

EVANSTON

UNITARIAN NEWS

January
2012

WEBSITE SURVEY – THANK YOU!

We had a healthy response to the survey about the UCE website that we asked our members and friends to complete a short time ago. Here are a few of the things we learned: Most respondents do use the website and appreciate its clarity and, for the most part, user-friendliness. Some of you had good suggestions. Thank you! A few problems continue, which we'll address below.

Some highlights:

- Many of you rely on the website for information about upcoming services and Crackerbarrel discussion topics. Many of you appreciate having past sermons available; several people requested an archive of older sermons. (We're working on that.)
- Many of you appreciate being able to pay your pledge, make a donation, buy tickets online. (Note: You *can* arrange for recurring payments on the site.)
- Many of you like being able to view the calendar of UCE events. (Reminder: the link to the calendar is at the top of the page, just under the name of the church.)
- Many members like being able to find a current address, phone number or email address in the member directory. One of you was prescient in requesting a photo directory, as we are now building one. (If you haven't sent in your photo yet, please do.) However, the #1 problem on the website continues to be, for some members, the login process. If you are still having a problem, call us, 847-864-1330. Carli Magel, Administrative Assistant, is your go-to person. We also may have a tutorial in the church lobby on a Sunday after the service.

A few of your ideas: A History tab; more about the Music Program; more photos; maybe more about recent events with photos.

One respondent felt that the site was more directed to potential visitors to the church without a lot of information for members. We encourage you to browse the site, for example in the Governance area, where you can read Board minutes and more; in the Social Action and Justice area, where you can read about volunteer opportunities and organizations we are connected to; in Church Leadership, where you can learn the membership of all UCE's committees and boards.

Thank you, one and all. We will continue to improve the website. And do continue to communicate your ideas about and experiences of the website as well as other UCE communications: 847-864-1330; uce@ucevanston.org

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

From the Ministers - 2
Sundays at UCE - 3
From Leadership - 4
Religious Education News - 5
Social Action News - 6, 7
Membership News - 8
Ministerial Transition & Search News - 9
@ UCE: News & Notes - 10, 11
Spotlight on Staff - 11
Ministers' Schedules & The Last Word - back cover



IN THE INTERIM . . .

by Janet Newman, Interim Senior Minister

First of all, best wishes for a healthy, productive, growth-filled, happy New Year!

This fall has been fruitful in opportunities for the members of the congregation to communicate with one another. You offered your responses about events that occurred in the church by means of the congregational time-line and sticky notes during October and November.

Soon you will have the opportunity to discuss with one another your responses to the discoveries of the time-line. See the article in this edition for the dates and places where these cottage-style gatherings will be taking place, and be sure to sign up.

Certainly the setting for the conversations in various homes and at the church makes for a comfortable space for listening to each other – and that is good since all the topics are important and can be uncomfortable for some persons. One topic that can be particularly difficult for some is financial support of the church.

As for me, I enjoy talking about money in church because generosity in giving grows out of generosity of spirit; even the person who has very little can be generous according to his/her means.

When we discuss church finances we find some common topics that arise: a) the sense of belonging and community that comes to those who contribute generously to the congregation, or perhaps b) the importance of contributing to the best of our ability so that the church thrives over the long term as it was bequeathed to us by the founders, or perhaps c) the need to fund our liberal religious witness in a suffering world.

Try talking together about the church and generosity; you'll find common ground with one another and some new ways of thinking.

Faithfully, Janet Newman, your Interim Minister

EDUCATING RELIGIOUSLY . . .

by Connie Grant, Minister for Lifespan Religious Education



What have you been learning lately?

One of the foundations of our lifespan religious education program is that we are all learning—and all teaching—all the time. Part of our covenant as a congregation is “to seek the truth in love,” together. For us as Unitarian Universalists, truth is something to be actively sought, not just received or imparted. We recognize many sources of truth and we are open to new ways of understanding. Learning what our religion means to us is a lifelong endeavor.

T.H. White wrote in *The Once and Future King* that learning is “the only thing that never fails. You may grow old and trembling in your anatomies, you may lie awake at night listening to the disorder of your veins, you may miss your only love, you may see the world about you devastated by evil lunatics, or know your honour trampled in the sewers of baser minds. There is only one thing for it then—to learn. Learn why the world wags and what wags it. That is the only thing which the mind can never exhaust, never alienate, never be tortured by, never fear or distrust, and never dream of regretting. Learning is the thing for you. Look at what a lot of things there are to learn—pure science, the only purity there is. You can learn astronomy in a lifetime, natural history in three, literature in six. And then, after you have exhausted a milliard lifetimes in biology and medicine and theo-criticism and geography and history and economics—why, you can start to make a cartwheel out of the appropriate wood, or spend fifty years learning to begin to learn to beat your adversary at fencing. After that you can start again on mathematics, until it is time to learn to plough.”

