

EVANSTON

UNITARIAN NEWS

February
2012



MOVING FORWARD with the 2012 UCE PLEDGE DRIVE

UCE is *Moving Forward* in 2012-2013: calling a new Senior Minister, determining next steps as a congregation and facing financial challenges during this transition process.

This year's pledge drive runs from February 26-March 25. During this month, Visiting Stewards will call on members to talk about the church and needed financial support to maintain and grow programs of the Unitarian Church of Evanston. The projected pledge goal for the 2012-2013 church year is \$498,000, or about 8 percent higher than the current year.

Each member's pledge matters because *82 percent of the church's funding comes from the congregation and its pledges during this annual drive*. In fact, pledging on time sets the financial foundation for the church, because the annual budget is developed based on the pledges received.

UCE is moving forward, but the pace and path of this journey depend on annual pledges. Give what you can...and give a little bit more.

- Volunteer as a Visiting Steward. It's a great way to meet other members of the congregation. All volunteers receive complete training and support throughout the process. Please contact Harry Hirsch at harryandlibby@gmail.com, if you are interested in volunteering or learning more.
- Contact Jean Butzen, Annual Pledge Drive Committee Chair, at butzen@comcast.net, for more information on the pledge drive.

Learn what others at UCE say about their favorite programs, and funding for them.

Watch the video on the UCE website!

**HEAR the JOYFUL SOUNDS - ANNUAL CHOIR FESTIVAL
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 4 p.m., at UCE**

**Choirs of Bahá'í Temple of Wilmette, Unity Temple UU of
Oak Park, North Shore UU Church, Deerfield, and Unitarian
Church of Evanston will sing separately and combined.
Free will donations will benefit a veterans organization.**

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**EDUCATING
RELIGIOUSLY . . .**
*by Connie Grant, Minister for
Lifespan Religious Education*

Happy birthday!

I'll be celebrating a birthday soon; it's my seventeenth. Actually, it's the 41st anniversary of my seventeenth birthday, and in many ways I still feel "seventeen." It may be that I'm just "immature," although I do think I've matured quite a bit since the first time I turned seventeen. I like this quotation from John W. Gardner (from a speech at the Stanford Graduate School of Business):

The things you learn in maturity aren't simple things such as acquiring information and skills. You learn not to engage in self-destructive behavior. You learn not to burn up energy in anxiety. You discover how to manage your tensions. You learn that self-pity and resentment are among the most toxic of drugs. You find that the world loves talent, but pays off on character. You come to understand that most people are neither for you nor against you; they are thinking about themselves. You learn that no matter how hard you try to please, some people in this world are not going to love you, a lesson that is at first troubling and then really quite relaxing.

Fifty-eight (going on seventeen) feels good. Madeleine L'Engel said that "The great thing about getting older is that you don't lose all the other ages you've been." I'm glad to be able to keep my seventeen-year-old self and my fifty-eight-year-old self too. I offer this prayer, which I wrote seventeen years ago:

Creating, sustaining and transforming power, help us to know our companions on the journey of life. Help us to embrace life, sharing the lessons we learn along the way. Give us the strength to offer a hand to another who stumbles, and the strength too to accept the arm of another when our own steps falter.

In youth, let us look to our elders with respect for their wisdom and experience, enjoying the newness of the world and looking forward to our own fulfillment in maturity. In age, let us appreciate the enthusiasm and innocence of the young, secure in ourselves but not complacent, holding on to the eagerness and creativity of youth.

As we grow older, may we weather the sorrows and losses of life, holding on to the hopefulness of youth. May we age with integrity, finding meaning in the journey and choosing the path that is right, that when we come to the end of our lives we may know peace in ourselves.

cont. in next column >>>

IN THE INTERIM . . .
*by Janet Newman, Interim Senior
Minister*



By the time you read this newsletter, committed leaders will have prepared for the Annual Pledge Drive, which I like to think of as the Stewardship Campaign, for 2012. The planning and support team, chaired by Jean Butzen, will have set the calendar, drafted the letter and the brochure, and established the tone of the campaign. Visiting Stewards will soon be trained to talk with you about generosity, members of the congregation will share their testimonies about why they give to the Unitarian Church of Evanston, and the leaders of the congregation have already been asked to pledge generously.

