



Unitarian Universalist Church of Indianapolis Newsletter
UU Eye

Volume 29
Number 5
November 5, 2008

Sunday, November 9, 2008

“In Praise of Heroes: What We Live For, What We Die For”

Rev. Barbara Child

At such a time as this, two days before Veterans’ Day and a little less than a week after the elections, it’s a good time for a new look at what heroism is all about and who we claim as heroes past and present. Special music: **Mary Behler** will play *Allegro moderato* from Sonata for Horn and Piano by Beethoven.

Sunday, November 16, 2008

“In So Many Words”

Rev. Barbara Child

Don’t I say “God” often enough to suit you? Or do I say it too often? Do you wish Sunday services here were not called “worship”? Are you glad or sorry we sing “hymns” on Sunday morning rather than “songs”? And what’s all this about “the language of reverence” that has gotten so much heated attention in Unitarian Universalist circles in recent years? If you doubt the power of language, well, this one’s for you! Special music: The Instrumental Ensemble will play *Hungarian Dance* arranged by **Brahms**.

Sunday, November 23, 2008

“What Path Do You Travel?”

Rev. Barbara Child

I keep on hearing people say, “Well, I’m spiritual; I’m just not very religious.” I keep on hearing people say, “What I wish we had here is more spirituality.” I have listened hard for what people mean when they say such things. After all, I suspect differences in style may turn out to have greater impact on a congregation than differences in belief. Come today prepared for surprises, even about yourself. The UII Choir will sing *Thankful* by **C. B. Sager, D. Foster, and R. Page**.

Sunday, November 30, 2008

“The Great Valerio”

British folk-rock artist **Richard Thomson** has an evocative song about a tightrope walker entitled *The Great Valerio*. It captures the awe and mystery of the crowd, entranced by this daring acrobat who defies death and danger with his walk through mid air. Worship Associate **Steve Peck** will explore the theme of the “tightrope walk,” focusing on courage, fear, and the vicarious thrill of experiencing others’ great deeds. Special music: *The Great Valerio* performed by **Mary Kinlen** and **Barry Childs-Helton**.

**Services begin at 10:30 A.M. Childcare will be provided.
Church of the warm heart, open mind, and helping hands**

In the Meantime— Rev. Barbara Child Interim Minister

What a grand time I had last week in conference with the Corporation for Positive Change! I've come home proud to have my new certificate signifying completion of their continuing education program. But much more important, I spent a fascinating three days discovering how other participants in many walks of life are successfully using some of the same practices and principles that inform my work in ministry.

An executive from the ASPCA (American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals) described work with staff to transform focus on past problems into focus on future plans. A trainer in Japanese banking systems showed an amazing video in which bank employees including both management and tellers (“who never express anything personal or emotional at work”) expressed tearful gratitude for the training in which they got to know one another as human beings. An agricultural economist described his work with the people in a Kansas town. When he first undertook the project, everyone told him people lived there only because of their employment at the factory that dominated the landscape. But his in-depth interview project uncovered a raft of other reasons, and by the time he was finished, there was new civic pride and excitement about initiatives underway.

What all of these stories had in common was the thread of engaging people in interviewing each other with carefully honed questions. I've done some of that here already. And sometimes when the storytelling gets going, it's hard to get people to stop. The richness and complexity of people's stories make them truly treasure chests.

One of the most impressive – and delightful – presentations last week came of the “principle of improbable pairs.” This is the idea that really valuable stuff happens when people who are very different, or who have big differences, pair up to interview each other. Our improbable pair last week were **Ralph**, a burly motorcyclist (who happens

to be a really good organizational consultant), and petite, soft-spoken **Sister Pauline** from the Sisters of the Good Shepherd. It seems they had been at a Corporation for Positive Change event and got paired up for mutual interviews. And this led to Ralph facilitating a visioning process for the Sisters. Together last week they described the success of it all. The best part was the picture somebody took of the doors to the meeting room opening and Ralph riding in on his motorcycle with Sister Pauline in the back seat.

I value my certificate from the Corporation for Positive Change, but not nearly as much as I value what I have learned and what I bring to you for a brighter future for us all.

