

EVANSTON

UNITARIAN NEWS

January
2013



Our Minister/Scholar in Residence for January

The Rev. Myriam Renaud, our minister/scholar in residence for January, is currently serving as Lecturer in Theology at Meadville Lombard Theological School. She is a Ph.D. Candidate in Theology at the University of Chicago Divinity School and is a 2012-2013 Junior Dissertation Fellow at the Divinity School's Martin Marty Center for the Advanced Study of Religion. Her nomination to the UUA's Commission on Appraisal will come to a vote at GA 2013. A frequent contributor of reflections on theology to the *UU World* and to WCPT's "Food for the Soul" program, Myriam blogs at TheNakedTheologian.com. Myriam will preach on January 20 & 27 and will offer a presentation on Tuesday evening, January 22.

Our Guest Speaker for January 13

Whether as a young, newly ordained minister taking part in the early stages of the Selma voting rights campaign, or as the only Unitarian Universalist minister in Mississippi 1969-84, Gordon Gibson has been collecting stories from the Civil Rights Movement. He is currently working on a book for Skinner House about southern Unitarian Universalists in the civil rights era, and is part of the planning team for next September's Living Legacy Pilgrimage to civil rights sites in Alabama and Mississippi.



Night of the Arts

The 11th Annual "Night of The Arts" is coming up on Saturday February 9th. We are searching for people interested in participating. Don't worry if you do not have an idea for doing an activity, we will help you figure it out. We also need kitchen people, and ticket taking staff. Please email Johna Van Dyke at johnavandyke@gmail.com if interested. No experience necessary.

Program Fair

Sunday, January 13

Join us for the program fair following the worship service. Learn about the programs and activities of the congregation, from book groups to young adults. Discover the ways you'd like to become more involved, to meet new people, and to grow.



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- From the Minister - 2
- Sundays at UCE - 3
- Ministerial Search Committee & Board News - 4
- "Just What Do They Do" & News from ISC, CRT and Nominating and Recruitment - 5
- Religious Education News - 6
- Membership News - 7, 8, 9
- Social Action News - 10
- @UCE: News & Notes - 11
- Minister's Schedule & "The Last Word" - back cover

Get in the 2013 Groove at UCE's Annual JAZZ BRUNCH

featuring world-class jazz by the Karl Montzka Trio

AND

a delicious hot lunch!

Sunday, Jan. 20
11:30 a.m.
(after the worship service)

If you enjoy good music, good food and good times

--
you'll love this event!

Only \$15 adults
\$10 children & seniors
for a tasty meal and great jazz!

**From Rev.
Connie Grant,
Minister for
Congregational Life...**



We recently received this letter addressed to the Unitarian Church of Evanston: On behalf of the Boris Kraupner family, we would like to donate this [enclosed check] to your Church in the name of the Paul Tetzlaff Family: Paul, Evelyn, Karen, Linda and Jim. The Tetzlaffs, as members of the church's Humanitarian Committee, were the specific members of the Unitarian Church who sponsored the Kraupner family's journey from war-torn Germany to the United States back in 1956. Over the years, the Tetzlaffs became our family, not just our sponsors. Thus after the recent passing of the last Tetzlaff family member, specifically Karen (Tetzlaff) Simms, we would like to show our love, appreciation and gratitude to the Church via the Tetzlaffs in providing our family with the opportunity to live in this great nation.

A brochure titled "The Need for Sponsoring Refugees and How to Do It," which was enclosed with the letter, explained the project that the church undertook at that time through the American Fund for Czechoslovak Refugees:

The Refugee Relief Act of 1953 permits the issuance of special non-quota visas to 209,000 individuals in a three-year period. 190,000 of these special non-quota visas are set aside for orphans, German expellees, and refugees and escapees from Iron Curtain countries.... There are today in Western Europe some six to eight million refugees without homes or means of support. Most of these people have come from behind the Iron Curtain. The look hopefully to the United States as a place to start life anew. We have an unusual opportunity to offer real assistance to people in desperate circumstances. A resettled family has a new chance. They make their own way. Their children have a future. They move out of charity-receiving misery to human dignity and self respect....

A citizen must sponsor the refugee family. Individuals are urgently needed to sign the sponsoring assurance the Refugee Relief Act requires. But the committee hopes the whole church will make this their project,

also. The first year is hard and lonely for the refugees. A friendly church can help through this difficult period, and can make them feel at home among new friends and neighbors. Ours is the humanitarian purpose of helping a refugee family get started in a friendly community. The details of processing and rather rigid requirements of the law must be satisfied, but our purpose goes far beyond that. It is a Unitarian concern with brotherhood that leads us to ask you to sponsor a family.

