

December 2 , 2009

UU Eye

Volume 30 No. 3

Unitarian Universalist Church of Indianapolis
Founded 1979

Sunday, December 6, 2009: “Medieval Noel” *Dianna Davis*

Please join Dianna Davis and the musicians of UUI in a music Sunday celebration of the holiday season madrigal style! Enjoy songs such as the Flaming Pudding Carol and Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming, instrumental dance music, and special appearances from Queen Elizabeth I and her court. After the service, we'll Wassail! Wassail! with some coffee in the social hall.

Sunday, December 13: “Children’s Holiday Pageant” *Rev. Eva Českava*

The story of the first Christmas, complete with sheep and shepherds, royalty and angels, and a little new baby boy. A narrator and congregational singing provide the “dialogue” for this classic depiction.

Saturday, December 19 at 7:00pm: “Winter Solstice Celebration”

Join us for the 6th annual presentation of "A Winter Solstice, a celebration of the Darkness and the Light with Song and Stories". The celebration is family friendly and will end in a shared feast with attendees and cast. Please bring food or drink to share. Seating is limited so plan to arrive a bit early.

Sunday, December 20: “A Time for Waiting” *Rev. Barbara Child*

During the Advent season on the Christian calendar and the darkening time just before the Winter Solstice, it is a good time to reflect on what it is like to be waiting for something, perhaps with great anticipation, perhaps with a great sense of the mysterious unknown. And then we learn whether patience turns out to be one of our virtues!

Thursday, December 24 at 7:00pm: “Simple Gifts” *Rev. Barbara Child*

We will celebrate this evening with story and song. The story may just warm your heart, and the songs – well, you know the special magical power of music at a candle light service on Christmas Eve. Bring the whole family. And please also bring your full “Guest at Your Table” box as your gift to the UU Service Committee.

Sunday, December 27: “Kwanzaa: A Harvest of First Fruits” *Rev. Barbara Child*

Unitarian Universalists these days live in creative tension between seeking to be a proactively multi-cultural religion and taking care not to misappropriate traditions and practices not our own. With this creative tension fully in mind, I invite you to join me in honoring Kwanzaa, the African American holiday that began yesterday, intertwining African traditions with American customs. Kwanzaa lasts seven days because, like us, its celebrants affirm and promote seven principles!



Services start at 10:30 a.m. Childcare will be provided.
Church of the Warm Heart, Open Mind and Helping Hands



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



The UU Eye

A monthly publication of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Indianapolis
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On the Web: www.uui.org

The UU Eye informs and sustains UII'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 *Eye* is published monthly on the first Wednesday of the month. Submit material by e-mail to uueye@uui.org. **The next deadline is 8 p.m. Friday, January 2.**

UII Officers, Minister and Staff

Interim Minister: *The Rev. Barbara Child*
283-4760; minister@uui.org
Board President: *Eric Hinkle*
329-7522; cehinkle1961@yahoo.com
Office Administrator: *Vanessa Fry*
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dre@uui.org
Interim Music Director: *Dianna Davis*
dianna.davis@gmail.com

A complete listing of UII's Board of Trustees is available at www.uui.org.



In the Meantime

Rev. Barbara Child, Interim Minister

The Christmas when I was seven, I received lots of new clothes for my favorite doll. I was an only child, except for Richard, my half brother, who was sixteen years older and gone away to war. So when I came down to find my presents under the tree early on Christmas morning, I had them opened before my parents came downstairs.

Years later my mother told me the story of that Christmas morning. She said she came downstairs to find me sitting amidst all my new doll clothes – and crying my eyes out. She couldn't imagine what was wrong. Finally I managed to say how disappointed I was because even though I had all these wonderful doll clothes in packages with gift cards signed by Santa Claus, Mother and Daddy hadn't given me anything. They must not have loved me after all.

And my dear mother, who had spent weeks sewing the doll clothes, could not disturb my belief in Santa Claus by telling me the truth. These many years later, I don't remember how she did explain what happened or how I became convinced that my parents did indeed love me. In fact, I don't remember the story at all, only my mother's telling it often years later.

Mother always told it as a funny story. But as I think about it now, I don't think it very funny. And I don't think it's a story about me. It's about my mother, and about anyone who gives a gift of their own artistry, their own time and effort and love put into making something instead of running out to the store to pick up a gift. It's especially about anyone who gives their loving handiwork anonymously.