"Generosity" is a key word of the Campaign. My way of relating to generosity is to recognize that my life is filled with abundance – and compared with the majority of others in the world, I live in opulence and luxury. Then, what do I do with that realization?

I seek to live with generosity of spirit, and one of the ways I can express it is to be financially generous toward the institutions and cultures that give to the world and help people grow in spirit. These are my values and ideals, too, and I wish to empower their cultivation throughout the world.

This year, the Unitarian Church of Evanston is the faith home that supports and enriches my values. Accordingly, when I arrived, I pledged to support UCE with 5% of my before-tax income. During the Campaign, I will increase my pledge by another 2%.

I realize that not everyone can pledge at such a percentage; some have lost their employment. So I urge everyone who is presently employed to contribute an additional amount to the Campaign in order to make up for those members who are living in financial distress. In this way, we acknowledge that such a situation could happen to any of us. Truly, we are all in this together!

***Faithfully, Janet Newman, your Interim
Minister***

At each stage of our lives, help us to work within our limitations to make the most of our freedoms, that we may be ever aware of life's possibilities.

Happy birthday to you, too. (And please come to "Everybody's Birthday Party" on February 24. See the blurb in this newsletter, and sign up by birth month on the Religious Education bulletin board near the lobby.)
Connie



WORSHIP SERVICES
10:30 am

CRACKERBARREL DISCUSSION GROUP
9:15 am



Sunday, February 5, “Who(m) Do You Trust?” - My sermon title comes from the new ideas and practice for gathering the Ministerial Search Committee; the main question is “To whom do you entrust...?” A related question: I’m wondering how the congregation’s Covenant of Engagement affects your life. How do we trust one another? **Rev. Dr. Janet E. Newman**

Sunday, February 12, “Stories of Evolution” Perspectives and reflections on evolution (biological, cultural, and personal) in story and music, in honor of Charles Darwin’s 203rd birthday. A worship service for all ages, with birthday cake afterwards. **Rev. Connie Grant**

Sunday, February 19, “Risking the Journey Together” - This sermon will be a dialog between the Interim Senior Minister and the District Executive for the Central Midwest District of the Unitarian Universalist Association. We will explore race relations in the congregation’s past and speculate about race relations in its future. **Rev. Dr. Janet Newman and Rev. Dr. Ian Evison.**

Sunday, February 26, “Unmentionables” - With a title like this, what do you think of? What is unmentionable for you? Sex? Politics? or ... (gasp) money? My sermon will risk offense as I speak directly about xxxxx and its spiritual connection in our lives. This is the first Sunday of the month-long Annual Pledge Drive, also known as the Generosity Campaign. **Rev. Dr. Janet Newman**

February 5, “Conflicts of Tolerance and Free Speech” - The US is virtually alone among western nations in not having hate-speech laws. The push by Islamic nations for global religious sensitivity superficially sounds innocuous, but this debate often pits their cause against free speech. U.S. free speech is often most severely curtailed at U.S. colleges and universities, in their ostensible objective of protecting some from being “offended.” Should we “relax” free speech guarantees out of concern about “negative stereotyping,” or should we protect the free speech as we do now under current U.S. jurisprudence, in the hopes that not stifling criticism and debate will lead to a better outcome for all? - **Scot Campbell**

February 12, “Trapped in the Economic Basement: Do U.S. Minimum Wage Laws Increase or Decrease Economic Mobility?” - The minimum wage has been viewed as a way of giving some assistance to those at the bottom of the economic ladder who don’t benefit from the sorts of leverage afforded by labor unions, licensing, education, experience, networking, and training. In this session we’ll discuss whether minimum wage laws have created conditions of permanent welfare dependency, effectively keeping the folks they are supposed to help from reaching the first rung on the ladder of economic progress. - **Larry Jordan**

February 19, “Thee Shall, Thou Shalt, & You Will: Linguistic Evolution, the Birth and Death of Language” - Technology and cross-cultural interactions are powerful drivers of language. The combined intensity of these forces in the United States makes American English particularly dynamic in the creation and destruction of linguistic forms.