Lately, I've been learning how to make beads from molten glass using an open flame. Once I move beyond the heart-stopping moment of actually lighting the flame, the practice becomes meditative, as the glass melts and flows over a metal spindle to create the bead. As I learn, the process is a mix of control and unpredictability. If I hold the forming bead too far into the flame, a chemical reaction sometimes takes place, resulting in colors I didn't see in the original glass and swirling effects I didn't expect. I've also dipped a metaphorical toe into calculus (“the key to a changing world?”), a new dimension in religious education.

**What have you been learning lately?
Connie**



**WORSHIP
SERVICES**
10:30 am

Sunday, January 8: "For the time Being" by Rev. Dr. Janet Newman. New Year celebrations give us an opportunity to look behind (retrospect), ahead (prospect), and at the present (circumspect). In my homilies, I want to explore these aspects of the New Year in poetry of Robert Frost and W.H. Auden. The title of my service comes from a long poem by Auden, but I will use a highly abbreviated version of it.

Sunday, January 15: "The Humanity of Heroism" by Rev. Dr. Janet E. Newman. The anniversary of Martin Luther King's birthday offers us an opportunity -- a lot of opportunities in January -- to see how his words live on in our lives and in current literature. I find his message in fictional form in a book by Ernest J. Gaines, and the heroism of Gaines' humans inspires me to live with more consciousness of race relations.

Sunday, January 22 "Families: It Takes All Kinds" Families come in many different configurations and evolve through various phases of life. Members of several UCE families have been invited to tell us what being a family is like for them. **Worship for All Ages, facilitated by Rev. Connie Grant.** "Guest at Your Table" boxes will be returned during the service.

January 29, "Identity, Institutions, and Idolatry" We continue to be rocked by the scandal of the abuse of children—most recently at Penn State—and institutions ignoring or abetting that abuse. "How can this keep happening?" we cry. Today we explore the roots of this injustice and examine how we can create institutions that work toward safety and justice. **Ian W. Riddell**

CRACKERBARREL DISCUSSION GROUP
9:15 am



January 8, "The 4th Rail of Politics: Jobs" Over the last half of the 20th Century, the Social Security system became the "3rd rail" of American politics, threatening political death to any elected official foolish enough to suggest a reduction of benefits. Now, a 4th rail seems to be under construction. While some conservatives have become sufficiently emboldened to talk about constraining Social Security benefits (though arguments frequently emerge about the means to that end), everyone across the political spectrum is falling into line on the objective of full employment. In this session we will talk about the implications of this newly elevated political priority. **Larry Jordan leads.**

January 15, "The Search for a New Senior Minister" A Search Committee will be formed soon to select UCE's next senior minister. In this Crackerbarrel session we'll discuss how that committee will be formed. Join Rev. Janet Newman, UCE's interim minister, along with Robb Geiger, Claudia Dancing and UCE Board President Mike Tracy in a discussion of the selection process. While the Unitarian Universalist Association has some established guidelines, take this opportunity to give your input. **Mike Tracy leads.**

January 22, "Off-label Uses of FDA-approved Drugs" The U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA) cannot practice medicine, so doctors are free to recommend off-label uses for drugs the FDA has approved for a primary use. That said, drug companies face

penalties if they advertise these off-label applications. Doctors may be sued for malpractice if they do NOT recommend well established, off-label applications. In many cancer treatments, off-label prescription is estimated as high as 70% to 75%, with some drugs perhaps 90%. Knowledge and experience with off-label usage is effectively transmitted through such organizations as the National Comprehensive Cancer Network. In this session, we'll explore the possibility that by insisting on the purported "gold standard" of double blind testing, the FDA may be burying more people who would otherwise have taken drugs were they available, than it has saved through preventing the use of harmful drugs. **Scot Campbell leads.**

January 29, "Naked Economics: Undressing the Dismal Science" Author Charles Wheelan will join us this Sunday to introduce his first book, which goes a long way toward demystifying economics, a task which plays a large role in many of our Crackerbarrel discussions.