My mother knew how much I cared for my favorite doll. She also knew that money was tight, and she was doubtless worrying every day about Richard. I remember that we had a little satin banner in the dining room window with a star in the center, signifying that our family had a soldier away at war. So there she sat every day while I was at school, worrying about Richard and sewing doll clothes. And every day she put her sewing away before I came home from school, and then she wrote Santa's name on the gift cards.

My mother has been dead a quarter of a century. But I will never forget how it was more important to her to preserve my childhood delight in Santa Claus than to take credit for all her loving work. That is a Christmas story I carry from my childhood. I wonder what holiday stories you carry deep in your memory, and how you feel when you remember them.

Barbara

Religious Education

First Aid Supplies Needed

As part of their unit on medicine, the 3rd/4th grade discussed the inspirational story of the Good Samaritan on Sunday, November 15. They then reviewed basic First Aid techniques. As a class service project, we inventoried the First Aid kits for each of the seven classrooms in RE. We discovered that most of our kits require some upgrading and/or replenishment of the following items. If you would like to donate some of these items to RE, please know that your gifts are very much appreciated!

| | |
|--|--|
| 1 Red Cross First Aid manual—kit size version | 4 penlight flashlights |
| 4 rolls of sterile gauze | 5 scissors—for cutting tape, gauze, etc. |
| 3 rolls of medical tape | 4 tweezers |
| 4 packets of antiseptic wipes | 7 cold/hot packs |
| 4 tubes of antibiotic cream | 7 thermometers |
| 7 small bottles of aspirin—kit/sample size | |
| 7 small bottles of non-aspirin pain reliever—kit/sample size | |
| 7 units of splinting materials—we have popsicle sticks now, but if there's something more substantial... | |

The 3rd/4th graders themselves agreed to contribute 7 lists of emergency phone numbers and the written address of the church for each of the RE First-Aid kits. Please leave your contributions to our safety kits in the marked box in the RE Conference Room in the RE Building, or on the RE Table in the Social Hall. Thank you!

Pageant Cast Call

This year the holiday pageant will be the story of the first Christmas, complete with sheep and shepherds, royalty and angels, and a little new baby boy. There is a part for everyone who wishes to participate in the age range of kindergarteners through high school. The Holiday Pageant service is December 13. Costumes can be simple or elaborate, and will come from the creative genius of the cast members and their parents. Tina Nehrling has agreed to help in her creative, experienced ways, and Carol Kirk will be conducting her youth choirs.

There are no lines in this pageant, but characters are definitely needed. A narrator and congregational singing provide the “dialogue” for this classic depiction. In addition to the traditional roles, we also need stage hands and prop people.

There will be one rehearsal on Saturday, December 12, from 1:00 to 4:00. Participants younger than 14 must be accompanied by a parent or surrogate. These behind-the-scenes helpers are essential for a smooth and effective service. To be a part of the pageant, please sign up on the chart in the RE foyer. Everyone who wishes may participate, though you may not have the part you initially wanted. We're going to have fun while giving a gift to the entire congregation.



Caring Team

Need a hand?? Can't be two places at once?? Want to help? The Caring Team is here to help anyone who is having a hard time and needs assistance with logistics. Help includes (but is not limited to):

- transport to and from an appointment, the airport, school, work, etc.
- errands (ex. grocery shopping, dry cleaning pick-up)
- light housework and/or yard work
- pet care (ex. dog walking or a trip to the vet)
- delivery of meals

If you could use a helping hand or know of someone we should call with an offer of help, please call Lynne Arrowsmith at 479-1430 or 755-8132. If you would like to be involved as a helper with the Logistics Sector, please call Lynne or e-mail her at learrowsmith@yahoo.com.

Winter Solstice Chili Supper

The Family Ministry Committee is hosting the first ever Chili Supper/Fundraiser on Saturday, December 19th from 5-6:30. Please mark your calendars to join us for good eats and socializing before the Winter Solstice ceremony. Volunteers are needed to cook pots of chili and assist with set up, serving, and clean up. We are also holding an arts and crafts fair during the supper for those artists and artisans in our congregation who would like to display and sell their creations in time for holiday gift giving. A small booth fee would be charged. All proceeds for both the supper and the fair will go back to UUI.

Please contact Carolyn Murphy at 418-4533 or Carolyn.murphy@erac.com if you can donate chili, help with the event, or wish to join the arts and crafts fair.

