

Unitarian Universalist Church of Indianapolis
Founded 1979

Sunday, April 5 “Igniting the Collective Imagination”

Rev. Barbara Child, Pam Blevins Hinkle, and Judy Pleiss

On March 8, we reflected in pairs on what drew us here, high-point experiences in our lives here, what we value about the congregation, what gifts we bring to it, our vision for its future, and our vision for Unitarian Universalism in greater Indianapolis. Notes were taken on what people had to say. We promised to let you know, and today we begin to do that. About some of this morning’s message, you may say, “Well, of course, I knew that!” But you may also be in for a few surprises. Also today, Interim Music Director Dianna Davis initiates a new Sunday feature – a Sanctuary “hymn sing” 10 minutes before service begins. Come early and you might learn a new hymn that you will come to love or you might enjoy an additional chance to sing an old favorite.

Sunday, April 12 “And Still We Rise”

Rev. Barbara Child

Unitarian Universalists sometimes say we are interested in the “pre-Easter Jesus,” the living man, the wise teacher and prophetic social activist, not the “post-Easter Jesus.” We aren’t inclined to put much stock in the story of the resurrection. Thomas Jefferson’s Bible appeals to us – the Bible with all the miracle stories cut out of it. So you may be surprised to hear that this Easter Day we will celebrate resurrections – lots of them, including our own!

Sunday, April 19 “Beyond Bars”

Colleen Kelly

Indy Pagan Prison Ministries provides services to local inmates. Beyond bars will tell a story about a struggle for religious freedoms and help us to understand that some prisons are of our own making. Special music by the UUI Guitar Circle and Folk Choir.

Sunday, April 26 “Earth Sunday”

Rob Content

Rob Content of Community Solutions will help the Environmental Sustainability Committee celebrate our accomplishments as a Green Sanctuary and explore future possibilities to help save and improve our planet.

Services begin at 10:30 a.m. Childcare will be provided.

Church of the Warm Heart, Open Mind and Helping Hands

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Earth Symposium ... from p. 5

Rob Content of Community Solutions will provide an engaging presentation that his organization has done for organizations worldwide, with Q&A to follow.

A healthy light lunch will precede his presentation. Requested donation of \$10.

Reservations appreciated:

www.houdek123@sbcglobal.net

For more information about Community Solutions, please visit their Web site, www.communitysolution.org.

The UU Eye

A biweekly publication of the Unitarian-Universalist Church of Indianapolis
615 W. 43rd St., Indianapolis IN 46208
Contact: 317-283-4760/info@uui.org
On the Web: www.uui.org

The UU Eye informs and sustains UUI's congregational life. It connects members and friends to our varied church activities, including worship, religious education, the arts and community actions. It presents information of consequence and interest to the congregation and also reflects and fosters our purpose as a congregation and as Unitarian Universalists.

Eye Deadlines and Submissions

The Eye welcomes your submissions about congregational life and programs. The next deadline is 5 pm Friday, April 10. Submit material by e-mail to uueye@uui.org or call Martin DeAgostino at 972-0302.

UUI Officers, Minister and Staff

Interim Minister: *The Rev. Barbara Child*
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For a complete listing of UUI's Board of Trustees, please visit our Web site, www.uui.org.

UUI is a Welcoming Congregation and a Certified Green Sanctuary under guidelines of the Unitarian Universalist Association.



In the Meantime

Rev. Barbara Child, Interim Minister

Unitarian Universalists often quote the medieval humanist and mystic Meister Eckhart for this particular piece of wisdom: “If the only prayer you say in your life is thank you, that would suffice.” Accordingly, all I want to do just now is say thank you to two people.

First, thank you, Susan Raccoli, for your 12 years of devoted and skilled service to UUI as newsletter editor. As I told you early on, you were clearly doing far more than the work of a church newsletter editor. You have indeed had a ministry here, paying special attention to people, and in particular those who do not always otherwise get attention. I hope and trust that your caring attention to people will continue unabated even though others take up the work of producing the *UU Eye*.

I quickly learned last fall that I could count on you for thoroughness and accuracy. In some other churches, I have needed to proofread the newsletter myself to make sure the church would not be embarrassed by factual or typographical errors in its foremost public relations tool. Not so here! And though I think I take great care with my own writing, more than once you have asked me whether I really intended this word or that punctuation mark – and so you have saved me from embarrassment too.