American popular usage transforms the widely used, but difficult to pronounce chemical compound polytetrafluoroethylene into “Teflon” and the explosive 2,4,6-trinitrotoluene, into dynamite or TNT. In America, an “icon” can be a religious relic or a symbolic pictogram on your computer screen, while the confluence of English and Spanish becomes Spanglish. In this session we’ll discuss how to determine when something is bad usage or simply an element on the “bleeding edge” of linguistic evolution. - **Jim Kepler & Larry Jordan**

February 26, “We’re Mad as Hell and We’re Not Gonna’ Take It Anymore!” - Recently we’ve seen Bank of America, Netflix, and Verizon cave under consumer pressure and hastily rescind announced policies that were anything but customer friendly. Even the UUA has come under fire from the hustings--folks in the pews--for ideas that appear ill conceived at best. Has buying America had enough of corporate America? Who are the 9 percent of voters who think Congress is doing a good job? Are the Tea Party and Occupiers ushering in a period of incivility and rebellion? - **Jim Kepler**





NEWS FROM YOUR BOARD OF TRUSTEES
by Mike Tracy, President

At the January meeting of the Board of Trustees, we focused on three main topics.

Robb Geiger and Claudia Dancing, who are working closely with the Nominating and Recruitment Committee, reported on the status of the church's effort to form a Search Committee for our next senior minister. At the time this newsletter went to press, approximately 140 members had submitted the names of approximately 170 members "whom they would trust" to be on the committee. Thank you to all who took the time to provide this important input.

Next, in keeping with our commitment to thrive, the Board revisited the possibility of adding a second service beginning in September, 2012. A working group, consisting of Trudi Westwood, Jo Ann Schalk, Mike Takada, Cathy Deamant and Rev. Connie Grant, submitted its report to the Board, which drew on research the church had made in the past. While no vote to move forward was taken, the Board is committed to studying the issue thoroughly. If a vote were to be taken, the Board would prefer an overwhelming majority. We consider it crucial that there be significant support both on the Board and in the congregation at large for such an important initiative.

Finally, we discussed the Annual Pledge Drive and our goal of having 100% participation from the Board in the Matching Gift Fund. As for the congregation, it cannot be overstated how important it is for every member to turn in his, or her, pledge on time. Remember, we plan our budget from the pledges we receive, NOT from the money we THINK members will give. So, please, give what

you can. Or better yet, consider giving a little more this year. Because as you increase the size of your pledge, you make it more possible that the church can provide all the programs you have come to enjoy.

As always, I welcome your comments and suggestions.

Thank you,
Mike Tracy (mtracy84@comcast.net)

LATEST NEWS FROM YOUR INTEGRATED STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

by Michael Anderson, Chair

You Can Help UCE Move Forward

The annual pledge drive kicks off on Sunday, February 26 this year, and ends on March 25. You should be receiving your pledge packet in the mail in early February. Please give serious consideration to the pledge request that we are making to you, and please turn in your pledge form on time. For more information about the annual pledge drive, please see the related article in this newsletter "Moving Forward". Thank you for your support!

Your Budget is a Work in Progress

Thanks to all who attended the first Town Hall Meeting on Sunday, January 29. As you know, the budget goes through several revisions before it comes to a vote at the Annual Meeting in May. And remember, you don't have to wait for the next Town Hall in April. Call or email

Michael Anderson,
Michael@evanstongroup.com or
Marc Rolfes, Budget Chair,
MarcRolfes@aol.com.

(Call the office or consult the directory for a phone number.)

Three Good Reasons to Increase Your Pledge This Year

You may be asking, Why should I increase my pledge this year? Consider these three reasons:

- Because you'll be supporting a dramatic increase in Social Action funding. Four teams comprise the Social Action Council—Peace and Justice, Green Sanctuary, Rainbow Alliance and Food and Shelter Team. This year we're doubling the funding for each one. This is part of a long-range program to increase social action funding.

- Because you'll be helping to prepare for our new senior minister. This year we will have search committee expenses of \$10,000. A good portion of that will come from the Endowment Fund, but we will need to find an additional \$3,500 in order to give our Ministerial Search Committee the resources and travel assistance they'll need to do a thorough, professional search.

- Because you'll be helping to restore staff salaries. During the economic downturn, our church, along with many others, was forced to reduce staff salaries. The commitment of the Board of Trustees and the ISC is to restore that compensation, to express our gratitude for the great work our people do. Also, our goal is to continue to make UCE a thriving congregation and a motivated, appreciated, professional staff is essential if we're to reach that goal. Furthermore, we want to present to all potential ministerial candidates, an appealing salary package.