Barbara

Annual Leaf Raking at UUI Sunday, November 16, After Church

As we go about our church business, the leaves are gradually floating down to the ground in anticipation of the annual **Leaf Raking Party** at UUI. Once again, we call out to our loyal and hardworking members, friends, visitors, and their families to gather together to rid our church grounds of these pesky leaves.

Come help restore our property to the *p r i s t i n e* condition that we all love. Any age can participate, and if you are a visitor or a fairly new member, you will find the event provides a perfect opportunity for fellowship. Take part in this honest and open UUI friendship experience. If you have been around UUI for a while, then you know that the more workers we have, the faster we can clear our campus of leaves.



A delicious chili lunch will be served to everyone who helps.

If you are willing to bring and/or serve food, please call **Janet Cohen** at **873-6586**.

**Mervyn Cohen, Robin Chestek,
Grounds Committee**

Board of Trustees— *Eric Hinkle, Vice-President*

“I was blessed to be able to be in ceremony with **Leonard Crow Dog** this weekend. I wanted to tell you one thing Uncle Leonard said that I thought was very important, and apparently he did also, he mentioned it over and over again. He asked us to recognize each other. ‘Look around,’ he said. ‘Tell your stories, and recognize each other. And when you see each other again, you will know each other.’”

I received this message last spring after I had been at the same ceremony. It stirred the remembrance that this message was repeated over and over. I made a note to remember then drifted back to the warm cocoon of life as usual.

In July I went to the Midwest Unitarian Universalist Summer Assembly as our family has for many years. The theme was Testimony as a Spiritual Practice. My week included five days of sermons and workshops about telling our individual story. “Revelation comes and our common faith grows when we share with each other the questions and struggles, inspiration and insight we experience. As a community we must encourage each other to share our faith with each other and listen for the fragments of truth we all carry. Yes, uncertainty flows from our diversity, but that is an aspect of the wonder, part of the strength, of faith itself. Faith is elastic. It meets us where we are and grows with us as we change: before us is a lifetime of transformation.” These words are by theme speaker **Rev. Jennifer Owen-O’Quill**, Second Unitarian Church, Chicago. “I should remember this,” I told myself. And again, I drifted back to my safe cocoon.

Since September, I, along with other members of the UUI board, have had occasion to be with our Interim Minister **Rev. Barbara Child**. More often than not we have been prompted to share chapters of our story with another person in the group (third whack with the cosmic 2x4; finally I’m listening!) I have been amazed at what parts of my life have come out of me when prompted ever so slightly. I have been fascinated to hear the unknown

stories, the lives of those I serve with. Each telling is a revelation deeply describing who each of us is and how we all fit together in the unfolding tale of UUI.

The other lesson I am learning these days is that I must practice listening. If I listen deeply I can hear the voices speaking to me. This year UUI, with Rev. Child’s guidance, will have many chances to tell stories and to listen. I hope many of us take every chance we have to both speak and to be heard.

Eric



UUI Choir

The UUI Choir will sing at the **November 23 Sunday** service. Rehearsal is **Wednesday November 19, at 7:30 P.M.** Also, the music for the **December 14** Holiday program will be rehearsed at this time. All are welcome. December’s rehearsals will be **Wednesdays, December 3 and 10, at 7:30 P.M.** Questions? Contact **Dianna Davis**, Dianna.Davis@gmail.com or (317) 259-7443.

Children’s Choir

The Children’s Choir will rehearse on **Sunday, November 30, at 9:30 A.M.** in the Cottage Music Room for the **Sunday, December 7**, church service. More details to come soon.

Carol Kirk 255-3244

Youth Musical

You are invited to celebrate the spirit of the season with a 30-minute musical presentation by the youth of UUI on **Sunday, December 14, at 1 P.M.**, in the Sanctuary. *Open Your Treasures* is a holiday musical about the giving spirit of the season and the treasures that we all have to share.

Sandwiches, chips, and drinks will be available for sale as well. Proceeds will be used to help with the costs of the youth group’s trip to Boston next summer.

Religious Education, Family Ministry Team Member— *Stacy Robinson*

This year's annual UUI Halloween party, on Sunday, October 26, was a huge success, thanks to the hard work of the UUI Board, the Fine Arts Committee, the Membership Committee, the Family Ministry Team, the R.E. Board, the Social Justice Committee, the Junior High class, the Senior High class, and many, many others. A big thank-you to all who helped to make it "happen" and to all who participated because they understood the value of connecting with our UUI families to help build community.