The brochure describes several eligible families, including the Kraupners:

Boris Kraupner, 34, was born in Prague, Czechoslovakia. He has had five years normal school, eight years special high school, one year business school, and 1-1/2 years additional schooling. Trained in business, has worked as lawyer's clerk, in Personnel of U.S. Army, as chauffeur in U.S. Army Pool, and in business for self. Can also work as cook or physical education instructor. He escaped to Germany in 1949, is now stateless. He can read, write and speak a little English. Jaroslava Kraupner, his wife, was born in Czechoslovakia and had grade school and trade school education. She is trained as a household worker, baker, cook, and maid. She escaped to Germany in 1949, is now stateless. Inge Kraupner, their daughter, was born in Germany.

My reply to the Kraupner family: Thank you so much for your donation to the Unitarian Church of Evanston in honor of the Tetzlaff family. It is heartening to hear of the ongoing relationship that developed between your family and the Tetzlaffs, and to know that this congregation had a part in helping your family and others who were displaced. I will let our congregation know about your gift and about this piece of our history as it is lived into the present. Your donation will be used to support the ongoing work of this congregation through our Pastoral Care fund, to help members of the community who are in financial crisis. Your letter reminds us of the importance of whatever work we can do to help others who are in need. Thank you for telling us about the impact of the work of the Tetzlaffs and of the Unitarian Church of Evanston.

Happy New Year! Connie



Have Your Cake and Give Some Too

Everybody's Birthday Party and Hillside Pantry Birthday Kits

Friday, February 22,
6:30 – 9 pm

Have Your Cake: 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.

And Give It Too: Our partner Hillside Pantry provides "Birthday Kits" to families they serve who have a birthday coming up. Watch later this month for the collection of these items in the lobby. At the party, we'll assemble the kits and decorate notes with birthday wishes from UCE, to include in the kits.

Birthday Kit Collection Items:

- ◇ Boxed cake mix
- ◇ Tub of frosting with sprinkles in the lid
- ◇ Box of candles
- ◇ Small package of party plates
- ◇ Blank birthday card

This event is sponsored by the Religious Education Board and the Food and Shelter Team. Register on the Religious Education bulletin board near the Lobby starting in mid January. Cost is \$5 per person, maximum \$15 per family.

Fun and Games at Board Game Night!



Friday, Jan. 11, 6:30 – 9:00 pm 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. Fun for all ages, sponsored by the Religious Education Board.



WORSHIP SERVICE
10:30 - 11:30 am

January 6 - "What's New?"

How do we make sense of the timeless and the timely, the permanent and the transient? 2013 has just begun. So what else is new? The Rev. Connie Grant speaking.

January 13 - "More Than a Dream"

What motivated the thousands of Americans who made up the Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and 1960s? It was a dream, but far more than a dream. Black and White, religious or not, their stories display a sense of selfhood, a passion for justice. Those values should still call us forth today. The Rev. Dr. Gordon Gibson speaking. For biographical information about Rev. Gibson, please see the front page.

January 20 - "God: What Can UUs Mean?"

Unitarian Universalists whose worldview may include a notion of the divine or of a higher power often reject the traditional use of the word "God" in preference for metaphors like Truth, Nature, Life, Infinity, the Universal, the Unknowable, the Good, the Mystery, the Eternal, etc. Drawing on her doctoral-dissertation research on the theology of the American theologian Gordon Kaufman, on the critical idealism of the German Enlightenment philosopher Immanuel Kant, and on her own evolving theological thinking, the Rev. Myriam Renaud, our minister/scholar in residence for January, will explore the concept of God.

January 27 - "Sin: What Can UUs Mean?"

Many Unitarian Universalists shudder when they encounter the word "sin" because of its traditional religious overtones of shame, guilt, judgment,

and punishment. Our optimistic faith prefers to celebrate the good inherent in humanity, rather than humanity's darker sides. How then do we acknowledge our failings? Drawing on her doctoral-dissertation research on the theology of the American theologian Gordon Kaufman and on the 1993 Parliament of the World Religions' Global Ethic, as well as on her own evolving theological and ethical thinking, the Rev. Myriam Renaud, our minister/scholar in residence for January, will explore the concept of sin.

CRACKERBARREL DISCUSSION GROUP
9:15 - 10:15 am



January 6 - Universal Rights and Responsibilities

How well are the United States and other countries living up to the UN's Universal Declaration of Human Rights they affirmed in 1948? The postwar era's first global expression of rights said all human beings are inherently entitled to the necessities of life. Was the declaration too idealistic? Socially and economically feasible? What should be the consequences of nonconformance? Discussion led by Alex Sproul and Brenda Cooksey.

January 13 - Antifragility, or How to deal with Black Swans

The book Antifragility discusses how to design a system to best deal with what Nassim Taleb dubs as Black Swans - large events that are both unexpected and highly consequential. Events will always occur that are not predicted. Might we learn to create institutions that best withstand their challenges, remain intact when they encounter Black Swans, and provide better outcomes than existing institutions? Discussion led by Scot Campbell.