- So, please resist the temptation to say, "Same as last year." Instead, make your increased pledge an endorsement of these three initiatives.

Thanks for all the support you give our "beloved community."

MINISTERIAL SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

by Robb Geiger

We have gotten a good response and many nominations for the Ministerial Search Committee, and we thank all of you who submitted nominations!

During the first week of February, we will tabulate the results. During the rest of February and throughout March, the Nominating and Recruiting Committee will interview top voted candidates to learn their willingness to serve.

The first four members will be 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. This new procedure is adapted from the latest best practice recommended by the UUA.

On April 1, the Nominating and Recruiting Committee will present a slate of seven members to the congregation, and their bios will be published. On April 15, there will be a special Congregational Meeting to formally approve the slate. The Ministerial Search Committee is formed with the express intent of best representing the entire church community during the search process, and the slate will be presented for your ratification.

ENDOWMENT NEWS

by Barbara Butz, Chair

Thank you to **Hillis Howie** and **Margaret Shaklee**, who made a gift to the Endowment Fund

amounting to the sum of their ages (we're keeping it a secret!). We also thank **Barbara Butz and Robb Geiger** for their gift in memory of Chuck Thompson, who died on December 15, which happens to be Barbara's birthday. You, too, can give to Endowment this year in honor of a birthday or special event, or in memory of someone. Although final figures were not yet available as this was written, the Endowment Fund grew appreciably in 2011, creating more funding for special projects outside the regular church budget. We'll report the December 31 total when it's available.

BECOMING A MEMBER OF UCE

Introduction to Unitarian Universalism: Sunday, March 11; 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, March 24; 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.

MEN'S GROUP ANNUAL RETREAT

The UCE Men's Group 2012 Annual Spring Retreat will be Friday evening May 18 to Sunday morning May 20 at the nearby Techny Tower & Conference Retreat Center, 2001 Waukegan Road, Techny Illinois 60082. The weekend begins with dinner and our regular session in the evening. Saturday's schedule includes yoga, breakfast, and a program in the morning, with free time in the afternoon, followed by dinner and socializing in the evening. Sunday's schedule includes breakfast, yoga, and a closing service. Expected total cost is about \$175 per person. A \$50 deposit will reserve your spot. Any UU adult male is welcome to join us.

Contact Dave Woods, dnwoods@ameritech.net to make your reservation or see him on Sunday morning.



JUSTICE ISSUES IN THE NEWS

Mary Dudek for the Peace & Justice Committee

Evanston School Issues

The Peace and Justice Committee encourages residents of Evanston's School District 65 to learn more about the upcoming school referendum. The referendum aims to raise \$48.2 million to build a new elementary school in the fifth ward and to improve middle school facilities. School Board President Katie Bailey has called the referendum "enormously complicated". Given its placement in the predominately African-American fifth ward, the new school could have a major impact on both community building and city-wide school integration. Progressive Evanston leaders support both sides of this issue. It's important for us to learn more about the bond issue before the March 20 election.

Women in Correctional Custody

The struggle to end the use of shackles on pregnant women in correctional custody now has a hard-won victory! On January 13 Governor Quinn signed into law the bill protecting pregnant women against shackling while in Cook County custody. Four courageous, generous formerly incarcerated mothers gave testimony so that women will no longer suffer the violations and pain that they survived when they gave birth while in correctional custody.

The bill codifies the improvements that Sheriff Dart and his staff made in 2010 and 2011, so that future administrations will not be able to revert to the dangerous prior practice. Chicago Legal Advocacy for Incarcerated Mothers, the lead organization advocating for the bill, and one of the organizations that

UCE has supported in its Shared Offering program, is grateful to UCE members who made telephone calls to support its passage. In 2012, CLAIM will strive to end the practice in state prisons.

Stand Against Racism Day

We support the YWCA's plans for a National Stand Against Racism Day and hope that UCE can be a sponsoring site for an activity on 4/27/2012 that would include our youth as well. Those interested in such an event, please contact Martha Holman or P&J members.

