meal, reflect upon a reading, poem, or short video, and explore continued possibilities for inter-religious service in our community. This is a multigenerational event and all are welcome. Please bring a dish to share (enough for 10-12 people) that has some significance to you – something that carries meaning within your family and/or faith tradition. Please try to avoid pork products. RSVP to Eileen Wiviott.

### OPEN MIC at UCE

On Saturday, September 17<sup>th</sup> UCE will host an open mic in the sanctuary at 7:00-10:00 p.m. This will be an opportunity for members, friends and guests from the community to join us for an evening of music and poetry/readings.

So, for now, hold that date and join us – either as a performer or to enjoy as a member of the audience. Details to follow.

**Sandra Robinson and Eileen Wivott**

### CROP WALK

Save the date: Sunday, October 16. The walk starts and ends at St. John's Lutheran Church, 1235 Wilmette Avenue in Wilmette. Registration begins at 1:30 p.m. and the walk steps off at 2 p.m. Look for more information soon about signing up or contact Eileen Wiviott at [ewiviott@hotmail.com](mailto:ewiviott@hotmail.com).

### FRIENDSHIP DINNERS

Join in this UCE tradition — a series of four dinners shared in the homes of fellow members. You sign up for as many as you wish, specifying your choice of a date on which you might be able to host. For the dinner you host, you will receive a mailing list of guests to contact. You prepare the main dish and ask guests to bring an item — appetizer, salad, dessert, bread or wine.

This is a wonderful way to get to know other UCE members in a friendly, intimate setting. Many friendships have been formed through these dinners.

We will be signing up participants in the lobby on Sundays in September.

The dates for this year's dinners are Oct. 15, Dec.10, Feb. 18 and April 21..

**Jo Jones, [jns75@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jns75@sbcglobal.net) or call the church office for a phone number.**

## COVENANT GROUPS



Covenant Groups provide a unique opportunity to learn to listen better to yourself and others and to benefit from the gift of being truly listened to. Covenant groups deepen our sense of community in a large church. They are made up of about 10 people who engage in a particular format of discussion that creates a safe space for meaningful sharing. Covenant groups choose and engage in a service project, which further strengthens the group bond. Six month covenant groups will begin in October and run through May. Please let Eileen Wiviott know if you are interested in participating, your available meeting times and, if you have participated or facilitated a group in the past, whether you would be willing to facilitate a new group. Please note that there will be a Young Adult Covenant Group, which will meet on the first Sundays of the month after church. You can sign up for that — or another covenant group — with Eileen or at the Guest & Members Services Table in the church lobby.

### INTRODUCTION TO UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISM

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)

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.

**Upcoming dates** - Intro to UU: Sunday, October 30, 12 noon to 2 p.m. OTM: Tuesdays November 8 and 15, 7 to 9 p.m. 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](mailto:ewiviott@hotmail.com). Childcare will be provided upon request.



## BAGELS & FRUIT



Every Sunday after the service (September - June), unless there is a full lunch, we will have bagels and fruit. This "breaking of bread" is an important community building time and allows members, friends, and visitors to talk and perhaps get to know someone new. As you might suspect, the bagels and fruit don't walk in by themselves. Volunteers bring them! We want to share the opportunity and responsibility to serve our community in this way. With enough people willing to share this task each family only needs to bring bagels and fruit once or twice the whole year.

You will be reimbursed unless you are willing to donate your purchase so that the proceeds can go back to the church. Please contact Eileen Wiviott at 847-864-1330 x111 or [ewiviott@hotmail.com](mailto:ewiviott@hotmail.com) if you are willing to bring bagels and fruit. You will be given more information and a reminder when you are scheduled. Thank you.

### BRING FLOWERS & TEND THE CHALICE

Do you have a special occasion to mark or a loved one you'd like to honor? Consider bringing the flowers for our Sunday worship service and tending the chalice. All it requires is for you to let Judith Ramey, our Director of Communications, know a week in advance what you'd like mentioned in the order of service. Email her at [jramey@ucevanston.org](mailto:jramey@ucevanston.org). If you are interested, please sign up for your preferred date on the bulletin board in the lobby or on our website [www.ucevanston.org](http://www.ucevanston.org) under the Members tab. Questions, contact Maggie Wilson [manddwilson@msn.com](mailto:manddwilson@msn.com)



## BOOKS & TALK at UCE

On Wednesday, September 7, 6:30 - 8 p.m., the **Intergenerational Book Group** will discuss *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee.