The UUI Family Ministry Team sponsors this event and many other events like it because we recognize that building community is essential to making our congregation a more cohesive group as it helps to establish trust and a deeper sense of connection. We believe these seemingly simple and fun gatherings play an important role in promoting our UU principles. These events enable our congregation to actively engage in living out the seven principles in our interactions with other UUI members, friends, and visitors, which also of course includes our UUI children and youth.

While not every member or friend of the UUI congregation has a child or youth in the UUI Religious Education program, the UUI kids still play a huge role in shaping the entire UUI community, as they represent both the future and present state of our community. When young and old alike come together during community-wide events, we all have the opportunity to interact with the kids and demonstrate to them they are a respected and valuable part of our community.

By doing so, we in turn demonstrate to them the importance of our first and second principles:

1. The inherent worth and dignity of every person
2. Justice, equity and compassion in human relations

Of course, because they are still young and learning (as we all continue to do) they may not always behave in ways that reflect these principles themselves, but that is the purpose of including them in our community—to teach them what it means to be a Unitarian Universalist. As **Dr. Haim Ginott** said, "Children are like wet cement. Whatever falls on them makes an impression."

Sunday, October 26, was a busy day at UUI as children in grades K-6 also participated in our monthly Spirit Circle during the Sunday school hour. Our Spirit Circles are a time when we bring many age groups of children together to learn about different religions and how they relate to our UU principles.

During this month's Spirit Circle, we were extremely lucky to have two wonderful members, **Colleen Kelly** and **Robin Chestek**, speak to the children about Paganism and the roots of Halloween in their religious tradition. Colleen and Robin started by asking the children about their perceptions of witches. As expected, the kids were extremely honest and most admitted they thought witches were a bit scary. Colleen and Robin went on to explain that they were witches, which many of the kids responded to with wide eyes and sudden interest in the conversation.

Robin then read a book about a nice witch in a neighborhood who baked pumpkin pies for all the little trick-or-treaters. The kids sat in silence (well, mostly) and listened intently. Colleen and Robin explained Halloween's connection to the Pagan holiday called Samhain, which is similar to the Day of the Dead. They also explained the purpose of the broomstick, potions, and spells in their religious tradition.

It was a very interesting and enlightening lesson which I believe all of the kids enjoyed. At the end of the Spirit Circle, we connected the lesson back to our UU principles by explaining how it related to the words the children recite at the beginning of every R.E. lesson:

We are the church of the open mind.

We are the church of the loving heart.

We are the church of the helping hands.

And together we care for the Earth and work to bring peace and justice into the world.

Thank you so much to Colleen and Robin for taking the time to connect with our kids and teach them about Paganism.

Next month's Spirit Circle, on **November 23**, will be focused solely on Unitarian Universalism as we will be rolling out this year's Guest at Your Table program. We invite anyone who is interested in attending or assisting to join us during any of our monthly Spirit Circles. Just contact **Matthew Brooks**, UII Religious Education Administrator, to let him know you are interested.

Stacy

BULBs Luncheon

The next BULBs meeting is **December 1**, at **12:30 P.M.**, at Just Judy's, 2210 East 54th St.

Twelve gathered on a warm, sunny November 3 to celebrate the birthday of **Judith Ann Roland**, who will turn 42 on November 8. We wish our other birthday celebrants could have attended: **Ann Pleiss** (Nov. 16) and **Helarn Mauro**, who was born Nov. 6, 1914. We all signed cards to them, as well as to others unable to attend. We sent our best wishes to **Sally Murphy**, who is having some ongoing health problems. We also missed **Ethel Blust** and her son **Steve, Charles Yeager, Jan Murphy** and a few others.

We enjoyed the photos of **Jeannette Rowe's** first grandchild, **Sofia Lee Rowe**, born December 18, 2007, in San Diego, with her parents **Jenna Rowe** and Jeannette's son **Paul Rowe**. These were darling photos, with Sofia donning some fetching dark glasses and often showing an appealing smile to the camera. Jeannette's other son, **Josh Rowe**, and his wife **Melinda Rowe**, who live in San Clemente, joined the festivities to greet the happy grandmother.