INTERFAITH ACTION VISION KEEPERS DINNER



The Unitarian Church of Evanston nominates Janet Hartmann as our Vision Keeper for this year's Interfaith Action of Evanston Vision Keepers Dinner, Sunday, February 19 at 5:30 pm at the Hilton Orrington Hotel. Janet has served our church and the wider Evanston community in many ways including coordinating the soup kitchens held at UCE on Wednesday evenings in the fall and spring. Her thoughtful, wise, and organized leadership has enabled our congregation to take on this meaningful social action practice with confidence and to serve with compassion and respect.

Please help us honor Janet, celebrate vision keepers all over Evanston, and support the important work of Interfaith Action by attending the dinner. The cost is \$65 per person, more than half of which goes to support soup kitchens, the hospitality center, and winter warming centers of IFAE. Please make your check out to IFAE and give it to Chris Isely at UCE (by mail or put in his mailbox at church) so that we can seat our members together at the dinner. If

you have any questions, please contact Eileen Wiviott at 847-864-1330 x111 or ewiviott@hotmail.com.

SOCIAL ACTION FILM SERIES



The Social Action Film Series continues on Friday, February 17, at 7 p.m. at UCE, with the film *Normal*. After being married to Irma for 25 years, Roy decides the stress of being a woman in a man's body has grown intolerable. He unburdens himself to Irma and their pastor, shocking them both. "A beautifully written film, graced with a stunning, brave and transcendent performance from Tom Wilkinson."

FAMILY PROMISE

Family Promise is an organization that provides temporary housing for 3-4 families through the generosity of host churches. Northminster 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 week of April 22 – 29, 2012. If you are interested in volunteering in this way, mark your calendars and please contact Eileen Wiviott at ewiviott@hotmail.com

SOUP KITCHENS HEADS UP

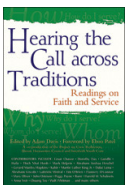


Our soup kitchens this spring are on March 7 and April 11. On these dates we will host soup kitchens at UCE while our neighbor, Beth Emet, celebrates Jewish holidays Purim and Passover. We welcome approximately 100 people to UCE for a meal, a bag lunch for the next day, and our hospitality.

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.

More detailed descriptions and sign-up sheets will be available online* and in the lobby starting in February for the March date. Watch the listserv for continuing announcements. Questions? Contact Janet Hartmann, jtwros1@comcast.net.

* [www.ucevanston.org/social action/Social Action & Justice/Volunteer Opportunities](http://www.ucevanston.org/social-action/Social%20Action%20&%20Justice/Volunteer%20Opportunities)



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 – 9 pm. 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.

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, February 18, 9:45 – 12:15. Sign up on the website www.ucevanston.org under volunteer opportunities or contact Eileen Wiviott at ewiviott@hotmail.com.

OUR GIVING HOUSE



Our Giving House collection for February is granola and nutrition bars. Please put your donations in the pink house at the front door.

LIZ KENNEDY

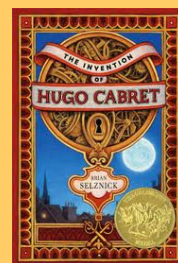
Lobby & Kitchen Staff



Liz Kennedy
Photo by Dave Linsell

Liz Kennedy works in various hospitality areas of the church, such as lobby staff, event coordination and kitchen staff. She and her daughter Lindsey Kennedy have been with the church since March of 1998. "This has been my village over the years and therefore it is only natural for me to be part of making people feel welcome."

INTERGENERATIONAL BOOK GROUP



The next selection of the Intergenerational Book Group is *The Invention of Hugo Cabret* by Brian Selznick. Discuss it on Wednesday, March 14, 6:30 – 8 pm. Readers of all ages are welcome.

ADULT EDUCATION

DARWIN & EVOLUTION

In honor of Charles Darwin's 203rd birthday, we'll explore his work and influence over four Tuesdays.

January 31- *Biography and Major Works: Voyage of the Beagle, 1843; Origin of Species, 1859; Descent of Man, 1871.*

February 7 – *Issues and Controversies, 1880s-1950s:* Eugenics, Social Darwinism, Nazism, Marxism, modern synthesis.

February 14 – *Darwinian Thought, 1960s-present:* Stephen J. Gould, Stephen Pinker, Richard Dawkins, E.O. Wilson, D.S. Wilson.

February 21 – *Kin selection, reciprocal altruism, game theory, group selection, naturalistic fallacy.*

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 29.

