

May 13 , 2009

UU Eye

Volume 29 No. 16

Unitarian Universalist Church of Indianapolis *Founded 1979*

Sunday, May 17: “Provocative Propositions for the Future of UUP”

Rev. Barbara Child and the UU Connections Planning Group

During the Sunday service on April 5 Pam Blevins Hinkle and Judy Pleiss shared their reflections on what UUI members have said they value about this congregation and their experiences here. Today two more of the UU Connections Project’s Planning Group will share reflections on what members have said they want to see here in the next few years. Fasten your seat belts – provocative propositions heading this way!

Sunday, May 24: “The Road Trip Most Traveled”

Worship Associate Matthew Socey

Matthew Socey will discuss the spiritual aspects of the road trip. How sometimes the journey is just as important, if not more important than the destination. Yes, the music of Bruce Springsteen will be involved. The UUI Folk Choir will perform.

Sunday, May 31: “Befriending Life”

Rev. Barbara Child

Often on Sunday mornings when I invite people to share their milestones of joy and sorrow, I describe that time in the service as a time when we keep vigil for one another. I have been using that language for years. Today I would like to share with you my reflections on its origin in the vigils I have participated in many a year in memory of the students killed by the National Guard in May of 1970 at Kent State University. There are many fallen to remember in a month of Memorial Days. Let us keep vigil together.

Thursday, May 14: CUUPs Beltane Celebration

Come join UUI’s Covenant of UU Pagans at their Beltane celebration on Thursday, May 14 from 7-9 p.m. Join us as we dance the Maypole and contemplate the Balefires. Beltane celebrates the renewing of life in the springtime. This event is open to the public. Please bring a snack to share. Contact Colleen Kelly (wooglett@gmail.com) or Robin Chestek (402-1948) for more information or questions.



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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Creative Arts

Poetry and Expressions

The writings for the "Poetry and Expression All Church Exhibit" are that of UII members or artwork inspired by the writing of others. This exhibit will hang through Sunday, May 24.

The UII Photo Club exhibit will go up on Sunday, May 24, after the Sunday service.

Contact Wendy Dougherty at wdougherty@indy.rr.com.

The UUEye

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 UUEye 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 next deadline is 8 pm Friday, April 24. Submit material by e-mail to uueye@uui.org.

UII Officers, Minister and Staff

Interim Minister: *The Rev. Barbara Child*
283-4760; minister@uui.org.

Acting Board President: *Eric Hinkle*
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283-4760; office@uui.org.

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dianna.davis@gmail.com

For a complete listing of UII's Board of Trustees, please visit our Web site, www.uui.org.

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



In the Meantime

Rev. Barbara Child, Interim Minister

One of my favorite meditations is a piece called “Shaky Skaters” by Jane Rzepka, the Senior Minister of the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Larger Fellowship. In it she portrays all of us as a roller rink full of skaters doing our best. She writes: “A few of course are hot shots, whizzing around on one foot, backwards half the time, breezy as you please. And another bunch, sad to say, is hopeless—their eight little wheels completely ignoring mission control. But round and round the rest of us go, steady and solid, one foot and then the next....”

The ending of Jane’s meditation is a prayer for us all: “As we roll around the rink, uncertain of our stride and rhythm, may we yet see the instability of those who surround us. May we help when we are steady, holding those who falter; may we calm the reckless and urge the timid forward....” I like to think Jane is speaking about congregational life. I read “Shaky Skaters” to the group who met with me several Saturday mornings in early spring for a series called “Our Caring Community.”

And now I’m delighted to let you know that out of that group has come a rejuvenated Caring Committee. Pam Mueller and Judy Pleiss are chairing it. They along with Lynn Arrowsmith and Pat Lawler are operating as a steering committee, each with her own special domain and the intention to form a team to work with her. Pam will focus on strengthening the web of connections among people who can and do get to church. Judy will focus on keeping track of and following up on joys and sorrows. Lynn will focus on getting people to provide rides or casseroles or help with household tasks when needed. Pat will focus on visits by phone or in person to people who cannot get to church.

If you would like to be part of one of the Caring Committee teams, the steering committee members would love to hear from you. You can call Pam at 636-3411. You can reach Judy at 299-7425 or pleissjm@comcast.net. Lynn is at 479-1430 or learrowsmith@yahoo.com. Pat is at 329-2779 or patricialawler2@comcast.net.