**Non-fiction Book Group** - Please join us this year as we discuss: September and October - *The Strange Alchemy of Life and Law* by Albie Sachs. (See sidebar for more information about this book.) November and December - *The Art of Happiness* by the Dali Lama. January - *Radical Disciple* by Robert McClory. February and March *Super Cooperators* by Nowak/ Highfield and finally in April and May *Consider the Lobster* by David Foster Wallace. Generally we meet on the 4th Sunday of the month - unless there is a holiday conflict. We hope to see you Sunday, September 25 for our first meeting. Questions? Contact John Poust [poustus@hotmail.com](mailto:poustus@hotmail.com).

Here is the first "semester" reading lineup for the **Fiction Book Group**, which meets third Fridays at 7:30 at the church. (No meeting in December): September 16 - *Still Alice* by Lisa Genova; October 21 - *The Good Earth* by Pearl S. Buck; November 18 - *This Side of Brightness* by Colum McCann.

**Book groups are open to all and the books are usually available in the Book H Bookstore.**

## UCE MEN'S GROUP

The UCE Men's Group has about 20 members and is over 25 year's old. Over the years, the membership fluctuates, but we continue to meet at the church every other week, have a Spring Retreat Weekend, and use the same format for our meetings. We normally meet every other Sunday 7- 9:30 pm, and take turns hosting sessions. As a man gathers confidence amongst us, he begins to tell

us what is really on his mind. A typical meeting starts, after lighting our opening candle, with a one minute check-in, then "the round," where someone may expand on his personal issues. We then discuss the topic of the evening followed, lastly, by our closing huddle. The topic is normally selected by the host. Ground rules include: quiet listening (*except to clarify a statement, or if the man asks for feedback*) and no jokes/politics/sports during the general session, though we strongly encourage all men to express themselves from their hearts. The UCE Men's Group also sponsors a Mom's Day Lunch and some other social events. *Any adult man from the UCE community is welcome to try out the Group (others, by special invite only)*. Whatever is said is held confidential, unless by the presenter's permission. For more information, please contact me, Dave Woods, [dnwoods@ameritech.net](mailto:dnwoods@ameritech.net)

## SAFE CHEMICALS ACT 2011

*Ecotips, by Lynn Lawson*

The latest study of Chicagoland's drinking water found not only hazardous levels of hexavalent chromium (remember the film "Erin Brockovich"?), but also trace amounts of sex hormones, prescription drugs, flame retardants, and herbicides that are not regulated by the EPA (*Chicago Tribune*, Aug. 7, 2011). While EPA officials balk at the high cost of upgrading sewage plants, Commissioner Frank Avila, of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago, speaking of the EPA-mandated cleanup of the Chicago River, says that it would be far better to keep such chemicals out of waterways in the first place. Fortunately, in April Senator Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ) re-introduced an important bill, now S-847, the Safe Chemicals Act of 2011. This Act would reform the ineffective 1976 Toxic Substances Control Act to

keep toxic chemicals out of the market and, eventually, out of our bodies. **TIP:** Illinois Senator Mark Kirk has not co-signed S-847, though Senator Dick Durbin has. You can ask Senator Kirk to do so through Congress's switchboard 202-225-3121. He'll get the message.

## PROGRAMS for YOUNG ADULTS

Young Adults (ages 18 - 35) mark your calendars for two new opportunities at UCE. October 9th at 7pm will be a **Young Adult Potluck** to kick off a regular young adult gathering every other Sunday evening. Bring a dish to share and your thoughts about Young Adult programming at UCE. Also, a new **young adult covenant group** will be started in October, meeting the first Sunday of the month after the service. Contact Lisa Fredin at [lafredin@gmail.com](mailto:lafredin@gmail.com) for more information. Contact Eileen Wiviott at [ewiviott@hotmail.com](mailto:ewiviott@hotmail.com) to sign up for the covenant group.

## SUNDAY MORNING YOGA

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. Sundays 9:15 - 10:15 am.

## SPOTLIGHT ON STAFF



Brenda Dunkins  
Photo by David Linsell

### BRENDA DUNKINS Church Assistant

I love working at UCE as Church Assistant and lobby staff since 1999. I started under co-ministers Ann Tyndall and Barbara Pescano and church manager Donna Sucato. I have learned so much here thanks especially to Eleanor Boyer who helped me learn about the church assistant job. I also learned thanks to Joan Monnig, another UCE church manager who sent me to a 6-week computer training course at Truman College.