In addition to being a lecturer at the University of Chicago's Harris School of Public Policy, Charlie is a regular contributor to *The Economist* magazine as well as to the *Motley Fool Radio Show* on National Public Radio and the *Eight Forty-Eight* program on WBEZ Chicago Public Radio. He ran unsuccessfully in the special election for the 5th Congressional District to replace Congressman Rahm Emanuel, when the latter resigned to become Chief of Staff for President Obama. **Kay Wade leads.**

**YOUR INTEGRATED
STEWARDSHIP
COMMITTEE at WORK**
by Michael Anderson

Members of the Integrated Stewardship Committee (ISC) have been working on your behalf and we thought you'd like to know what we've been up to.

MOVING FORWARD!

Jean Butzen, chair of the Annual Pledge Drive (APD) announces that the APD will launch on Sunday, Feb. 26th. The theme is "Moving Forward" and in view of all the changes our church is experiencing right now—e.g. our new interim minister, Janet Newman—that's the perfect theme.

Thanks to Jill Donovan for designing the *Moving Forward* logo, brochure and posters. Thanks to David Linsell for providing the photos, and to Sandy Danforth for writing the brochure. Once again, we are producing a podcast featuring church members who tell what they love about UCE. Joyce Lofstrom helped create the script and the podcast is being filmed by Kathy and Dave Monk. Be watching for a link which will be sent out in late January.

Jean and her team are still looking for church members to serve as visiting stewards. Stewards will have the pleasure of meeting other members in their homes to talk about the future of the church and receive their pledge of financial support. If you'd like to volunteer, call the church office (847-864-1330) or send an email to Jean at butzen@comcast.net.

**Town Hall Meeting: Sunday,
January 29th**

If you're a member of UCE, you get to vote on the budget at the annual meeting in May. But, before that, you also get several chances—at what we call Town Hall meetings—to see the budget as it's taking shape. The first such Town Hall will be held on Sunday morning, January 29th after the church service. Marc Rolfes and

members of the Budget Working Group will be on hand to answer our questions. Plus, every attendee will have a chance to weigh in with comments and concerns.

Fair Share Campaign

With thanks to co-chair Robb Geiger who led it this year, we are happy to announce that the Fair Share Campaign (the campaign to raise funds for the national, regional and local UUA) has exceeded its goal. The goal was \$8,500 and as of mid-December, we had received \$9,146. Thanks to all church members who participated.

The Serendipity Auction

We are excited to announce that the auction's gross receipts exceeded \$30,000. As of this writing we have not received a final report of expenses but we're anticipating a strong net income from this major fund-raising event. Big thanks to Tom Hempfling and his dedicated team!

Three-Year Staffing Plan

ISC Co-Chair Robb Geiger and I met the Executive Team (Rev. Newman, Rev. Grant and Sandra Robinson, Executive Operations Director) on December 6th. The purpose of the meeting was to develop a plan for staffing the church to maximize growth and minimize overlap and redundancy. Since the professional staff accounts for 70% of the church's budget, we want to make sure we are making the best possible use of those funds. We will approach the plan in two phases. Phase One will focus on fiscal year 2012. Phase Two will have a longer-term emphasis, focusing on fiscal years 2013/14 and 2014/15. We are nearing completion of Phase One. Sandra Robinson has submitted a preliminary staff plan for 2012 and we are reviewing it in conjunction with the Budget Working Group. To continue our work, Robb Geiger and I will meet again with the Executive Team on January 10th.

Financial Peace University

The second offering of this popular, 13-week course in personal finance was launched on January 7th. Many thanks to Barb Butz and her Education Working Group for sponsoring and promoting this event again this year. *Thanks for all your support.*

ENDOWMENT NEWS

by Barbara Butz, Chair

The Nellie Brough Society is comprised of church members who have included UCE in their estate plans. In 2011, the Endowment Fund was blessed with no less than seven new Nellie Brough members, individuals and couples. From time to time, we will invite Nellie Brough members to explain in the newsletter why they joined NBS. **Dick Whitaker** responded to our invitation. He writes:

"I've been a member of UCE for 42 years, and most of my friends are members. UCE has been a dominant force in my life. It has seen me through two divorces, several major career changes, and a retirement decision. And it continues to offer many volunteer, entertainment, discussion, and artistic possibilities. Then there's just sitting in the congregation on a Sunday morning for great music, sermons, and inspiration. How could I not contribute? How could I not want to see this institution flourish? To me, the Endowment Fund is one important way to guarantee that outcome."