January 20 - UCE Covenant of Engagement

UCE's Congregational Relations Team (CRT), newly formed last year, will introduce themselves and explain those portions of their work that derive from the Covenant. Participants will explore their individual and group thoughts about the relationships between the UCE Covenant and their own experience within Crackerbarrel. Discussion led by Brian Meister.

January 27 - President Peter Morales at 2012 General Assembly

We'll watch portions of the report that President Morales presented about the state of UUism today, challenge of remaining relevant, meaningful growth, and retention of our young people in an aging and relatively homogenous religious community. He will reveal his vision of taking the denomination into the world of social media and electronic possibilities. Discussion led by Jim Kepler.



Lunch for Haiti After Worship
Sunday, January 6th

Haiti was founded in 1804 and was the first country to break the chains of slavery. Tragically this history of liberty and self-determination has drawn two centuries of political and economic ire from powerful countries resulting in policies, which have served to impoverish the people of Haiti. The earthquake of January 2010 and hurricane Sandy October 2012 have further devastated the country. Please join us for lunch after the service Sunday. The funds raised will go to the local Evanston Haitian Congress to help provide safe drinking water and put an end to cholera in Haiti.

**MINISTERIAL SEARCH
COMMITTEE:
Our Interview Process**
by Ann Gadzikowski

The search committee has received Ministerial Records from individuals who are interested in the position of Senior Minister at UCE. Though specific information about the applicants is confidential, we are pleased to report that more than twenty people have expressed an interest in the position through the UUA online settlement systems. From that pool we've selected a dozen highly qualified individuals for the first round of interviews.

The members of the committee used a collaborative process to draft a list of interview questions for the first round of interviews. Here are a few examples of the kinds of interview questions we are asking:

“You've reviewed our Congregational Record and our packet. From that review, we'd be curious: what did you see? How would you summarize the profile of our church and of the minister we seek? How do you feel that UCE would be a good fit for you?”

“How would you relate to a congregation with a wide variety of beliefs that include atheist, agnostic, Zen Buddhist, Taoist, pantheist, Christian, Jewish, Muslim, as well as long term Universalist and Unitarian? How can each be celebrated?”

“If you've been successful in attracting a younger and more di-

verse demographic (both age and race and sexual orientation), give us some specific examples of what you've done and how you've done it. If you haven't, how would you imagine doing it?”

At the time of this writing, we are finishing up the first round of interviews, which we are conducting by phone. The next step will be to narrow this pool to three or four candidates who will be invited to meet with us in person. The members of the committee are happy to report that the process is progressing well and we're very pleased with the level of experience, credentials, and enthusiasm in the candidates we've interviewed so far.

**From the BOARD
of TRUSTEES**
by Mike Takada, President

Season's Greetings and a Happy New Year! I hope everyone was able to slow down enough to enjoy the holidays – I don't know about you, but for me and my household, this is an all too familiar resolution I often feel needs to be made during the festivities in advance of January 1st!

This holiday was different for our family in that it was the first Christmas in 26 years where we were not all together. No need for despair because the reasons were mostly positive. Anna, our youngest was completing her semester abroad program in Paris; Lahzie, our middle daughter, flew back to Paris on Dec. 19th, spending almost a month with Ann; Julia, our oldest, joined us at

Susan's mom's home for Christmas Day. And, we ended up 'seeing' everyone on the computer, thanks to Apple's Facetime!

This story represents my most recent experience with change and how it happens regardless of my opinion about it. And I'm no different than others in making the best of situations of change: we just keep working to do it as gracefully as possible. Finishing my example: I am taking the opportunity to spend time in Paris with my daughters and then flying back to NYC with Anna to help her get settled for her spring semester at NYU (someone had to step up and take the job).

I'm proud of how UCE continues to step up and make the best of the different changes we encounter. Upon learning our Interim Minister would be unavailable during our second year of search, UCE staff and the board took a deep breath, sharpened our pencils and for the 2012/13 church year, made the Evanston Model a possibility. Judging by the responses from congregants and guest ministers, the model is a success. Rev. Nicole Kirk remarked to me after her second service how thoroughly she enjoyed delivering her sermon due in large part to the positive energy she felt from the congregation in the sanctuary.

Please be assured your Board is committed to working toward dealing effectively with whatever changes come our way. I look forward to seeing you in church!

Mike Takada



Just What Do They Do?
by Barbara Butz

The Endowment Committee carries out a unique mission at UCE. (See Endowment News elsewhere in this newsletter.) We monitor the Endowment Fund (currently over \$170,000) created by targeted gifts from church members. The fund is invested for growth, and up to 5 percent may be requested by the Board of Trustees every year for special projects outside the scope of the regular budget.

Three trustees, elected to three year terms by the congregation, comprise the core of the committee. Other committee members are former trustees who decide to stay on, and others who value the special nature of Endowment. Our activities include monitoring the growth of the fund, and identifying and working with members who have expressed interest in giving. We write newsletter articles. We review Board requests, which the three trustees approve. On the last Sunday in October, Endowment Sunday, we take a few minutes in the pulpit to talk about Endowment and encourage giving. We thank those who have given, and celebrate the special activities that Endowment monies have funded, by providing cake for the congregation after church.