I am the oldest of twelve, eight girls and four boys and all of them are best friends. I have three daughters, Serrita, Jessica, and Starsha, and four grandchildren. I met my husband Rick Webber nineteen years ago in Rogers Park when he was a limo driver and cab driver for Best Cab. [Rick has worked here at UCE as custodian for more than twelve years.] I graduated from high school in 1972, having gone to Cooley and Waller, and I know Steve Serikaku [UCE member and previous Board President] from Waller High. In 1976 I finished general studies at Loop Jr. College and worked for the Board of Education at 228 N LaSalle for twelve years. I should say I have a most loving family that I am so grateful for. My mother is a best friend and, along with my sisters, my other best friends are the Unitarian members and staff, who are like family. I love you all.

## FILM SERIES SET

The Social Action Film Series is set for the year. Following are the films that will be shown through January. Mark your calendar! All will be shown at 7 p.m. at UCE, usually on the third Friday (except for September).

**Little Town of Bethlehem** – Wednesday, September 21 - This documentary film follows the story of three men of three different faiths and their lives in Israel and Palestine. The story explores each man's choice of nonviolent action amidst a culture of overwhelming violence.

**The Laramie Project** – October 21 - An all-star cast (including Christina Ricci, Dylan Baker, Peter Fonda, Jeremy Davies, Janeane Garofalo, Laura Linney, Steve Buscemi and Amy Madigan) delivers a compelling performance based on a theatrical portrayal of reactions to the Matthew Shepard story, a 1998 murder that took place in Laramie, WY, and became a lightning rod for rallies against homophobia and hate crimes.

**Waging a Living** – November 18 - This thought-provoking documentary tests the mantra "get a job" to see whether low-wage jobholders -- otherwise known as the "working poor" -- can pull themselves and their families out of poverty. Filmed in California, New York and New Jersey over a three-year period, the film tracks the ups and downs of four ethnically diverse Americans living below the poverty line as they face a persistent struggle to make ends meet.

**Fuel: Change your Fuel...Change the World** – January 20, 2012 - 11 years in the making, FUEL is the in-depth personal journey of filmmaker and eco-evangelist Josh Tickell, who takes us on a hip, fast-paced road trip into America's dependence on foreign oil, offering hope via a wide-range of renewable energy and bio-fuels.

## EVANSTON UNITARIAN NEWS

The UCE newsletter is published monthly. All newsletter articles should be sent to *Editor Judith Ramey* at [jramey@ucevanston.org](mailto: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](mailto:uce@ucevanston.org), 847-864-1330. Also consider the UCE website, [www.ucevanston.org](http://www.ucevanston.org), as a regular source of information.**

UNITARIAN CHURCH OF EVANSTON  
1330 Ridge Ave., Evanston, IL 60201  
[www.ucevanston.org](http://www.ucevanston.org)

**Ministers:** Rev. Dr. Janet E. Newman, Interim Parish Minister (ext. 201); Rev. Ms. Constance L. 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 Magel, *Administrative Assistant* (102); Brenda Dunkins, *Church Assistant* (101); Lindsey Kennedy, Liz Kennedy, and Jonathan Motley, *Lobby Staff*.

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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## SECRETARY

Jim Clark [james807@sbcglobal.net](mailto:james807@sbcglobal.net)

## TREASURER

Marc Rolfes [marcrolfes@aol.com](mailto:marcrolfes@aol.com)

## THE MINISTERS' SCHEDULES

**Rev. Dr. Janet Newman** is generally in the office during the day Monday thru Thursday and often has evening meetings on those days. She takes Friday as her Sabbath day.

Please call or email for an appointment. In an emergency, the office will know how to reach her.

[jnewman@ucevanston.org](mailto:jnewman@ucevanston.org)

847 864-1330 ext. 201 (office)

**Rev. Connie Grant** is generally in the office during the day on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, and often has evening meetings on those days. She takes Mondays as sabbath days, and works at home on Fridays.

Please email or call for an appointment. In an emergency, you may call her at home at any time.

[cgrant@ucevanston.org](mailto:cgrant@ucevanston.org)

(847) 864-1330 ext 103 (office)

(847) 222-0457 (home)



Save the date!

**SERENDIPITY**

**AUCTION 2011**

Saturday, November 19, 2011

It's not too early to put *this* date on your  
calendar!

UNITARIAN CHURCH OF EVANSTON  
1330 Ridge Avenue at Greenwood  
Evanston, Illinois 60201