We all at any moment may find ourselves to be skaters so precarious that just staying upright takes about all we’ve got. If you find you need help, the Caring Committee would like to know about it. Of course I would too. And if you’re feeling at least relatively steady on your skates, may the spirit of love move you to call one of the steering committee members to lend a hand. As Jane Rzepka says, “may we keep gentle company with the skaters at our side.”

Barbara

Religious Education

Call for Summer Teachers

UUI's Religious Education program keeps on going even during the lazy days of summer, which means more teachers are needed. We plan to combine age groups a bit to accommodate the anticipated smaller attendance, but we still need lots of teachers to fill all of our summer time slots. Any time you can give, even if you can only teach one or two Sundays, would be wonderful. We'll make sure you have a complete lesson plan and all the materials you need so all you'll need to do is review them before class and prepare to have a great time.

If you are interested in teaching, please sign-up in the RE building by speaking to an RE associate or to RE Administrator Matthew Brooks. You may also e-mail Matthew at rea@uui.org for more information about available positions.

The UUI Summer Religious Education program begins June 14 and will tentatively end Aug. 12.

All-Church Picnic /Talent Show

Sunday May 24, noon to 1 p.m.

Our annual Memorial Day Weekend picnic will take place next to the UUI playground area. We're trying something new this year by taking advantage of our beautiful campus. Please bring your own place setting, a blanket and/or chairs, your picnic lunch and something to share with everyone.

Afterward, please attend the **Senior High Talent Show** from 1-2 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

You'll enjoy great entertainment as our youth perform to raise money for their summer youth group activities.

Brag on Your Graduates

The Eye wants to honor all of UUI's graduating high school and college students. Please send your student's name, school of graduation and — briefly please— next life step to uueye@uui.org.

Circles of Life

There'll be One Child Born ...

UUI and the Rev. Barbara Child warmly welcomed six newcomers at a Ceremony of Child Dedication on Mother's Day. The children are:

- Carter William Brooks, son of Matthew and Theresa Brooks.
- Gabriel Callaghan Cook, son of Susan Burns and Edward T. Cook IV.
- Alexander and Lucas Gordon, twin sons of Tatjana and Jan Gordon.
- Eylie Cassis Maybury, daughter of Heather and Matt Maybury.
- Robert Brady Wehrle, son of Ellen and Rick Wehrle.

Congratulations also to Stacy and Ryan Robinson, who celebrate their 10th wedding anniversary on May 22.

Warm Hearts Still Count

The UU Eye wants to publish your important life events. Submit milestone birthdays and anniversaries, birth and death announcements, and other significant passages in your life. This information will appear in our "Circles of Life" section and help us reach out to one another in sympathy or in celebration. Please be proactive and help sustain these vital connections. Send your Circles of Life information to uueye@uui.org.

Congregational Life

Spring Into Congregational Meeting

UUI needs your voice and vote at the spring congregational meeting on Sunday, May 17.

The agenda includes congregational approval of the budget, election of officers and trustees, election of standing committee chairs and appointment of delegates to the General Assembly of the UUA.

We will also choose several members of the Ministerial Search Committee that will lead the search for our next settled minister.

Please plan to attend and take part in our democratic process.

Governance Task Force at Work

Should UUI's board have fewer members? Should there be term limits? What role should the board play in church governance? The Governance Task Force wants to hear from you at the May 17 congregational meeting.

The agenda includes discussion of an interim report on church leadership structure and a proposed bylaw change drafted by the Task Force.

(The Task Force was appointed by the board at the request of the Strategic Planning Committee and the Path Forward Task Force.)

No vote will be taken until fall. But early discussion will help the Task Force achieve its goal of a "clearly defined and effective organizational structure" for a church of our size.

The interim report and proposed bylaws change are available online:

http://www.uui.org/docs/BDDDB01_5607779_1.PDF

http://www.uui.org/docs/BDDDB01_5632958_2.PDF

Jon Laramore & Sylvia Reichel, co-chairs

By the Numbers: April 2009

Pledge income/Month: \$18,929

Pledge income/YTD: \$194,332

Pledges made/YTD: \$241,519

Budgeted Pledge Income: \$250,000

Number of active pledges: 193

Average Sunday Adults: 130

Average Sunday Youth/Children: 44

Stepping Up For Habitat

Thank you to our entire congregation for your support of our seventh annual Rummage Sale benefiting our Senior High Habitat for Humanity trip to Michigan again this year. Together we collected over \$3,850!