We meet the third Tuesday of the month and are a congenial and relaxed group! Our goal is to keep Endowment front and center in people's minds, and to educate them on the importance of estate planning and/or ways to

leave a legacy. We welcome new members who recognize the special place the Endowment Fund plays in ensuring the long-term financial health of UCE.

NEWS FROM NOMINATING AND RECRUITMENT: NOMINATING UNDERWAY

Your Nominating and Recruiting Committee (NRC) is currently choosing nominees for election at our May Annual Congregational Meeting. There will be openings to be filled on our Board of Trustees, Religious Education Board, Nominating and Recruiting Committee, and Endowment Trustees.

If you are interested in serving, or want to make a recommendation of someone else to serve, please be in touch with a member of the NRC, who are Linda LaPlante, Chair, Peggy Bocard, Gretchen Lewis, Charlotte Tyksinski, Lorna Galich, Jo Jones, Ann Peterson, Liz Goodwin, and Meredith Haydon.

- Linda LaPlante

NEWS FROM THE INTEGRATED STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

A working group successfully completed a spot-check of UCE's financial procedures and concluded there is excellent organization in the office and in coordination of documentation between the Executive Operations Director (EOD) and Accounting Manager. A few opportunities for improved coordination between the EOD and Board were identified.

The ISC is now gathering data for next year's budget and will hold a Town Hall Meeting on January 27 to discuss budget needs before the pledge drive begins in March. If your group needs money for next year, please e-mail your requests to Robb Geiger at rgeiger5@sbcglobal.net as soon as possible.

- Jane Fagerland

NEWS FROM YOUR CONGREGATIONAL RELATIONS TEAM

"We Can Work It Out"
First Workshop by the Congregational Relations Team

A reminder that the UCE Congregational Relations Team will offer its first workshop, now titled *We Can Work It Out: Constructive Conflict as Part of Healthy Engagement* on Saturday January 12th from 2-4PM and again on Monday January 28th from 7-9PM. Child-care will be available upon request. As part of UCE's efforts to live out our Covenant of Engagement, the workshop will address constructive responses to conflict both within and outside our church community.

Please see the more detailed description in the December newsletter for more information, or contact any member of the CRT: Tammy Besser, John Casey, Amy Davis, John La Plante, Carla Leone-Sands (chair) or Brian Meister. Please register by calling the church office Walk-ins are welcome too. Hope to see you there!

- Carla Leone-Sands

FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Students and Mentors on a Journey

“Journeys: Boston and Beyond” is an expansion of “Boston Bound,” focusing on our young people’s own spiritual and religious journeys as they develop and articulate their Unitarian Universalist identities. Fourteen seventh- and eighth-graders have made the commitment to participate in the program this year. Each student has been matched with an adult mentor who will serve as conversation partner and program supporter. Meeting on Sunday evenings, the group will learn about and discuss such topics as “Choosing freedom, reason, and tolerance” (Unitarian Universalist history), Unitarian Universalist theologies and spiritual practices, and the history and traditions of this congregation.

Following a series of “credo-building” sessions, students will present their belief statements to the congregation at a worship service in May, responding to the question “What do you believe in, not just in your head but in your life?” And students, with some of their mentors as chaperones, will have the opportunity to participate in a trip to Boston to learn more about Unitarian Universalist history and the important role our forebears played in the history of the United States. The group is also planning service projects and fundraising activities during the year.

Students (and their mentors) are: Amy Badr (Jenny Walsh), Cameron Behr (Katharine Bensinger), Irene Besser-Gilbert (William Phillips), Fiona Casey (Marybeth Burdelak), Sam Crawford-Cloonan (Jim Strickler), Wuendi Doebele (Trudi Westwood), Vivienne Falls (Kevin O’Connor), Zoe Figert-Kerl (Ann Peterson), Ellie Finkel (Margie Rogasner), Kadya Geier (Linda Damashek),

Cassidy Kuebbeler (Will Van Dyke), Charlie Lindland (Dennis Wilson), Logan Singer (Jeff Halldin), Lucas Sohn (John Grant).

“Our Whole Lives” offered for Kdg-First Grade and Fourth-Fifth Grades

On Sunday mornings (9:15 – 10:15) from February 3 – March 24, “Our Whole Lives” sexuality education will be offered for children in kindergarten-first grade and fourth-fifth grades. “Our Whole Lives” offers an age-appropriate approach to sexuality education as part of the lifelong process of acquiring information and forming attitudes and values about identity and relationships, intimacy and health.