Suggested reading: Wikipedia's article on Natural Selection, which can be downloaded. Some abridged copies will be posted on the RE bulletin board.

Tuesday evenings January 31-February 21, 7:30-9:30 pm [**note later time**], 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).

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.**

Theater games and improvisation activities 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. Led by professional actor and singer Diego Colon, 9:15 –10:15 Sunday mornings, for children in kindergarten – sixth grade.

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.

UCE TAKES A STAND!

Throughout our history, this congregation has from time to time taken a courageous public stand for our principles. Some notable examples include hosting a speech by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King and standing up for the right of Congregation Beth Emet to build in Evanston. Come listen to and share stories from our history of taking a stand, with UCE historian Margaret Shaklee. Tuesday, February 28, 7-9 pm.

**EVERYBODY'S
BIRTHDAY PARTY!**



**Friday, February 24,
6:30 – 9 pm**

Do you have a birthday? Come and celebrate your birthday along with other UCE members and friends of all ages who have birthdays, too. Play games, sing a song or two, and enjoy a light supper (with birthday cake!) as you get to know other UCE folk who share your birth month. This event is sponsored by the Religious Education Board. Register on the Religious Education bulletin board near the Lobby. Cost is \$5 per person, maximum \$15 per family.

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. Notes may be edited for length.

To protect the privacy of our members, this information has been redacted for the publication of this newsletter on the web. Members can find it in the members protected area of the website, www.ucevanston.org/joys & sorrows of the community.

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

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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

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TERMS EXPIRING IN 2014

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Michael Takada mdtakada@gmail.com

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Jim Clark james807@sbcglobal.net

TREASURER

Marc Rolfes marcrolfes@aol.com

2012 NIGHT OF THE ARTS!



Continuing a tradition started by Rosemary Zwick, UCE's late artist in residence, the Rosemary Zwick Night of the Arts this year is Saturday, February 11 from 6-9 pm. The sanctuary will be filled with people of all ages enjoying a variety of art projects. Some projects will be individual for taking home, and some will be group projects for display. Make a valentine for your honey, enjoy music and noshes, ward off the winter blahs. It may be cold outside, but we'll keep it warm and cozy inside making art. The cost is \$5.00 per person, or \$15.00 per family. If you are interested in helping, contact Johna Van Dyke at johnavd@sbcglobal.net

SAFER BABIES

Ecotips

by Lynn Lawson



If you have a baby in your life, you may want to know that Johnson & Johnson, longtime maker of baby products, has announced that, during the next two years, it will be phasing out formaldehyde-releasing preservatives in its personal-care products for babies in all products worldwide. It has also announced that it will be removing detectable levels of the carcinogen 1,4-dioxane and that it has already removed hormone-disrupting phthalates from

its baby products (*Strong Voices*, newsletter of the Breast Cancer Fund, Winter 2011-12). This good news is a victory for the Campaign for Safe Cosmetics, which pushed the company for over two years. **TIP:** If really needed, use simple, old-fashioned products and check out the chapter "Products Targeting Infants and Children" in Dr. Samuel S. Epstein's book *Toxic Beauty*.

HARMS WOODS RESTORATION PROJECT

Each year, UCE members participate with the Evanston Interreligious Sustainability Circle in the Harms Woods Restoration Project. The date this year is Sunday, April 15. We meet at 1:00 and have a brief religious opening before heading off into the woods with forest preserve stewards Jane and John Balaban. They have achieved, through persistent weekend efforts with volunteers, acres of natural savannahs in Harms Woods. The activity is suitable for kids 10+ to seniors. For more information contact Dale Griffin, dalecgriffin@comcast.net

21st ANNUAL UCE CAMPING TRIP

The Unofficial UCE Camping Contingent invites anyone; singles, doubles, families, youngsters, and seniors to join us for a weekend of camping in the Kettle Moraine (South) in Wisconsin, June 29 - July 1. Reservations go fast! Deadline for registration is Sunday, March 18. Contact Liz Goodwin, lizbiz1961@sbcglobal.net or Dale Griffin, dalecgriffin@comcast.net

RUMMAGE SALE!

Our 2012 Rummage Sale is Friday and Saturday, May 4 and 5. Our work is concentrated – just one week, beginning April 29. We need lots of help – please add the set-up week and sale days to your calendar!