Despite the election excitement, we engaged in rather muted talk about early voting and the crowds, absentee ballots, and UII poll workers, which will include Jeannette and a number of others. **Joe Nesbit** and his son **Reed** are represented in the *Imagination* exhibit.

People enjoyed the decorated mini-cupcakes provided by **Pat Lawler**, who had led a hike at 8:30 before she came to BULBs.

Others attending were **Carolyn Godfrey, Jane Bonwell, Mary Hunt, Lowell McCoskey, Alsie Nesbit, Raiford Scott, and Terry Knickerbocker.**

Helarn Mauro has moved to Wisconsin to live with her daughter **Nina Rowland**. Her address, if you would like to send her a belated birthday card, is: **Helarn Mauro**, 31550 County Hwy. O, Muscoda, Wisconsin 53573.

The BULBs—Birthday Unitarian Lunch Bunch—meet the first Monday of every month. You don't need an invitation, so come join the group if you can. You will enjoy the fellowship. Future BULBs luncheons: **Jan. 5, Feb. 2, March 2, April 6, May 4, and June 1, 2009.**

Women In Spirituality

The UII Women In Spirituality Writing group (WISW) **meets 7 - 9 P.M.** the third **Tuesday** of every month in the Cottage Library. Our next few meetings will be **November 18, December 16, 2008, and January 20, 2009.** If you enjoy putting your thoughts down on paper, then join us and share your perspective. Writings can be one paragraph, three pages, bullets, prose or poetry—the format doesn't matter. You decide how you want to express yourself. We would love to have you join us. The topic for the next meeting will be "How to live moment to moment in a stressful, chaotic world." For questions, please contact **Amber Welsh** at amwelsh@hotmail.com.

Credo Forum

Sunday, December 7, 9:15 to 10:15 A.M.,
Cottage Library

What Is Religion?

What are the essential components of a religion? Does religion require a belief in the supernatural? Can science be viewed as a religion? Come to this Forum and discuss the essentials of religion. We always welcome new faces and new ideas. For more information contact **David Jackoway** at **844-7193** or **Lowell McCoskey** at **253-3025**.

UUI Drumming Circle

Our regularly scheduled meeting on Nov. 4 was cancelled due to the Election. We will meet as scheduled on **Sunday, November 16**, at **12:30 P.M.** December meetings are **Tuesday, December 2**, from **7 – 8 P.M.**, and **Sunday, December 21**, from **12:30 - 1:30 P.M.** Starting in January 2009, we will no longer be meeting on Tuesday evenings. We will continue meeting on the third Sunday afternoon of each month. Watch for dates in the *Eye* and the *Sunday Times*. Contact: **Robin Chestek**, kchestek@earthlink.net.

Imagination in the Sanctuary

What an imaginative congregation we have! The all-church *Imagination* exhibit has brought out a monoprint, calligraphy, photography, paintings, and fabric hangings. Exhibiting are **Ken Chestek**, **Wendy Dougherty**, **Dave Ellis**, **Culver Godfrey**, **Sandra Gruber**, **Susan Ham**, **Gail Henrie**, **Swari Hhan**, **Mary Hunt**, **Lowell McCoskey**, **Joe and Reed Nesbit**, **Carol A. Paddock**, **Susan Porter**, **Judy Pleiss**, **Charlotte Schrock**, **Ellie Siskind** and **Karl Zemlin**.

This exhibit will continue through **Sunday, November 30**. In January the exhibit will feature UUI youth artwork. In February we will display our next all-church exhibit, about members' lives.

UUI Knitters Field Trip

The regular second **Saturday** meeting of UUI Knitters will be a field trip to the Village Yarn Shop, 40 N. Main St., Zionsville, on **November 8**. The shop opens at **10 A.M.** and we hear that the owner, **Harriet McNabb**, is very friendly and has a really nice selection of yarn and needles. There are several places to eat lunch nearby. We have had some wonderful times on previous field trips, and we invite anyone who is interested in knitting/weaving/crocheting to join us, even if you are not a regular part of our group. Who knows, you might want to come to all our meetings! Those who wish to carpool can meet in the UUI parking lot at **10 A.M.**

UUI Knitters meet second **Saturdays** at **10 A.M.** and fourth **Tuesdays** at **7 P.M.** in the Cottage Library. Contact: **Judy Archer**, **253-9770** or isarcher@aol.com.