The philosophy behind “Our Whole Lives” is to help participants make informed and responsible decisions about their sexual health and behavior. It equips participants with accurate, age-appropriate information in six subject areas: human development, relationships, personal skills, sexual behavior, sexual health, and society and culture. Grounded in a holistic view of sexuality, “Our Whole Lives” is designed to provide facts about anatomy and human development and to help participants clarify their values, build interpersonal skills, and understand the spiritual, emotional, and social aspects of sexuality.

Orientation for parents will be held on Sunday, January 27, 7-8:30 pm. Childcare will be provided.

Please contact Rev. Connie Grant at cgrant@ucevanston.org or (847) 864-1330 with any questions.

FOR ADULTS

Things We Need to Know about Islam

Tuesdays, January 8, 15, & 29, 7 – 9 pm

We will explore three basic areas: the theology of Islam and its relationship to the other Abrahamic religions; the Sharia system of jurisprudence and ethics; and the gnostic, Sufi movement, which borrows from indigenous cultures and prevailing religions of the regions where it is practiced. Presented by Irv Badr.

What IS Theology and Why Should UUs Care?

Tuesday, January 22, 7 – 9 pm

Our Minister/Scholar in residence for January, the Rev. Myriam Renaud, will offer insights from her work to develop a theological method for the construction of a concept of God. Her theological method allows for a wide range of possible God-concepts, following the work of the American theologian Gordon Kaufman, treating “God” as an imaginative construct and assuming that a moral concept “God” is conducive to a moral life. For moral bounds on God-concepts, she draws on the 1993 Parliament of the World Religions’ Global Ethic. We will discuss what theology is and explore reasons why theology might be important to and for Unitarian Universalists.

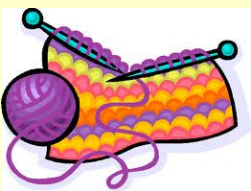
ENDOWMENT NEWS:

by Will Van Dyke, Committee Member and Former Chairman

Time for a bit of UCE and Endowment Fund history. There are two ways to give to the fund. One of them is through the Nellie Brough Society. So who was Nellie Brough anyway and how does that relate to the Endowment Fund? Our church was started in 1893 on Nellie Brough's front porch and, to honor her and those who include UCE in their estate plans, the Endowment Fund created the Nellie Brough Society (NBS) so we can continue the legacy of what she and others started over 119 years ago. It is a testament to her foresight and vision that our congregation continues in Evanston today, and we want to continue to serve our religious community for many years to come.

One of the best ways to honor her and to create a legacy for future generations is to make a gift to the Endowment Fund. If you haven't done so, please consider including the fund in your estate plans and becoming a member of NBS. The fund is not just for the future though; money from the fund has been used to as seed money to fund special projects, such as the hiring of Eileen Wiviott, our Membership Director, and recent training for a member of the new Congregational Relations Committee. So you see, while we are thinking about our long-term future, we are supporting on-going church initiatives to strengthen UCE.

You can also make a gift to Endowment at any time to honor a birthday, an anniversary or remember someone dear to you. Any gift, large or small at any time will help ensure that UCE is here for many, many years to come. You can donate on-line at UCE's website, <http://ucevanston.org>. Just go to the donations tab.



KNITTING GROUP MEETING

The UCE knitting group will next meet on January 22, 2013 at 7 p.m. and again on February 5, 2013 at 10:00 a.m. Regular meeting times and dates are 10 a.m. on the 1st Tuesday and 7 p.m. on the 4th Tuesday of every month. We knit tiny little caps and blankets for preemies and shawls for hospice patients or any one else who we think needs one. We have directions and plenty of yarn for projects. You can also work on your own personal project. Please join us in Room 2 for knitting or crocheting and lots of conversation.

MEMBER ANNIVERSARIES Winter 2013

by Margaret Shaklee

This winter, let us warmly greet members who are celebrating anniversaries of UCE membership. **Lucia Miller** and **Marguerite Geisert** have logged 58 very active years with UCE. **Gerry** and **Irene Adler** have given the church 56 years, **Bud** and **Zeal Brock** 54 years, and **BJ Wagner** 53 years. The number of UCE pots and programs their fingers have been in is legion, and we have them to thank again and again for their faith in us.

Jane and **Indru Punwani** celebrate 30 years in February. Jane shepherded our religious education program so ably through many years, both on and off the board. **Rosemary Baldwin** and **Bill Hayward** celebrate 25 years this winter and **Marcia Achenbach** 20 years. **Gerry Ketterson** is 15 years with us. **Kristen Larsen** and **Vicki Doebele** have logged 10 years. Marking five years with us are **Kristi Pinkowski** and **Sandie Elliott**, and **Jim** and **Linda Clark** – wow, they really jumped in to get involved, didn't they!

These folks have blessed a huge number of church programs and activities with their creative thinking, willing hands, and generous hearts. We say, well done!