Thank you, Dick! We also want to recognize **Mike Dickenson** and **Jan Augustyn**, and **Eleanor Boyer**, for their recent gifts to Endowment. Eleanor, who served on the Endowment Committee for many years, gave "in recognition of the UCE Endowment Committee to build the Endowment Fund, and ensure a vital church into the future." Thank you, all! Your gifts to the future health and stability of UCE are so appreciated.

ADULT EDUCATION

WILL YOU WELCOME
A GUEST
AT YOUR TABLE?

**Calculus:
Key to a Changing World?**

Not just a math class! Calculus is a social phenomenon that changed our relationship to the universe, making the unknown knowable and opening doors to new unknowns. Mathematically, calculus is a tool for understanding space, time, and motion and for creating models of changing conditions. We'll explore the history and fundamental ideas behind calculus and the ways it helps us understand how the universe works. No previous experience with calculus is required, but an understanding of basic algebra is necessary.

Tuesday evenings Jan 3, 10, 17, and 24, 7-9 pm, led by Robb Geiger, John Grant, and Doug Erickson. Please sign up on the Religious Education bulletin board near the Lobby or register with the UCE office (847-864-1330 ext 102 or RE@UCEvanston.org).

Darwin and Evolution

In honor of Charles Darwin's 152nd birthday, we'll explore his work and influence, including modern evolutionary theories, in this adult religious education series.

January 31—Charles Darwin (1809-1882) Biography and Major Works: *Voyage of the Beagle*, 1843; *Origin of Species*, 1859; *Descent of Man*, 1871.

February 7 – Issues: Eugenics, Social Darwinism. The Evolutionary Synthesis (1882-1960)

February 14 – Modern Interpretations (1960 to present) -- Dick Whitaker

February 21 – Modern Interpretations (1960 to present) -- Bill Irons

Tuesday evenings January 31-February 21, 7-9 pm, led by Dick Whitaker and Bill Irons. Please sign up on the Religious Education bulletin board near the Lobby or register with the UCE office (847-864-1330

ext 102 or RE@UCEvanston.org) by January 27.

We will also celebrate Darwin's birthday on Sunday, February 12, with a worship service for all ages on Evolution, with birthday cake afterwards.

EVERY SUNDAY MORNING

Parents' Open Forum

Room 13 is available for parents for informal conversation, 9:15 – 10:15 Sunday mornings.

**Spectrum:Arts for Children
K - 6th Grade
9:15 - 10:15 a.m.**

Our fall term of Spectrum:Arts features theater games and improvisation activities that encourage participants to express themselves individually and work together creatively. Explore characters and spaces, create and act out comedy sketches, and build quick-thinking skills. Leader Diego Colon is a professional actor and singer who has performed at Steppenwolf Theater and is on staff at Davenport's Cabaret in Chicago. Diego has been with the educational theater company "Play On" since its inception in 2007, and has taught acting, improv, musical theater and cabaret classes with adults and children.

**Sunday Morning
Yoga Practice**

9:15 - 10:15 a.m.

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. Will you help people have clean water to drink, enough food to eat, and a safe place to live? Every year through the Guest at Your Table program of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, Unitarian Universalists of all ages join together to give thanks, celebrate our shared values and share their blessings to help change the world. Symbolic "guests" are invited to the table and given an honorary place. An amount of money that represents the cost of extending hospitality to the "guest" is placed in the "Guest at Your Table" box and donated to support the work of the Service Committee.

The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee puts our shared principles into action in the United States and around the world. Through a combination of advocacy, education and partnerships with grassroots organizations, the UUSC promotes economic rights, advances environmental justice, defends civil liberties and preserves the rights of people in times of humanitarian crisis.

Membership in the UUSC begins at \$40.00 (or \$20 for seniors and \$10 for youth). Gifts of \$100.00 or more from a family or individual will be doubled through a matching grant. Donations of any size are welcome. Bring your "Guest at Your Table" donation (box, envelope, or check) to our Worship for All Ages service on January 22.



**REV. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. HOLIDAY JANUARY 16 -
TWO WAYS TO HONOR HIS LEGACY**

From UCE's Peace & Justice Program



THE LEGACY OF MARTIN LUTHER KING

by Tom Barounis

"All I'm saying is simply this, that all life is interrelated, that somehow we're caught in an inescapable network of mutuality tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly affects all indirectly. For some strange reason, I can never be what I ought to be until you are what you ought to be. You can never be what you ought to be until I am what I ought to be. This is the interrelated structure of reality." —Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

On Monday, January 16, we celebrate and reflect upon the life of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the most important American civil rights leader of the 20th century. Dr. King's leadership of the nonviolent resistance movement against the institutional injustices that continued to oppress African-Americans a century after the Civil War, changed our society. The movement that Dr. King led did as much, if not more, than any other, to, in Dr. King's words, "bend the long arc of history toward justice."