UU Buddhist Fellowship

The UU Buddhist Fellowship meets at **6:30 P.M.** in the Sanctuary on the first **Monday** and third **Tuesday** of each month. We will meet **Tuesday, November 18**, and **Monday, December 1**. Our typical schedule is sitting meditation for 20 minutes, walking meditation for 10 minutes, and sitting meditation for 20 minutes. We finish with 30 minutes of discussion. We will be discussing **Plato's Republic**. Anyone interested in meditation, mindfulness or Buddhism is welcome. For more information, contact **Vince Mathews** at **317-873-4422** or vmathews@iupui.edu.

Looking for Thanksgiving Plans?

Singles are invited to share Thanksgiving dinner on **Thursday, November 27**, at **1 P.M.** at the Old Country Buffet on South 31. For more information contact **Mary Hunt** at indymary@peoplepc.com.

Treasurer's Report

The following is a synopsis of the financial report given to the Board of Trustees at its October meeting. The report reflects income and expenses through the end of the first quarter of the church fiscal year (Sept. 30):

	Budget 2008-2009	Actual 9/30/08	Over/(under) budget
INCOME			
Pledges	250,000	59,569	(1.14%)
Total income	346,327	80,920 (note 1)	(1.63%)
TOTAL EXPENSES	346,203	60,008	(7.67%)
NET INCOME	124	20,912 (note 1)	

Note 1: The "income" reported under "Total income" includes approximately \$10,500 from the liquidation of a long-term asset (the proceeds from the sale of an investment account). This is not really "income" in the accounting sense; it is more of a balance sheet transfer of assets. However, since the approved budget included the reduction of the church's reserve fund by \$38,500 this year, I have reported this sale as "income" so as to track our performance against that budget expectation. (The "net income" line similarly includes the amount of that liquidated asset.)

Both pledge income and total income are slightly behind what is budgeted for the first quarter of the year. This is offset by the fact that total expenses are significantly below what we would expect for this time of year. However, please note that the winter months are typically high-expense months. I will also be making payments of our UUA and Heartland District dues in the next few months, which will also increase our expenses for the next quarter.

Ken Chestek, Treasurer

UII By the Numbers for October 2008

Pledge Income for the Month	\$29,010
Pledge Income Year to Date	\$88,624
Pledges made to UII to Date	\$239,078
Pledge Income in UII's 2008-09 Budget	\$250,000
Number of active pledges	177
• Average Number of Adults at Sunday Services	142
• Average Number of Children in Religious Education	44





Social Justice

Your Social Justice Committee is collecting new, packaged/tagged briefs, panties, boxer shorts, t-shirts, bras, and socks in all children's sizes for the MLK Center. Teens frequently need adult sizes.

Long and thermal underwear can be vital to children without adequate outer garments. There will be a collection bin in the coat closet in the Social Hall for your donations.

The next Social Justice meeting will be **Tuesday, November 11**, at **7 P.M.** in the Cottage. Families are welcome. For more information please contact **Susanne Hinson-Rieger** at **418-1679**.

Spirit & Place

IWC—a Triple Treat

How often can you find three wonderful experiences in one day? Good fortune will be yours if you attend the upcoming concerts of the Indianapolis Women's Chorus on **Sunday, November 16**, at **2 P.M.** or **7 P.M.** at the Eiteljorg Museum of American Indians and Western Art—Clowes Sculpture Court.

- Entitled *Sound Sport*, the concerts will feature wacky sounds, vocal games, mouth and body percussion, spoken chorus, improvisation, and more in an imaginative, family-friendly performance. In addition, percussionist and ethnomusicologist **Sally Childs-Helton** has written a new work to be for boomwhackers, which are tuned, colorful plastic tubes. Come hear the world premiere with the IWC.

- Concert ticket-holders will get **free** admission to the Eiteljorg that weekend, including entrance to the special *Our Land* exhibit opening that day, which includes 50 pieces of Inuit contemporary art. Parking? That's free for ticket holders too. While the museum closes at **5 P.M.** on Sunday, you can plan around that: visit the exhibit, have dinner, and then return for the concert.