Chalice Circles Sign-Up

I have chosen to be part of the UUI community for many reasons. One reason is that UUI provides a place to be with others to focus on and explore important questions about life and living—questions I'd probably not make the time to consider on my own. I am excited that a Chalice Circle program is beginning again in January, because in the past they have been a truly unique way to get to know other UUI members and friends at a deeper level as we share reflections and listen deeply to those of others. For me, they've been an important way to find connection and support in a hurried, busy life. For us as a congregation, I think they are critical for our growth and health.

I encourage you to sign up for one of the ten Chalice Circles planned for January through May 2010. One group is already full and several others are close. The signup sheet will be in the Social Hall on Sundays and the Cottage hallway during the week. Subscribers to the electronic version of the Eye may [click here](#) for the list of available times and locations. For more information, contact me at mmiles@traininginc.org.

Marty Miles

Welcome to November Visitors

November 8

Ken Koeppel

November 15

Kelly & Pat MacDonald

Jim Nulty

Cory Sterner

November 22

Kim Dangol

Lori Davis

Andrea & Alan DeHaan

Jack & Peggy Seigel



Finance Committee News

The Finance Committee has been hard at work! There are several initiatives under way.

Building Fund

The special request for donations to the Building and Maintenance Fund has generated approximately \$10,000 in contributions to date. This is a great response, and we thank all of you who have generously made contributions so far! Unfortunately, the demand for those funds keeps running ahead of the available funds. We have used approximately \$8,500 of the donations to pay for the roof and interior repairs necessitated by the roof leaks last spring and summer. Then we discovered that one of the two furnaces that heats the Sanctuary and Social Hall was broken beyond repair. The Board of Trustees has authorized that both furnaces be replaced by two newer 93 percent efficient models. While this will save us in utility costs, the \$4,600 cost for these furnaces must be paid now. Thus, if you have not yet donated to the Building and Maintenance Fund, there is still a need for such contributions.

Split The Plate

The Board has also authorized a six-month pilot program in which half of the undesignated Sunday offering will be donated to a local charity. Many churches who have embarked on “Share the Plate” programs report that undesignated giving increases significantly, to the point where the church itself often retains as much of the offering as it would have absent the program. It is our hope that this phenomenon will repeat itself here as our members respond to the opportunity to assist other worthwhile local organizations who are also hurting during these economic times through their contributions on Sunday morning.

But we need your help in deciding what organizations to support. Sometime in December, we will ask you to visit a Survey Monkey website to vote on the various organizations that have been nominated by our members to be a “Charity of the Month.” Please watch the weekly e-newsletter for information on where and when to participate in that survey. The top six vote-getters will be assigned a month in which to receive these donations.

If you know of a local charity that you would like to nominate to be a “charity of the month” in 2010, please send an e-mail to Ken Chestek at kchestek@iupui.edu. Please include the name of the charity, a website address for that organization, and a brief description of what the organization does (this will be included in the online survey to help members decide where to place their votes). To be eligible, a Charity of the Month must be a 501(c)(3) organization, and must be locally based (that is, it must be designed to spend its funding on services to people in the Indianapolis metropolitan area).

IMPORTANT: Once we begin this program in January, you will still be able to pay your UUI pledge by putting a check in the plate on Sunday morning. But please note: if you write a check for your pledge and drop it in the plate, remember to write “Pledge Payment” in the memo line so that your payment can be properly recorded!

Congregational Life

Scrip Program

The Board has also authorized us to begin selling “scrip,” or substitute money, in an effort to raise funds for the church. Essentially, local vendors allow UUI to purchase gift cards, or “scrip,” at a discount. UUI can then re-sell the scrip to our members at full price, and retain the difference. For example, Marsh Supermarkets will sell scrip to us at 95% of face value, so that UUI can retain 5% of everything you spend at Marsh on groceries. The groceries don’t cost you any more than they would if you paid in cash. Thus, if you spend \$500 a month on groceries at Marsh, and you pay for all of it with scrip, UUI would receive a contribution of \$25 from Marsh. If a large number of our members were to do this, we could generate thousands of dollars in revenue every year.

We plan to offer scrip for sale from various vendors as we get this program ramped up. We will be starting with Marsh. Look for a table in the social hall after church each Sunday, and remember to buy enough scrip to cover your grocery purchases. (Scrip never expires, so if you buy too much this week, you can “spend” it next week, or next month.)

Watch the weekly e-newsletter for additional information as we add vendors to this exciting program.

Ken Chestek, Treasurer

UUI Vice President

Lowell McCoskey has been appointed by the Board of Trustees to fill the position of Vice President which has been vacant since May. Lowell is completing his third year as a member of the Board.