We are reminded that Dr. King's vision of the just society arose from that larger context to which we all belong, of which we are all a part – the interconnected web of all existence. Out of that vision, Dr. King became not only the preeminent inspired and inspiring voice for civil rights in our country, but a strong voice for economic justice, upon which a truly healthy society depends, and a voice for peace.

The city of Evanston, Volunteer Evanston, Y.O.U. Inc. and the diverse faith communities representing Evanston 'Community of One' will host a day of fellowship and celebration of Rev. Dr. King's life on Monday, January 16. For details, visit <http://web.me.com/deanfrancis/Site/Welcome.html>

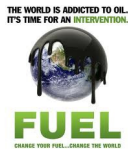
**COMMUNITY RENEWAL SOCIETY
FIGHTS RACIAL INJUSTICE & POVERTY**

by Steve Serikaku

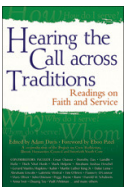
If you care about people who are not necessarily like you, have a few hours a week to devote to social justice, and are not afraid to go into Chicago, then the Community Renewal Society might be for you. UCE is a member of this loosely faith-based advocacy organization that is committed to fighting the roots and effects of racism and poverty. Some of the recent campaigns have been to end disparities in quality at nursing homes in black neighborhoods versus white suburban ones; to get the Illinois Departments of Corrections and Human Services to provide services to inmates and their children so that the inmates can retain connections to their children thereby preventing recidivism in many cases and easing the effects of having an incarcerated parent for the children; and requesting that state revenue be raised so that state services to the most vulnerable in the state could continue. New campaigns are aimed at reducing the school-to-prison pipeline, getting fair and adequate education funding, improving employment outlook for non-violent offenders, and increasing affordable housing.

A day of education and action is scheduled for Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day, January 16, at the Kingdom Baptist Church, 301 N. Central in Chicago from 9:30 am until noon. We have had some victories including the passage of SB 326, a nursing home reform bill, in the last legislature. Please consider attending. Some elected officials will be invited, Governor Quinn has accepted, and we need to impress them with turnout. If you have any questions, see Steve Serikaku. Car pooling can be arranged.





The Social Action Film Series continues on January 20, 7 p.m., with FUEL: Change your Fuel...Change the World. This documentary looks into our future, offering hope via a wide range of renewable energy and bio fuels. Winner of the Sundance Audience Award.



MONTHLY DISCUSSION GROUP CONTINUES

Hearing the Call Across Traditions: Strengthening our Values in Action - A monthly discussion group facilitated by Cathy Deamant and Eileen Wiviott on the 2nd Thursdays of each month, 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. 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 if you have questions or to register.

FAMILY PROMISE

Family Promise is an organization that provides temporary housing for 3-4 families through the generosity of host churches. North

minster Presbyterian is one of those churches who hosts families for one week at a time, four times a year. UCE volunteers have supported this effort by cooking and sharing a meal with guests, and staying for a social time where children play and get help with homework. Northminster will be hosting families the weeks of January 15 – 22, 2012 and April 22 – 29, 2012. If you are interested in volunteering in this way, please contact Eileen Wiviott at ewiviott@hotmail.com.

SATURDAY MORNING BAKING

Join us as we bake with children living in the Jonquil Hotel of Good News Partners. We will bake holiday treats, sharing the meaningful experience of making and sharing food. Saturday, January 20, 9:45 – 12:15. Sign up on the website www.ucevanston.org under volunteer opportunities or contact Eileen Wiviott at ewiviott@hotmail.com.

INTERFAITH ACTION WINTER GATHERING

More Alike Than Not: Stories from Three Americans – Catholic, Jewish & Muslim with Susan O’Halloran, Arif Choudhury & Syd Lieberman. This program, sponsored by Interfaith Action of Evanston, takes place at Beth Emet, The Free Synagogue on Sunday, January 8 at 3pm. People of all ages and faiths are welcome and encouraged to attend. Questions: contact Eileen Wiviott at ewiviott@hotmail.com.