- As part of the IWC concert, guest Inuit artists **Kendra Tagoona** and **Charlotte Qamaniq** will also share music—authentic throat music—and other forms of Inuit artistic expression. You can read about their performing troupe at www.inuitculturalperformers.com.

Don't miss these three "treats," but also come to support IndyChorus's important mission of building bridges of understanding on behalf of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered communities.

See any of these concert performers for a ticket: **Lucy McCoskey**, **Marty Miles**, **Pam Blevins Hinkle** (artistic director), **Dianna Davis** (pianist), **Stephanie Lewis Robertson**, **Janet McCabe**, **Shannon McGuire**, and **Edith Millikan**. Tickets: advance price, \$15; \$5 age 2-12. Website: <http://www.indychoruses.org/iwc> This event is part of the Spirit & Place Festival.

UUs in the News

Pam Blevins Hinkle was interviewed in the October 31 issue of *The Indianapolis Star* for the cover story on the Spirit & Place Festival in *Go!* on page 18. Pam, the director of Spirit & Place, exudes enthusiasm for the theme, *Exploring Imagination*, and all the different programs the theme has inspired. "Whatever your field or discipline or interest, whether you're a neighborhood, an organization, a congregation, or an individual, there's a lot of questions that can come out of it," she said. "There are rich possibilities every year, yet every year I'm stunned."

Create an Ethical Will

Learn how to develop an ethical will on **Saturday, November 8, 2008**, from **1 to 3 P.M.** at UIU as part of this year's Spirit & Place Festival. Participants will create a personal outline during the workshop led by **Susanne Gaudin**, trained board member of Compassion and Choices of Indiana. The program is free. For questions and pre-registration please contact **Susan Pratt** at **253-7061** or pratt8460@gmail.com.

Caring Corner

Tim McGinley writes us that his brother **Neil**, who suffered from ALS for three years, died in his sleep on Saturday, November 1. He was 56. “He lay down for a nap in the late afternoon and never woke up. This was a shock to the rest of us who thought that he would have another couple of years at least to live. I had sort of taken charge of arranging various kinds of care for him, and he was scheduled to get his electronic wheelchair on Monday of this week,” Tim wrote.

As many know, ALS is a very unpleasant disease, and this situation has been difficult for Tim and for Neil’s wife **Cheryl J. “Sherry” Patterson**. Besides Tim and his partner **James Giessler** and **Cheryl**, survivors include Neil’s mother, a daughter and her husband, four grandchildren, and two sisters. The funeral was November 4 in Findlay, Ohio. Memorials may be made to the ALS Association or to Habitat for Humanity.

Tim and James plan to fly out to visit the family later in the week. They have not yet sold their Indianapolis home.

If you would like to contact Tim, his e-mail is timothy.mcginley@gmail.com and his address is 120 Wyllis Ave., Unit 110, Everett, MA 02149.

Thank You

Speaking of small group ministry (and many people do these days), would a group that comes together twice a month, accomplishes an important task, and manages to engage in pleasant conversation at the same time, qualify as a small group ministry? I think so, and we are grateful to them for facilitating newsletter preparation. The October 22 *Eye* (and the insert) received professional treatment from **Gary Houdek** (labels), **Larry Miller** (folding and post office trip), **Sharon Lipford**, **Sophia Lipford** (4 months), **Bob Lipford** (also helped count and pack up) **Wendy Dougherty**, **Susan Ham**, **Terry Knickerbocker**, and **Vanessa Fry** in the office.

Sometimes we need to sing the praises of our “unsung” heroes and heroines. **Wendy Dougherty** performs so many duties for UII that she is probably long overdue in the thank-you column. First of all, she creates our distinctive nametags using her calligraphy skills. She faithfully sends notices to the *Eye on time* about the photo club and board games group, as well as articles naming participants in the art exhibits, and announcements about upcoming exhibits. Furthermore, she strives to have all names spelled correctly. As a member of the Fine Arts Committee, she is instrumental in making sure everyone gets credit for their artwork, plus she works with that committee on many tasks, including the Arty Bash. She rounds up the folders to assemble the *Eye* for mailing, plus she always shows up to help everyone. She knows the routine and can instruct newcomers. I will never forget her kindness to dear **John Griffin**, who wanted to fold when he could no longer see. Wendy would quietly correct his mistakes and never let John know. She also participates in the Women in Spirituality Writing group, and I’m sure she is a valued member. She attends Sunday services, and no doubt helps out in other areas that I am not aware of. She sends out the monthly reminders for the UII Women’s Dinner. In fact, it is difficult to think of areas that have not benefited from the kind and steady hand of Wendy Dougherty, who is also one of our many talented artists.