Your generosity has amazed me again.

However, it is time for some other interested volunteers to step up and take the reins of this project. If you are interested in working on this very worthwhile and exciting project please contact me, I'll be happy to give you all the tools you need to succeed for the eighth sale next April.

With gratitude and love,

Kathy Oguss

Choir Rehearsal Schedule

May 20, 7p.m: soprano/alto rehearsal, **7:30** pm: full choir - UUI choir room

May 27, 7 p.m: tenor/bass rehearsal, **7:30:** full choir - UUI choir room

June 3, 7:30 p.m. : full choir rehearsal with instrumentalists - UUI sanctuary

New voices are always welcome.

Dianna Davis

Interim Music Director

Community Action

Walk the Talk at Pride Parade

Central Indiana UU Congregations will proudly join the Indy Pride Parade and Festival to celebrate gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people on Saturday, June 13 on Massachusetts Avenue.

UUI's Social Justice Committee is taking a lead role by coordinating a float, a booth, T-shirts for marchers, youth participation and a stroller brigade. Financial support for these activities is possible through a \$1,000 grant from UUI's Beacon Fund.

Why are we participating?

As a designated Welcoming Congregation, we can act on our convictions while building community within UUI and with other UU congregations.

It's also a good way to show potential ministerial candidates that UUI actively supports the lives and rights of GLBT people.

Our participation also builds community with the Unitarian Universalist Association's goal of marriage equality for all people.

Your support is critical. The Social Justice Committee needs marchers, booth staff and creative energies to build and decorate a float.

For more information, call me at 418-1679 or consult the Parade/Festival Web site, www.indyprideinc.com/.

Note to parents: If you would like to participate but have concerns about this event being family friendly, please do not hesitate to call me.

Peace & Love,

Susanne Hinson-Rieger

Social Justice Committee Chair

Small Groups

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

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.

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. Contact Wendy Dougherty for the next topic. 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 May 16 in the Sanctuary. Drum one, drum all—no experience necessary. Contact Robin Chestek, kchestek@earthlink.net or Sandra Gruber, sgruber@mw.net.

UUI Women will meet for dinner at 6 p.m. June 4 at Tomato Pie, 9611 College Ave. Contact Susan Beauchamp, 634-2448 or beauartnow@yahoo.com.

Happenings

SUN 17	MON 18	TUE 19	W 20	THU 21	FRI 22	SAT 23
UII Spring Meeting Noon			Choir 7pm Cottage		Eye Deadline 8pm uueye@uii.org	
24 All-Church Picnic Noon-1pm UII Grounds Senior High Talent Show 1-2pm Sanctuary	25 Memorial Day	26 Knitters 7pm Cottage	27 Choir 7pm Cottage	28 Rituals/ Fulghum 7-9pm Cottage CUUPS 7pm Sanctuary	29	30
31	1 BULBS	2	3 Choir 7:30p Sanctuary	4 UII Women 6pm @ Tomato Pie Restaurant	5	6 Greater Good Gathering 9am-2:30pm @ All Souls UU Church

UU Connections

G3: Greater Good Gathering

The Rev. Child called it the “Wing Ding.” The official name is **G3-Greater Good Gathering: Yes, UUs Can!**

By either name, this convergence of Central Indiana UUs will be an exciting celebration of who we are and what we can do together.

Scheduled for Saturday, June 6 from 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m. at All Souls Unitarian Church (5805 E. 56th St.), participants of all ages will discuss how UUs can collaborate to transform our community, participate in shared worship and singing, while enjoying lunchtime entertainment from participating congregations:

All Souls Church, Circle UU Fellowship, UU Community Church in Danville, First UU Congregation of Terre Haute, Heartland UU Church in Zionsville, and Oaklandon UU Church.

Bring your imagination and a side dish to share! Child care is available.

To sign up or for more information, contact Cindy Jackson, dcjfam@aol.com, Pam Blevins Hinkle, pbhinkle@gmail.com; Marty Miles, mmiles@traininginc.org; Judy Pleiss, pleissjm@comcast.net, or Ray Wilson, rwilson@iquest.net.

The event is sponsored by UU Connections for the Greater Good: A Project of Central Indiana Unitarian Universalist Congregations.



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Mailed on May 13, 2009
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