CLASSICAL LIBERALISM

by Scot Campbell

[Author’s Note – Special thanks to UCE in effectively helping to promote a very important part of diversity, ideological diversity, by permitting this response to the article “OCCUPIED” in the November Newsletter – Scot Campbell]

I am thrilled with the largely spontaneous appearance of the tea party reflecting the values of classical liberalism. These principals advocated by our founding fathers include the call for limited government, fiscal responsibility, transparency, free markets, personal responsibility, and the rule of law (strong property rights, freedom of contract). Each of these premises of classical liberalism (Tea Party) is systematically rejected in the progressive (Occupy Wall Street) agenda, which has led us so badly astray.

If we’re going to have a war, let’s do it right. A virtuous war is not “rich versus the rest,” but would be one that rewards society’s honest earners and productive contributors, while punishing society’s predators, pirates and parasites – all without regard to anyone’s income level. “Occupy” seeks to jeopardize the experiment in self-government by encouraging Americans to regard their government as a vehicle for exploiting their fellow-citizens, rather than as a compact for respecting one another’s rights and safeguarding future generations’ opportunities.

Protection of our liberties and preservation of opportunity for all against the threats of erosion, at times seem a daunting task. (Think the current wave of regulation piled on top of the New Deal and Great Society “reforms,” most of which continue to cripple the social fabric of the country and its economy).

MEMBERSHIP CLASSES

Introduction to Unitarian Universalism: Sunday, January 8; 12-2 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 Ministers, 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, January 14; 9 am - 1 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 **Orientation Toward Membership**. This class will address our various spiritual journeys, the meaning of covenant, 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. Childcare will be provided upon request.

MEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

by Margaret Shaklee

Give a special hug to Charlotte Tykinski, who this year commemorates 50 years of membership at UCE. She has graced the choir and carried its soprano section for many years. She also helped the congregation understand its ministry, through development of the Staff Relations Committee, later the Committee on Ministry. Among countless other times when she lent her willing hands to whatever needed doing. Bless you!

35 Years

Among our best and brightest, a bunch of folks are celebrating 35 years of membership this year: Gini Sayad, John and Linda LaPlante (who can claim 50 years as Chicago-area UUs), Chris Isely, Libby Sohn-Hirsch, Gary Wisby, Pat and Mel Ulmer, and Kathy Talmage. And Sam Sibley can be proud of 45 years of membership!

30, 25, 20, 10 Years

Some folks can celebrate 30 years – Bill Irons and Margie Rogasner, Virginia Zboralski, Sue Moss, and Brian and Carol Nielsen. Others may celebrate 25 years: Jean Thompson, Peggy Henningsen, and Tom Barounis. And marking 20 years of membership this fall are Susan Comstock and Marc Rolfes, Carla Leona-Sands and Jim Sands, and Cate and Lou Bellafiore.

These folks are celebrating 10 years of membership: Ann Adams, Matt Brenner, Sarah and Karl Montzka, William Phillips (who has logged more that 40 years as a UU), Barbara and Irv Badr, Jeff Ayoub and Randy Barrengos, and Chuck Marcotte and Joan Slavin.

These folks have blessed a huge number of church programs and

JOYS & SORROWS 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. Joys and sorrows are also posted weekly on the UCE website, www.ucevanston.org, in the member protected area.

This information has been redacted to protect our members' privacy.

activities with their creative thinking, willing hands and generous hearts.

You will recognize that folks celebrating 5 years this year have also been right there pitching in: Harry and Jo Jones, Mike Tracy, Andrea Kuebbeler, Rhiannon Wilk, Jo Ann Schalk, Rachelle Brooks, Nicole Lange, and Amy Olson and Vicki Ungar. **We say: Well done!**

GREETINGS FROM YOUR TRANSITION TEAM

Working with interim minister Rev. Dr. Janet Newman, we are charged with helping the congregation gather our resources to begin a new settled ministry two years from now. Our work as a congregation “in the interim” is to renew our identity of who we have been, who we are, and who we want to be. You helped us initiate our first task, a look at who we have been, in our TIMELINE. Your responses helped us evaluate what we have tried to be as we move forward in creating a new identity.

Your team now offers several opportunities to talk about what we have seen in the exercise and what we discern for our future. We offer house meetings in January, gathering small groups to talk about how we are experiencing the church now, what changes we might like to make in our direction, and how we can make those happen. We invite you to sign up for one of these house meetings (on the bulletin board inside the lobby door):

Sunday, January 8, 3-5 p.m. at the home of Jim and Ann Kepler, 1177 N. Eastlake Terrace in Chicago. [Note: This meeting is filled.]