Reasons members like to work at our Rummage Sale:

- The surprise** - you never know what will be in the donated box you are opening,
- The hunt** – you may find china matching your grandmother's set, the bonnet hair dryer you had in high school, a brand new toaster etc.
- Camaraderie** – chance to deepen relationships and make new friends,
- Good feelings** - feels good to recycle/reuse, provide useful items to our customers and make money to support our church,
- Challenge** –use your creative talents to display our wares. Control freaks love to sort, organize, set up;
- Instant Gratification** – all over in one week;
- Pride** – great feeling when customers say ours is their favorite rummage sale,

AND....

- You'll be a hero to your husband, wife, partner, church community;**
- You have an excuse not to work at your office/at home....even the health club.**

Everyone smiles at you.

Come join the fun!

(from Kay Gibbs-Novy)



MEMBER ANNIVERSARIES - Winter 2012



In recognizing the anniversary of your membership, we want to thank you for sharing your journey with us. Since we have about four hundred members, we can't fete you every year without lapsing into long lists. So we have decided to recognize you on your "5" anniversary (5 years, 10, 15, etc.) with a newsy bit about you in the month in which you joined. (We have a little list.) The longest-term members may get an additional nod now and then. We hope this adds to our feeling of family and helps us get to know one another better. — Margaret Shaklee

This winter of 2012, we can celebrate ***Lucia and Harry Miller*** and ***Marguerite Geisert*** for 57 years of membership at UCE. ***Gerry and Irene Adler*** have logged 55 years. We're pretty sure we couldn't have done it without any of these wonderful people!

Winter 2012 sees a couple of other milestone anniversaries. ***Jim and Ann Kepler*** have been members for 35 years (Jim a Unitarian from his youth), as has ***Jennifer Sperry***. Jim has distinguished himself leading the congregation through "the troubles" as president of the congregation, going on to lead the district as chairman of that board through a time of troubled leadership. Jim is an avid denizen of Crackerbarrel, along with Ann. Jennifer you will associate with the "Sing Thing," a wonderful sing-along group through the 1970's, 80's and 90's.

Karen and Steve Courtright mark an anniversary of 25 years with UCE. They have been involved in many aspects, beginning by discovering hidden talents in themselves in the Religious Education Program and continuing through the years, Karen in stewardship and finance (and baking!) and Steve in many assignments on his way to his present joyful place in the music program.

Eileen Wiviott, Betty Walker, and Nicole Kramer and Alyson Mann can celebrate 10 years of membership this winter. Eileen and Betty found their calling early on in hospitality and the new member program. Betty went on to become involved in Peace and Justice and their Fair Trade effort, as well as membership on the Board of Trustees, while Eileen has nurtured her love of hospitality to become our talented Membership Director; both have honored us with their musical talents. Nicole Kramer and Alyson Mann have generously pitched in whenever needed.

These folks have all blessed our church community with their willing hands and generous hearts, and we say, bless YOU!

UCE EMBRACES the JUNIOR MANCE QUARTET



The Quartet and Sandra Robinson - L to R: Kim Garey, drums; Hidé Tanaka, bass; Sandra Robinson, UCE Executive Operations Director; Junior Mance, Andrew Hadro, baritone.

Photo by David Linsell

Almost 300 people gathered in the UCE sanctuary on January 14 for a nurturing experience of music when jazz artist Junior Mance returned to his hometown for this concert. Said Junior as he left, "It was the best homecoming I could imagine. I don't usually do encores but the positive energy in that crowd turned me around." Sandra Robinson, UCE Executive Operations Director thanks the staff and many volunteers who helped make the concert a big success. The gathering not only created a sense of enjoyment and pride for our congregation, but it netted \$5,000 in income.

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)

In the month of February, the ministers will be away as follows: Rev. Newman will be away Feb. 6 - 10; Rev. Grant will be away Feb. 20 - 23 and Feb. 27 - March 4.

**A SPECIAL LAST WORD
For UCE members . . .**



Moving Forward

Unitarian Church of Evanston
2012 Pledge Drive

Moving Forward

**The 2012 UCE Annual
Pledge Drive**

February 26 — March 25

Read more on Page 1 . . .

**Watch the video at
www.ucevanston.org . . .**

Get involved.

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