Ministerial Search

Congregational Survey Results

Copies of the Congregational Survey results are now available for review in the Social Hall and the Cottage Library. As there are only a limited number of these documents available we request they not be removed from the church. If you would like to receive a PDF copy of the Survey results please send a request to uuisearch2010@gmail.com. The Ministerial Search Committee thanks everyone who participated in the survey for sharing your thoughts with us.

Search Committee Timeline

Preparing to call a minister requires several steps and processes. This timeline describes the major activities remaining to be accomplished. Our work is guided by the UUA Transitions Office.

- Dec. & Jan.— Exchange informational packets; conduct phone interviews with ministers.
- By Jan. 30 — Select pre-candidates and schedule interviews.
- Feb. & Mar.— Pre-candidating weekends for interviews and sermons in neutral pulpits.
- Mar. & Apr.— Selection activities and announcement.
- Apr.— Candidating Week and congregational vote after worship service to call minister to UUI.

Ministerial Search Committee: Cindy Jackson (chair), Matt Bassett, Rita Horn, Barb Hosein, David Jackoway, John Russell, Bill Marsh

Circles of Life

Condolences

It is with sadness that we announce that long-time member Ethel Blust died on November 22 at the age of 97. Ethel joined UUI in 1979 and was an energetic worker on many committees and a faithful friend to many. Until recently she was active in the BULBs luncheon group. A Memorial Service for Ethel is scheduled for Monday, December 14, 7p.m. at Crown Hill Funeral House. Dale Breedlove, a member of the family, will officiate. The family will receive visitors 5p.m. - 7p.m. Condolence cards can be sent to her niece:

Jan Lane
10487 Lakeshore Place
Carmel, Indiana 46033

A Service of Remembrance was held on November 14 at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Eugene, OR for Suzanne Whaley who died suddenly on September 24. Suzanne had been a friend of UUI and was the daughter of UUI founding members, Jim and Evelyn Barhart. Suzanne is survived by her husband, Charles Snyder.

The former husband of Rev. Eva Českava, our Interim Religious Educator, and father of her son and daughter died of brain cancer on Saturday morning, November 21. A memorial service celebrating his life was held on Nov. 25 at the First Unitarian Church of Oklahoma City, where he had been an active member for 39 years.



Creative Arts

Upcoming UUI Art Displays

January 10, 2010, the Youth Art Display goes up. All UUI youth should bring in artwork that they have done at home, in school, or in RE on that Sunday morning.

On **February 28** there will be another all-church display: "Children through Adult Eyes". Again, all media and techniques are acceptable.

The Arty Bash will be **Saturday, May 8**. Please put this on your calendar. The Arty Bash artwork will be taken in on Friday, April 30 and Saturday, May 1.

Winter Solstice Choir Rehearsals

Hope to you see you!

Sun. December 6, 2:30-4:00 p.m.

Wed. December 9, 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Sun. December 13, 2:30-4:00 p.m.

Wed. December 16, 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Fri. December 18, 7 pm

(mandatory dress rehearsal)

Sat. December 19, 6 pm call time

(7 pm start time).

Choir Rehearsals Resume Next Year

The UUI choir will have the rest of December off from rehearsal but we'll start up again in January!

Community Action

Recycling Update

- **EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY:** Please take your recyclable plastics to City collection sites...NOT to UUI. Reason: the City now collects all plastics numbered 1 through 7. There is no change in the recyclables drop-off policy at UUI other than for plastics. If you do not know where there is a City site near you, please email jrowe@iupui.edu.
- You may now reach the City of Indianapolis recycling bins at Broad Ripple Park by way of Evanston.
- You've been hearing from the Environmental Sustainability Committee and others that Styrofoam does not decompose, so it cannot be recycled. Styrofoam's proper name is "expanded polystyrene" (#6 plastic). Polystyrene is manufactured from petroleum, a non-renewable resource. Instead of Styrofoam, opt for reusable coffee mugs...take home restaurant leftovers in your own containers...talk to officials at your children's school about using alternatives to polystyrene lunch trays.
- Createc, an Indianapolis expanded polystyrene recycling center, has a drop-off site that's open to the public from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Bring your clean, white styrofoam (#6 plastic) to 6835 N. Guion Road. Materials brought to Createc are densified, then sent to Reprocessing plants that convert them to crystalline polystyrene to be used again by plastics molders. If you cannot get to Createc to deliver your Styrofoam, you may bring it to UUI. Please leave it in plastic bags in the south entrance that leads to the RE Bldg. and the Commons.
- Phone books: Although the City claims they will collect phone books, you may not find labeled bins. If you want to bring your phone books to UUI, please put them in the south entrance only.