Monday, January 9, 7-9 p.m. at the home of Susan and Tom Carlton, 41 Williamsburg Rd. in Evanston 847/679-6203

Wednesday, January 11 7-9 p.m. at the church (childcare available) Led by Margaret Shaklee and Susan Carlton

Monday, January 23, 1-3 p.m. at the home of Johna and Will Van Dyke, 950 Michigan Avenue.

Please sign up on the lists at church (you may also call the church to register) and come share your perspective as we develop our new perspective together.

CHOOSING A MINISTERIAL SEARCH COMMITTEE

Your Board of Trustees together with the Nominating and Recruiting Committee has a plan in place that we believe to be as open and democratic as possible. Our aim is to form a Ministerial Search Committee that will reflect the diversity of our congregation and have the skills and time necessary for the task of finding the most suitable candidate available to be our new minister. We have used current UUA guidelines in creating this process.

On January 3 we sent a letter to each voting member/household of UCE (by email to those with known addresses, otherwise by post), explaining the process for nominating potential search committee members. The letter is available on the UCE website and from the church office. As explained in the letter, the first four members will be those nominees who receive the most nominations and who are willing to serve. The next three members will be appointed by the Nominating and Recruiting Committee from among those nominated by the congregation, with the goal of seeking balance with respect to skills and demographic considerations. We are looking forward to your nominations.

A timeline for the whole ministerial search process is available at <http://ucevanston.org> and will be published in the newsletter next month.

Desirable Qualities of Ministerial Search Committee Members

All members of the Ministerial Search Committee must be voting members of UCE and should be:

- known and respected by others in the congregation
- more strongly committed to the congregation as a whole than to any subgroup (having overall perspective and commitment to the nature, purpose, and activities of the congrega-

tion rather than “representing” special interests)

- well informed about the demands and time requirements of search committee membership, including an average of 20 or more hours per month from April, 2012 through May, 2013

- committed to conduct a search that is fair and nondiscriminatory

- committed to maintain confidentiality about the specifics of their deliberations and to keep the congregation informed about their overall progress

- capable of both self-assertion and compromise while working as part of a team and seeking consensus

- supportive of ministry; looking neither for a minister “just like” some previous or otherwise known minister, nor for a minister “completely different from” some previous or otherwise known minister

Ideally, the committee should be balanced by gender, age, interests, and length of membership, to reflect the diversity of the congregation. Also, the committee members should have certain attributes such as organizational ability, computer skills, and broad theological awareness.

In considering whether to accept the responsibility of serving on the committee, know that you will have the full support of the whole congregation and our leadership.

To answer any questions about this process, we will have an informal informational table staffed by members of the Nominating and Recruiting Committee available at church before and after the Sunday Service on January 8th and January 15th.

Point persons for this process are:
Matt Brenner, Chair, Nominating and Recruiting Committee
immattbrenner@gmail.com
Claudia Dancing, Board of Trustees
cd@claudiadancing.com
Robb Geiger, Board of Trustees
rgeiger5@sbcglobal.net

WHAT IS BIO CREMATION?

Ecotip by Dick Whitaker

Many Unitarians consider cremation as an important alternative to elaborate funerals and burial in a cemetery. If you are considering conventional cremation for yourself or a loved one, there is actually an environmentally friendly alternative.

Bio Cremation does not use a natural gas but an alkali solution which, gently circulated over the body, completes the cremation process in about the same amount of time as flame cremation. "What makes bio-cremation so environmentally friendly and even greener than flame based cremation is that there are almost zero air emissions (particulates, greenhouse gases, carbon monoxide, mercury, etc.) into the atmosphere. The by-product effluent is sent to water recycling where it is filtered, purified and recycled back to earth either through the aquifer, lakes, streams or non-potable water use.

In essence, our body is recycled and without harm to the environment. We return to the earth through a cycle of life, helping to promote new life as nature intended it to occur." (From <http://biocremationinfo.com>). Contact them for more information.

FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY

We are down to the wire, everybody! First class is coming up on Saturday, January 7. We'll start a little early at 9:30 with coffee and doughnuts, to have time to get

acquainted. Don't miss out! We still have room. Contact Barbara Butz at 847-869-7933 or bkbutz@sbcglobal.net. If you are still on the fence, you may attend this first class for free. But – we recommend you make this commitment and participate in all 13 classes. It truly will pay off for you in increased knowledge and motivation to make the most of your financial life. Join us!

LINCOLN SQUARE NEIGHBORHOOD GROUP

We will meet for potluck dinner on January 29 at 4 pm, at the home of Donna and John Urbikas, 2334 W. Farragut in Chicago. All who live in the area are welcome. Please contact Donna at donna_urbikas@sbcglobal.net, to tell her that you are coming, what you will bring and to get directions. We always have a good time!