Vespers & Potluck at UCE Wednesday, January 23rd, 6pm

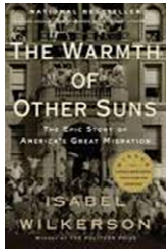


If you were there in December, you heard these words from a book titled "Give Us This Day: The Story of Prayer" by Rufus Goodwin:

"I sing the hearth-song of my soul,
note of love,
note of light,
note of life,
attune the music of my
winter-wakening soul.
Preserve my soul in wisdom:
may it sing forth with the clearness of the winter sun."

Join us on Wednesday, Jan. 23 as the winter days and nights lead us into a new year. Vesper services combine music, song, a measure of silence and enough spoken word to connect us and awake our presence.

Non-Fiction Book Group



During January & February, the non-fiction book group will be reviewing "The Warmth of Other Suns," which was one of the 10 Best Books of the Year in the The New

York Times Book Review. Here is an excerpt: "In this epic, beautifully written masterwork, Pulitzer Prize-winning author Isabel Wilkerson chronicles one of the great untold stories of American history: the decades-long migration of black citizens who fled the South for northern and western cities, in search of a better life. From 1915 to 1970, this exodus of almost six million people changed the face of America. Wilkerson compares this epic migration to the migrations of other peoples in history. She interviewed more than a thousand people, and gained access to new data and official records, to write this definitive and vividly dramatic account of how these American journeys unfolded, altering our cities, our country, and ourselves." Please join us on 1/27/13 & 2/24/13. Questions - contact John Poust at poustus@hotmail.com.

COVENANT GROUPS

Adapted from Countryside Church Unitarian Universalist, Palatine, IL
Violence, Terror, and War

For a full session and further facilitator resources, visit the website ucevanston.org/programs/covenant-groups

Reflective Reading:

When I despair, I remember that, all through history, the way of truth and love has always won. There have been tyrants and murderers, and for a time they can seem invincible, but in the end, they always fall. Think of it. Always, they fall. Always.
--Mohandas Ghandi

Questions:

1. What were your feelings in the aftermath of the Newtown, CT tragedy? Try to find the feeling words—sad, afraid, angry, numb, unaffected—and understand why you felt that way.
2. Did your feelings change in the days that followed? If so, why?
3. How do you cope with violence, terror, and war in our society? Are you doing anything special to keep your spirits up despite the difficult news each day? Do you see any positive outcomes or reasons for hope?

Closing Reading:

Go in peace. Live simply, gently, at home in yourselves.
Act justly.
Speak justly.
Remember the depth of your own compassion.
Forget not your power in the days of your powerlessness.

Crave peace for all people in the world, beginning with yourselves, and go as you go with the dream of that peace alive in your heart.

Hymnal #686 (adapted), Mark L. Belletini

So May We Be.

Introduction to Unitarian Universalism: Sunday, January 27; 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 Rev. Connie Grant and Membership Director, Eileen Wiviott, 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, February 9; 9 am - noon

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.



Northwest Neighbors:

UCE members and friends who live in northwest Evanston gather quarterly to share a meal and visit with each other. Save the date for our next potluck dinner on February 10th at 6:00pm. Details to follow. Questions? Contact Martha Holman at holman.martha@gmail.com



Guest at Your Table Boxes
Bring 'em back on Jan. 6!

UUSC hopes you now know a bit more about their work in Haiti, the campaign for worker rights for restaurant workers in the US, the defense of the Bill of Rights and ending racial profiling by the police in US cities. Aren't you glad you gave some of your coins and dollars to support social justice here and abroad? And you know that the UUSC can be counted on to use your money ethically and efficiently. Did any of the projects give you ideas about how to make changes happen right here in Evanston? Put your ideas on a sheet of paper and put them in your boxes with your collected money. The Social Action Council will get back to you about your ideas.

JOYS AND 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. You may also read our community's news at ucevanston.org/members section.

Joys and Sorrows have been redacted to protect the privacy of our members.

UCE Mentioned in Evanston Roundtable

The current edition of the Roundtable, Life & Art End-of-Year Gift Bag recognizes UCE as one of the authors favorite buildings... "In the non-residential category is the Unitarian Church on the west side of Ridge Avenue north of Dempster Street, with its powerful, white-painted concrete frame, by the firm of Schweider and Elting. In addition to its powerful presence, its clear glass end allows worshipers to face nature, an elevating experience seldom achieved except in another religious structure, the Jewish Reconstructionist Synagogue.

Interfaith Action of Evanston Gathering

Sunday, January 13 from 3-5pm at He-menway United Methodist Church, 933 Chicago Avenue. The featured speaker is Tommie Johnson, Recovery Support Service Coordinator for Treatment Alternatives for Save Communities (TASC, Inc). Mr. Johnson works with individuals upon their release from prison. In addition to speaking about the stigma of incarceration and the difficulty of reentering the community, he will discuss pending legislation, which will hopefully enable formerly incarcerated persons to obtain job interviews.