Jeannette Rowe, Environmental Sustainability Committee

Small Groups

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

Credo Forum will discuss belief in angels on Sunday December 6 at 9:15 am in the Cottage Library. Contact Lowell McCoskey (Monontrailbiker@aol.com) or David Jackoway (djackoway@gmail.com) for more information.

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

The **UU Downtown Lunch** group meets at 11:30 on the second Wednesday of each month. This group of UUs meets at the Sky City Café at the Eiteljorg Museum to enjoy lunch and conversation. If you would like an email reminder drop a note to Eric Hinkle at ehinkle@eiteljorg.com.

UUI Drum Circle meets at noon on Sunday December 20 in the Sanctuary. Drum one, drum all—no experience necessary. Contact Robin Chestek, kchestek@earthlink.net or Sandra Gruber, sgruber@mw.net.

UUI Knitting Group Meets 2nd Saturdays at 10 am and 4th Tuesdays at 7 pm in the Cottage Library. Contact Judy Archer, 253-9770 or jisarcher@aol.com.

Contact Bob Kirk, rkirk1937@aol.com, for information about the next meeting of the **UUI Men's Breakfast Group**.

The **UUI Photo Club** meets 2nd Mondays at 7 P.M. in the Cottage Library. The topic for October is “Stuffed” to be interpreted any way you wish. Contact Wendy Dougherty, at Wdougherty@indy.rr.com to be included on the e-mail notification list and to receive the photo files to be changed in some way.

The **Women of UUI** are invited to meet for dinner on Thursday, December 3 at 6 pm at Loon Lake Lodge at 6880 E. 82nd St., just west of I - 69. No program, just good conversation and food. For questions or information, contact Susan Beauchamp at 634-2448 or beauartnow@yahoo.com.



Happenings in December & January

| SUN 06 | MON 07 | TUE 08 | WED 09 | THU 10 | FRI 11 | SAT 12 |
|---|---|---|---|--|--------------------------------|--|
| <p style="text-align: center;">  Medieval Noel Service Sanctuary, 10:30am </p> | | <p> UUI Board Meeting Cottage, 7pm </p> | | <p> CUUPS Sanctuary, 7pm </p> | | <p> UUI Knitters Cottage, 10am Social Justice: Second Saturday RE Wisdom Rm 10:30am </p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;">  Children's Holiday Pageant Service Sanctuary, 10:30am </p> | <p> Photo Club Cottage, 7pm </p> | | <p> Guitar Circle Wisdom Rm, 7pm </p> | | | <p style="text-align: center;">  Winter Solstice Celebration Sanctuary, 7pm </p> |
| <p> Drumming Circle Sanctuary, 12pm </p> | | <p> UUI Knitters Cottage, 7pm </p> | | <p style="text-align: center;">  Simple Gifts Service Sanctuary, 7pm </p> | <p> Christmas Day </p> | |
| | | | <p> Guitar Circle Wisdom Rm, 7pm </p> | | <p> New Year's Day </p> | |
| | | | | | | <p> UUI Knitters Cottage, 10am Social Justice: Second Saturday RE Wisdom Rm 10:30am </p> |

UU Connections

Looking for UU Holiday Gifts?

Check out the UUA bookstore at <http://www.uuabookstore.org/> for a wonderful selection of books and other items. Uni-Uniques (<http://www.uniuniques.com/main.html>) has some great ideas for gifts for any age. You'll get more ideas from the UU World magazine.

UUA Commission on Appraisal

The UUA Commission on Appraisal wants your Input! The Unitarian Association created The Commission of Appraisal in 1934 to look at all aspects of the denomination and recommend changes. When the Unitarians officially merged with the Universalists in 1961 to form the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA), a Commission On Appraisal (COA) was written into the UUA Bylaws. It has nine members who are elected to "review any function or activity of the Association which in its judgment will benefit from an independent review and report its conclusions to a regular General Assembly." If you look at the COA membership, you will see the name of someone we all know, The Rev. Barbara Child. As a member of the UUA, we as individuals and as a congregation are an integral part of UUA decisions. Bylaws cannot be changed without our votes. Committees, commissions, and our UUA leadership are elected by us. Now the COA is asking for our input. to decide what to study next. Take their online survey at www.uua.org/coa and follow the link. The deadline is January 7, 2010. Details and reports about what the COA has studied in the past are available at the website.

Unitarian Universalist Church
Organization
Of Indianapolis
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