For all of your work, caring, and conscientiousness, thank you!

My other thank you today is to Jamie Fenner. Jamie, I was impressed by your energetic spirit from the moment you came to tell me about your idea to put on a dance. I know I gave you fits a time or two because I had to raise “institutional” questions when you just wanted to bring people together – UUI people and people from Heartland UU Church – to have a good time. I can only guess what it cost you to bring band and dance floor and refreshments. I can only tell you my heart skipped a beat when I got here at about 9:00 and took the last place in the parking lot.

Well, I can tell you more than that. I haven’t danced like that in more years than I can count, and I loved every minute of it. At one point I saw how late it was and thought about going home, but then that fabulous band started up again and I couldn’t stay away from the dance floor. A few days later when Karl Zemlin sent some of his pictures from that night, I nearly cried for joy at the sight of all those smiling faces, UUI faces and Heartland UU faces, sharing all that exuberance together. I know Rich Thies worked with you on the dance, and I am grateful to him too.

For all your effort, persistence, and deep-down knowing that this dance would be a good thing, thank you!

Barbara

Religious Education

RE Council Replaces RE Board To Meet Changing Program Needs

Spring is the time of new beginnings. And, although we've been testing our new Religious Education structure for a while, now seems an appropriate time to share with you what has changed.

Please note: There are many new and exciting opportunities for you to get involved in RE!

First, a little history for our guests and new members. For almost a decade, UUI was blessed with the very capable ministry of our former Director of Religious Education, Karen Brown, who has since moved to an East Coast church.

In the wake of Karen's departure, the RE Board reviewed the existing structure of our program and determined that some organizational changes were needed to address this basic truth: More often than not, a church will have a settled DRE for short spans of time, and in the interim, sometimes no DRE at all.

So a new structure was required that could function well with or without a professional DRE. Following best practices guidelines from the Unitarian Universalist Association, the RE Board implemented several changes to meet this need.

First, the RE Board has become the RE Council. This is not mere semantics, but a functional change. The RE Council is composed of the chairs of the four RE Standing Committees and the RE Administrator/DRE. One of the committee chairs is selected Council chair.

Second, we have established which standing committees are needed to carry out the work of UUI's RE program, and have clarified each committee's responsibilities. They are: Program Development; Search & Development; Family Ministry; and Youth/Adult Council. Briefly, the responsibilities

of the Council and the Standing Committees are as follows:

Council: coordinates committee activities, develops budget, functions as BOT liaison, implements confidential problem-solving.

Program Development: selects and implements curricula; recruits, supports, and trains volunteer teachers.

Family Ministry: plans and coordinates RE special and regular events; communicates with congregation, welcomes new families.

Search & Development: manages DRE search process and settled DRE relations, facilitates professional DRE development.

Youth/Adult Council: selects and implements Jr. & Sr. High curricula, plans youth activities at church and district levels, coordinates with Family Ministry.

RE Administrator: manages regular Sunday RE classes; maintains supplies, records, and budget; functions as renter liaison.

So that you can put names to faces, here are the people who are currently serving on the RE Council:

Faunette Johnston, *Council Chair and Program Development Chair*; Stacy Robinson, *Family Ministry Chair*; Carolyn Murphy, *Search & Development Chair*; Holly Hendrickson, *YAC Chair*; Matthew Brooks, *RE Administrator*.

If you are interested in serving on any of these committees or in volunteering as a teacher, please contact any RE Council member. Maintaining an RE program of the caliber of UUI's is a lot of work that can always use more willing hands, bright minds, and nurturing hearts. And we can assure you, it's very rewarding.

Your RE Council

Community Action

Computer Recycling Aids Africa

The 5th and 6th grade class at UUI has teamed up with Wings for West Africa, a local non-profit, to collect computers, refurbish them and send them to rural schools in Senegal West Africa. We are asking for donations of computers and other computer equipment no longer in use, including printers, speakers, etc., for their reuse. The collection will take place:

**On April 25 and 26 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
at the Unitarian Universalist
Church of Indianapolis
614 W. 43rd Street, Indianapolis,
46208**

Tax deductible donation forms will be provided

Questions or more information: e-mail at waf-wings@wafwings.org or call 846-2722 or visit web site at www.wafwings.org

Over-Stuffed? Here's What To Do

The April issue of Indianapolis Monthly magazine has a comprehensive listing of where and how to dispose of many types of unwanted items, from furniture to sports equipment to garden tools to electronics.