Saturday Baking

Each month, we bake and cook with children living in the Jonquil Hotel of Good News Partners. These children love preparing and eating their own creations. It is a wonderful experience. A leader chooses a few simple recipes and volunteers bring the ingredients. Sign up on the bulletin board in the lobby or on our website ucevanston.org/volunteer-opportunities. The next Baking Day is January 19.



Our Giving House this month will be collecting dried fruits and nuts.

Healthy, conveniently carried foods like dried fruits and nuts provide necessary protein, vitamins and minerals to those who have trouble getting proper nutrition. Your donations will be matched by our generous sponsors - Ellie Feddersen, Maggie Weiss, David Austin-Smith, Maureen Richnak and Larry Singer. All collections will be given to Hilda's Place Shelter food pantry, which is part of Connections for the Homeless.

Thank you Fair Trade Shoppers!

Because of your generosity and support, the Fair Trade Cart has been able to give \$1000 to Randy Barrengos this month. She will distribute gift cards to selected Chute School families to make holiday purchases of food or clothing. We hope to provide additional contributions to fund a field trip and personal school supplies during the remainder of the school year. Happy Holidays to All!

- Betty Walker

PEACE & JUSTICE PROGRAM NEWS



UCE gets results and plans events with Community Renewal Society

Our UCE participation in Community Renewal Society (CRS) is expanding and bringing results! UCE members were in the capital building for several hours on November 28 to educate legislators on HB 5723, which seals felony records after a certain period so former inmates can find work. We gathered legislative support and co-sponsorships and hope the bill will pass in the 2013 session. You may have already signed the post card to Walgreens about employment for people with records, or the petition for HB 5831 to require handgun titles in Illinois. UCE members met with our state senator to be, Daniel Biss, and our state representative Robyn Gabel in their local offices. Our legislators welcomed the discussions and increased their support of these bills as a result. Last year CRS efforts helped open up funds for affordable housing, increased quality of care in nursing homes, and reduced suspensions in Chicago Public Schools.

Please save the date Saturday morning, January 26th for the annual CRS Martin Luther King Day celebration and accountability session with local legislators at First Baptist Congregational Church in Chicago. Our own legislators Gabel and Biss have agreed to be there. It is an inspiring way to celebrate MLK Day, with gospel music, civic action, and a fast moving program on successes and projects, stories and plans. Twelve UCE members have already signed up. Please contact Dale Griffin at dalecgriffin@comcast.net. We are also planning a leadership training for congregational based community organizing on January 19 and February 16, an experiential workshop on the issue of mass incarceration, and a community forum on the move to make a graduated income tax possible in Illinois. We welcome your participation!

-UCE/Community Renewal Society team

The UCE Peace and Justice Haitian Task Force is collaborating with the Evanston Area Haitian Congress on coming events:

Jan. 5, Sat evening: Celebrate New Years with the Haitian Congress at the Evanston Levy Center

Jan 6, Sunday 11:45am: Haitian Lunch with traditional pumpkin soup, rice, beans and other tasty Haitian dishes. Proceeds go to a fund we are setting up for Haitian relief, such as the cholera epidemic, digging a clean water well, working with another agency (such as the UUSC). Goals: Advocacy, Raising Awareness, Fundraising, Service.

Jan. 14, 7:30pm: Please join us for a meeting either to become better informed or to work with us on future projects. All are welcome.

Celebrate the Birthday of Martin Luther King on January 21, 2012

It's fitting that this year we will celebrate Martin Luther King's birthday on the day that our first black President is inaugurated on the steps of the Capitol for his second term in office. Building on the legacy of Dr. King, great strides have been made in racial equality in the United States, but much remains to be done. On January 21, 2012 we will celebrate the hope, justice, and democracy for which Dr. King so bravely stood. His birthday is a great day to revisit the words he spoke in 1963 on the same Capitol Mall in Washington DC. He dreamed that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: "We hold these truths to be self-evident that all men are created equal." His dream inspires us as we all work for peace and justice. **Watch for details on local activities to celebrate his birthday.**



EcoNews

by Alex Sproul

Several years ago with the support of Green Sanctuary and other local green groups Evanston enacted a green building ordinance, requiring new buildings to be certified as being sustainable at the lowest LEED level (Silver). (LEED standards are widely used to measure sustainability.) Subsequently the ordinance was watered down, exempting all but large buildings from the requirement, though smaller structures are encouraged to conform to a list of energy-efficiency and other standards of sustainability. However, at least four recent local buildings have gone up or are planned to be at higher levels of sustainability than required by local building codes, on a totally voluntary basis. The completed structures include the Jewish Reconstruction Congregation's new synagogue at 303 Dodge, Evanston, certified at the highest LEED level, Platinum. First Bank and Trust of Evanston's new branch at 4000 Dempster, Skokie, is also Platinum Leed-certified, and includes among other features a green roof. The condo building at 1570 Elmwood, Evanston, was built to LEED Gold standards, although it has not gone through the formality of actually applying for certification. And now Walgreen's has radically revised its plan for the new store at 635 Chicago Avenue, Evanston, to be LEED Platinum-certified. It will feature photovoltaic panels over the entire roof, plus two wind turbines in the parking lot. Walgreen's expects to generate the store's entire electricity requirement from these installations.