Wendy does the work of about 10 members, and is always gracious in her efforts to help. She never speaks unkindly about other people, and is thoughtful and caring to everyone she knows.

Wendy is a founder of UII, and certainly embodies the spirit of this church, and could serve as an inspiration to us all.

UII Downtown Lunch

UII members who work downtown and like to gather for lunch meet at the Indiana History Center, Stardust Terrace Café, located at 450 W. Ohio Street, every second **Wednesday** of the month at **11:30 A.M.** Next gatherings: **November 12, December 10, 2008, January 14, 2009.**

Compact Fluorescent Light Bulbs

I don't know what your experience has been with the compact fluorescent light (CFL) bulbs. But since we have started using them a few years ago, I believe we have had six burn out in a much shorter time than the 5 - 6 year warranty time.

So if you want to take advantage of the warranty replacement offer, you discover that you need the UPC barcode from the original package and the sales receipt from the bulb's purchase. It may be a year or more later and chances are you have long ago discarded the details of the purchase, and you probably don't remember how old the bulb is.

Here is what I have started to do: I use a permanent marker and mark the date of installation on the base of the bulb before I install it. I cut off the UPC barcode and attach it to the receipt and put it into a file.

This may seem a bit excessive, but I figure the high percentage of burnouts that we have had in a relatively short period indicates to me that the manufacturers are not really on top of their quality yet. They need to hear from us. And it is nice to not be throwing money away.

And one supplier, GE, sends you a \$10 Courtesy Coupon for each time you have a burned-out bulb and provide them with the appropriate documentation. Not bad!

Ray Wilson

Men's Breakfast

UUI men are invited to meet for breakfast the third **Wednesday** of the month at **7:30 A.M.** (this month, the second **Wednesday: November 12**) at Keystone Deli, 2344 E. 53rd Street. The Deli is on the west side of Keystone Avenue and on the north side of a shopping center. The large parking lot can be entered from either Keystone or 52nd St. Topics discussed: whatever you would like.

If you wish to be added to the e-mail list to be notified each month, send an e-mail to **Bob Kirk** at rkirk1937@aol.com.

UUI Photo Club

The assignment for the **November 10** meeting is *Clouds*. Looking ahead, December is *Still Life*. There is a second assignment, working on an image provided by **Karl Zemlin** this month. For more information, contact **Wendy Dougherty** at Wdougherty@indy.rr.com. January is *A Word or A Name or an Alphabet Found in Other Objects*. The photo club meets the second **Monday** of the month in the Cottage Library at **7 P.M.**

Interim Minister's Hours

Rev. Barbara Child, the Interim Minister, seeks to be available for appointments as needed. You may reach her by phone at the church office (**317-283-4760**), by e-mail to minister@uui.org, or by her cell phone (**812-345-4506**). She is not available on Mondays except in case of emergency.

UUI Board of Trustees

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Welcome To Our Visitors

Sunday, October 26, 2008
Kori Bennett
Tim Lertzak
Angie Dusendschon
Sunday, November 2, 2008
Rachel Quigley
Nick Villalta
Kathy Miller

From the Editor—*Susan Raccoli*

What does it mean to be a member of UUI? **Rev. Barbara Child** asked this question at the Congregational meeting on November 2, and people were encouraged to think about this.

What does membership mean in any organization? Does it confer a special feeling of belonging on the members? Does membership indicate a group of like-minded people who have chosen to band together? Does it imply that members will care for and look out for one another?

One of my college roommates, **Alexandra**, joined a sorority to solidify her precarious social situation. Always a nonconformist, and from a dysfunctional family, Alexandra hoped the sorority would provide her with the “family” she needed while dealing with normal college pressures. She loved the rituals, which included pledges to eternal sisterhood, or something like that. She would emerge from sorority meetings happy and optimistic, and prepared to deal with anything life threw at her.