They supply suggestions about how to sell, to whom to donate, where to recycle, and, when all else fails, what to actually put in the trash. When in doubt, give it to the Boy Scouts; they seem to want just about everything! Here are a few examples of common items. DVD Players: donate to Boys and Girls Clubs, recycle at Virtual Scavengers. VCRS: donate to Noble of Indiana, recy-

cle at Virtual Scavengers. Crayons: recycle with the Crayon Recycle Company. Mirrors: if intact, donate to groups that operate residential programs or help people with housing needs; if broken, throw them away—they cannot be recycled because of a chemical coating—but wrap carefully and mark “broken glass.” Camping equipment: here it comes—the Boy Scouts! Check out the magazine, or send e-mail questions to green@uui.org.

Volunteer Call for Peace Summit

UUI needs volunteers to staff an information table at the annual Midwest Peace and Justice Summit on Saturday, April 4 at IUPUI. Summit participants will share ideas, experiences and resources about everything from volunteering to the electoral process.

Volunteers are needed from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Park just west of the IT Building, at Michigan and West Streets, where the summit will be held. Info at Diana_AsberryFerber@capgroup.com.

Healthy Earth Symposium at UUI

With springtime upon us and our world climate in turmoil, the time is NOW to start acting in accordance with our UU Seven Principles and UUI's Earth Charter membership.

Please join UUI's Environmental Sustainability Committee at a Healthy Planet Earth Symposium from 12:30-3 pm on Sunday, April 26 at UUI. Enjoy this informative and inspiring early afternoon presentation by Rob Content, program director with Community Solutions, an Ohio-based nonprofit that builds sustainable community life.

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Ministry

Hearing the Call: Seeking Applications for New Worship Associates

On Sunday mornings your experience of the worship service at UUI is partly the result of the participation of Worship Associates.

You have listened to them offer the welcoming words, words to accompany lighting the chalice, and readings later in the service.

They have assisted people with candles at the time of Joys and Concerns, and some have worked with children and youth in putting on intergenerational services.

This coming summer each of the Worship Associates will present a service, and some have done so earlier in the year.

Worship Associates are members who are active in the church, with a special interest in the congregation's worship life and an interest to learn more through reflection, study, and conversation with the Minister and the other Worship Associates.

Three new Worship Associates will be selected for the 2009-10 church year. Each will be invited to assist an experienced Worship Associate in designing and conducting a summer service.

Their term as Worship Associates will be renewable at their discretion and that of the new Minister coming to serve UUI beginning in the late summer or early fall of 2010.

The selection process for 2009-10 will involve taking care to select church members who have the broad interests of the congregation at heart and who will complement the range of skills, styles, interests, and approaches to religion and spirituality of the continuing Worship Associates: Jim Hermiller, Colleen Kelly, Steve Peck,

Robin Riebsomer, Matt Socey, and Jenni White. If you would like to be considered, please write to me before April 15 (email to minister@uui.org will be fine) to explain in as much detail as you wish why you would like to become a Worship Associate, what particular contributions you have to make to the program, and what you would hope to gain from serving UUI this way.

In recent months, I have been pleased to discover the interest and contributions of youth to the congregation's worship life. I welcome letters of application from youth who would like to be associated with the Worship Associates program next year in some way, with the understanding that youth's obligations and time commitments would be significantly fewer than those of adults in the program. Any youth selected to participate will be in addition to the three new adult Worship Associates.

Rev. Barbara Child

Creative Arts

Poetry and Expression

The next all-church exhibit will go up on Saturday, April 25 at 2:30 p.m. This could be a poem or writing that you have done that you would like to display. It could be a poem or writing of someone else's that you have illustrated. It could be a photograph that you have taken, inspired by a poem or saying. Please contact Wendy Dougherty (Wdougherty@indy.rr.com or call 255-7039) to give her label information before April 20.

Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.	Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.
2 Challenge of a Liberal Faith 7pm, Cottage	3 RE Council 6pm, RE Bldg. Building Your Own Theology 7pm, Cottage April 3 - 5, Heartland District Annual Meeting and Spring Conference, Muncie, IN	4 Arty Bash 6:30pm, Sanctuary & Social Hall	5 Social Justice Noon, Cottage Sapphonia Rehearsal 4pm, Cottage Board Games 6pm, Commons IWC 6:30pm, Sanctuary	6 Worship Associates 6pm, Cottage Leadership Fulfillment 7pm, Cottage BULBS Luncheon 12:30pm, Just Judy's	7 Guitar Circle 7pm, RE Wisdom Room Choir Rehearsal 7pm, Cottage	8 Lee Jones Concert 5pm, Sanctuary CUUPs 7pm, Cottage Challenge of a Liberal Faith 7pm, Cottage
9 Lee Jones Concert 5pm, Sanctuary CUUPs 7pm, Cottage Challenge of a Liberal Faith 7pm, Cottage	10 EYE Deadline 5pm, uueye@uui.org	11 UU Knitters 10am, Cottage	12 Sapphonia Rehearsal 4pm, Cottage IWC 6:30pm, Sanctuary	13 Governance Task Force 7pm, Cottage Photo Club 7pm, Cottage	14 Worship Associates 6pm, Cottage UU Board 7pm, Cottage	15

Ministries/Small Groups

BULBS (Birthday Unitarian Lunch Bunch) meets 1st Mondays. Contact Pat Lawler, 329-2779 or patricialawler2@comcast.net.

UUI Knitting Group Meets 2nd Saturdays and 4th Tuesdays at 7 pm in the Cottage Library. Contact Judy Archer, 253-9770 or jisarcher@aol.com.

CUUPS (Covenant of UU Pagans) meets 2nd and 4th Thursdays at 7 pm in the Sanctuary/Fellowship Hall. Contact Colleen Kelly, wooglet@gmail.com or Robin Chestek, 280-1354.

Credo Forum meets 1st Sundays at 9:15 am in the Cottage Library. Religion, theology, philosophy, ethics. Contact David Jackoway, 844-7193 or Lowell McCoskey, 253-3025.

UUI Photo Club meets 2nd Mondays at 7 pm in the Cottage Library. "Rain" is the next topic. Contact Wendy Dougherty at Wdougherty@indy.rr.com.

Board Games group meets 1st Sundays at 6 pm in the Commons. Contact Wendy Dougherty at Wdougherty@indy.rr.com.

UUI Drum Circle meets at noon April 19 and May 16 in the Sanctuary. Drum one, drum all—no experience necessary. Contact Robin Chestek, kchestek@earthlink.net or Sandra Gruber, sgruber@mw.net.

Congregational Life

Stewardship Campaign

If you have not yet pledged for 2009-10, please do so soon. Your pledge will help us accurately plan next year's budget.

Please send pledges to <http://uui.org/steward.html> or call David Jackoway at 258-3725.

Grounds for Enjoyment

It's time for our annual half day of work on UUI's grounds, and there's enough work to occupy 25-30 people for three hours.

No sign up, just show up. Drinks, snacks and fellowship will lighten the load.

Saturday, April 18, from 9 a.m. to noon.

New Hymn Sing Starts Sunday

I'm excited to announce that starting on April 5th, we are going to start singing new hymns, familiar favorite hymns, and chants to gather our UUI community in worship before the service starts Sunday mornings. Every week, we will begin singing 10 minutes before the service starts with the help of some UUI song leaders! Please join us as we lift our spirits in music to start off our UUI mornings!

Dianna Davis, Interim Music Director

Habitat Rummage Sale April 25

UUI's annual rummage sale benefits the Sr. High Youth's Habitat for Humanity project. We accept goods of all kinds, **except clothes.**

For large item pickup on April 18, call Holly at 293-0216. Or bring your own items to church on April 19, 21, 22 or 23. Please, **not** on Monday April 20.

Then enjoy the members' preview sale on April 24 before the public sale on April 25.

Bring stuff, buy stuff, enjoy!

Unitarian Universalist Church
of Indianapolis
615 W. 43rd St.
Indianapolis, IN 46208

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