The local green community is heartened by the willingness of these organizations to make the additional investment required to do the right thing. Totally voluntarily, though of course the commercial structures are presumably expected to produce long-term returns from the public enthusiasm for their efforts as well as the direct savings in energy costs.

RUMMAGE SALE

Come and join the Rummage Sale leadership team. UCE's annual rummage sale will take place on May 3 & 4. I know this seems like is a long time away, but between now and then we need department chairs/leaders to help plan this great recycling event. The Rummage Sale leadership team will meet at UCE after service on January 27. If you have helped as a department chair in the past, please share your expertise again this year. If you want to join the leadership team to make this an even better sale, please come and share your ideas. Everyone is welcome. The Rummage Sale is fun and a great way to get to know each other.

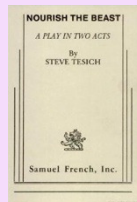
Please contact Maggie Wilson (manddwilson@msn.com) to volunteer or if you have any questions.

Looking forward to another fun, successful Rummage Sale.

Maggie Wilson, Rummage Sale, chair

Starting the New Year Serendipitously

Serendipity Auction events have always extended into the following year, and now we have an online calendar to help us keep track of them. Go to the bottom of the UCE homepage and click on the Serendipity Auction link and presto! You are there on the Auction home page. Look at the top of the page and click on "Calendar". (You can probably get to the calendar without even logging in.)



This month two lucky folks are going to the Andrew Lloyd Webber musical at the Marriott Lincolnshire Theater. Johna is teaching a silk painting class, Shirley teaches dance classes, and the Play Reading of "Nourish the Beast", a two act comedy, is Jan. 19. Sometimes bid winners must cancel, so if you are interested in a particular group event, you can ask the donor if there is room for you. And remember, you can pay for the event online. How convenient!

EVANSTON UNITARIAN NEWS

The UCE newsletter is published monthly. All newsletter articles should be sent to **Editor Carli Magel** at cmagel@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

Minister: Rev. Ms. Constance L. Grant (ext. 103), *Minister for Congregational Life* **Staff:** Bart Bradfield, *Director of Music*; Gregory Shifrin, *Pianist*; Sandra Robinson, *Executive Operations Director* (108); Chris Isely, *Accounting Manager* (109); Carli Magel, *Communications Coordinator* (102); Eileen Wiviott, *Membership Director* (111); Sylvia Cornell, *Office Assistant* (101); Brenda Dunkins, *Church Assistant* (101); Daniel Baer, Megan Grant, Lindsey Kennedy, Liz Kennedy, and Jonathan Motley, *Lobby Staff*; Kathy Talmage, *Kitchen Staff*.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

TERMS EXPIRING IN 2013

Robb Geiger rgeiger5@sbcglobal.net
Bill Hartgering bhartgering@gmail.com
Mike Tracy mtracy84@comcast.net

TERMS EXPIRING IN 2014

Claudia Dancing cd@claudiadancing.com
Kathy Monk km@bravenewpictures.com
(Vice-President)
Michael Takada mdtakada@gmail.com
(President)

TERMS EXPIRING IN 2015

Rachelle Brooks
rlbrooks@northwestern.edu
Janet Hartmann jtros1@comcast.net
Jane Kenamore
jkenamore@ameritech.net

SECRETARY

Jim Clark james807@sbcglobal.net

TREASURER

Marc Rolfes marcrofles@aol.com

MINISTER'S SCHEDULE

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 can call her on her cell phone at any time. Contact cgrant@ucevanston.org; (847) 864-1330 ext. 103 (office); (847) 840-8542 (cell).

PERSONAL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Reminder note to newsletter readers/contributors: We no longer include personal telephone numbers in the newsletter. If are a member of UCE, and you need a number, you may get it from the Church Office or in the Members' Directory at ucevanston.org/members.

Principled Sunday Coffee

Coffee and conversation after the service is a pleasant habit for many of us, and we would seriously miss it if it were not available. But did you know that the coffee we drink on Sundays helps us to act on our principles? For the past few years our Sunday coffee has come from Equal Exchange, a company that pioneered small farmer co-ops more than thirty years ago. The coffee is grown sustainably under the shade of trees. No pesticides are used, and the coffee is consistently richer than supermarket brands. The farmers are guaranteed a fair price for their beans, and they nurture their land to keep it healthy and fertile. Each bag of coffee purchased for the kitchen at UCE affirms both the worth and dignity of the farmers and the interdependent web of life. It's a great way of practicing our principles, but it costs a little more, and it is beginning to strain our hospitality budget. So if you love your principled Sunday coffee please contribute to the donations basket before you fill your cup.

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

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