But this euphoria didn’t last. “Why won’t they talk to me when we are outside of the sorority room?” she plaintively asked me. “Everyone seems to like me at the meetings.” I didn’t even know what a sorority was, so I had no answers. Eventually she dropped her membership, and decided that sororities exuded hypocrisy, and she wanted no part of that. She gradually found a sort of social niche, and life went on. I cannot comment on whether this is typical sorority behavior, but the “caring” she expected never happened.

Fast forward to another idealistic organization, our former UU church in Flint, Michigan. One day I was chatting with some women, when **Claudia** said, “I wish an unwed mother would join our church so we could be really kind and loving to her.” You know this is an old anecdote, because the term “unwed mother” is not used anymore. But I wondered at the time: what was the goal of getting an “unwed mother” to join us? Was it to really help her, or was it to demonstrate publicly our altruistic and charitable nature to ourselves and the community?

But of course neither of these anecdotes pertains to UUI, which I have always felt really **is** the “church of the warm heart, open mind, and helping hands.” True, I cannot attend on Sunday morning because I work in another church, but I was at the auction, dinner discussion, and I always attend the Arty Bash. Because I work in another church, and I have done this for so many years, I have a different perspective than the folks who attend all the time. Furthermore, I freelance weddings and funerals in many other churches as well.

Yes, I do find nice people in every church I work in, and I find people to laugh with and share cookies with, and some of these folks have heard our sons play and some have met **Jay**, and I’m really fond of many of these people, including the priests I work with.

But when I meet UUI people at Kroger’s, or Farmers Market, or Good Earth, or the post office, or dinner discussion, or on the rare occasions that I can actually attend something at UUI, I feel a very special bond that doesn’t happen anywhere else, and like **Dorothy** in *The Wizard of Oz*, I want to shout, “I’m not going to leave here ever again, because I love you all! And —Oh, **Auntie Em** — there’s no place like home!”

Susan

The UU *Eye* Newsletter

A biweekly publication (monthly during the summer) of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Indianapolis (UUI), 615 West 43rd Street, Indianapolis, IN 46208

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The next three deadlines for the UU *Eye* are **Sunday, November 16, Sunday, November 30,** and **Sunday, December 14, 2008, at 3 P.M.**

Subscription price: \$30 per year

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Calendar of Events

November 8, Field Trip, December 13 (Saturday) at 10 A.M.—UUI Knitters, Cottage Library. (For Nov. 8 Field Trip, meet in parking lot at 10 A.M.)

November 8 (Saturday) at 1 P.M.—Create an Ethical Will, UUI.

November 9 and every Sunday—Canned food drive to benefit the Martin Luther King Jr. Center.

November 10 (Monday) at 7 P.M.—Photo Club, Cottage Library. Subject: Clouds.

November 11 (Tuesday) at 7 P.M.—Social Justice Committee, Cottage.

November 12 (Wednesday) at 7:30 A.M.—Men's Breakfast, Keystone Deli.

Nov. 12, Dec. 10 (Wednesday) at 11:30 A.M.—UUI Downtown lunch, Stardust Terrace Café.

November 12, 19, December 3 (Wednesday) at 7 P.M.—Creating a Beloved Community Right Here, Right Now, Social Hall.

Nov. 13 (Thursday) at 7 P.M.—UUI Wisdom Circle, Cottage.

November 16 (Sunday)—Annual Leaf Raking and Chili Lunch, UUI Grounds.

November 16, December 21 (Sunday) at 12:30 P.M.—Drumming Circle, Social Hall.

Nov. 18 (Tuesday), Dec. 1 (Monday) at 6:30 P.M.—UU Buddhist Fellowship, Sanctuary.

Nov. 18, Dec. 16, 2008, Jan. 20, 2009 (7 P.M.)—Women in Spirituality Writing group, Cottage Library.

November 19, December 3, 10 (Wednesday) at 7:30 P.M.—Choir rehearsals.

November 25 (Tuesday) at 7 P.M.—UUI Knitters, Cottage Library.

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Mailed on November 5, 2008
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