2012 NIGHT OF THE ARTS!



UCE's Annual Rosemary Zwick Night of the Arts is Saturday, February 11, 6 - 9 pm at UCE.

Organizers are calling all creative ones and helpers to help with a project, set up, and other tasks.

Contact Will Van Dyke willvd@sbcglobal.net or Johna Van Dyke, johnavd@sbcglobal.net

FUN & GAMES at BOARD GAME NIGHT!



From "Sorry" to "Scrabble," "Candyland" to "Apples to Apples," have fun with people of all ages who enjoy playing games together. Bring a game and a snack to share, or just bring yourself.

Friday, January 13, 6:30 – 9:00 pm. Fun for all ages, sponsored by the Religious Education Board.

INTERGENERATIONAL BOOK GROUP



The Intergenerational Book Group will discuss *Paper Towns* by John Green on Wednesday, January 25, 6:30 - 8 p.m. Readers of all ages are welcome.

2012 RUMMAGE SALE MAY 4 & 5



Save the date and save your goodies to donate!

SPOTLIGHT ON STAFF

GREGORY SHIFRIN - PIANIST

Gregory Shifrin has been UCE's staff pianist since 2006. Born in Moscow in 1971, Gregory began his music studies at the age of five in the Gnessin Music School for adolescent prodigies and continued study at the Music School and college of the Moscow Conservatory.



Gregory Shifrin
Photo by David Linsell

In 1990, Gregory moved with his family to Jerusalem and finished his Bachelor of Music degree at Jerusalem Academy of Music in 1994. He moved to the Chicago area in 2005.

Gregory's Piano Duo with Irina Kotlyar won the 7th Murray Dranoff International Two Piano Competition in Miami, FL, in 1999 and the 1st International Two Piano Competition in Poland, also in 1999. In 2000, the Duo was among three finalists of the 49th International Competition of the ARD in Munich. The Duo has performed as soloist with the Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra, the New World Symphony Orchestra in Miami as well as the Bialistok Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra, the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra, the Israeli Chamber Orchestra, and the Evanston Symphony Orchestra.

In addition to his work at UCE, Gregory is a pianist for the Chicago Music Institute Chorale; the Chicago Youth Choral Theater; Bnai Torah Congregation, Highland Park, and Columbia College vocal ensemble.

Gregory and his family reside in Vernon Hills, IL.

JUNIOR MANCE at UCE JANUARY 14



International Jazz Hall of Fame artist (and ETHS graduate) Junior Mance and his Quartet will perform at UCE on Saturday, January 14 at 7 p.m. Don't miss out! Premier seating tickets are \$40; regular price tickets are \$30. Seniors (age 65 and over) and students, \$20. Call the office, 847-864-1330, for tickets or purchase them at www.ucevanston.org. Tickets are going fast!

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. Also consider the UCE website, www.ucevanston.org, as a regular source of information.**

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

TERMS EXPIRING IN 2012

Sandy Danforth
danforthsc@sbcglobal.net
Cathy Deamant cddbbsb@sbcglobal.net
JoAnn Schalk j.schalk@att.net
Betty Walker blw35@comcast.net
Trudi Westwood trudi9459@aol.com
Marc Rolfes (President Emeritus)
MarcRolfes@aol.com

TERMS EXPIRING IN 2013

Michael Anderson
michael@evanstongroup.com
Robb Geiger rgeiger5@sbcglobal.net
Bill Hartgering bhartgering@gmail.com
Ann McCallister amc55@aol.com
Mike Tracy (President)
mtracy84@comcast.net

TERMS EXPIRING IN 2014

Claudia Dancing cd@claudiadancing.com
Kathy Monk km@bravenewpictures.com
Michael Takada mdtakada@gmail.com

SECRETARY

Jim Clark james807@sbcglobal.net

TREASURER

Marc Rolfes marcrofles@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; 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 Connie for an appointment. In an emergency, you may call her at home at any time. cgrant@ucevanston.org; (847) 864-1330 ext 103 (office); (847) 222-0457 (home)



**JUNIOR MANCE
to
PERFORM
JANUARY 14**

Junior Mance, Jazz Piano Legend, performs at UCE on Saturday, January 14.

You can purchase tickets on our website at www.ucevanston.org.

Or, call the Church Office
847-864-1330.

**T
h
e
L
a
s
t
W
o
r
d**

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