

January 6 , 2010

UU Eye

Volume 30 No. 4

Unitarian Universalist Church of Indianapolis
Founded 1979

Sunday, January 10, 2010: “Simplicity: Less Can Be More”

Robin Riebsomer and Matthew Socey

Matthew Socey and Robin Riebsomer will share how the practice of simplicity can enrich the arts and the journey through life in the midst of a complex world of rapid change. *Special music provided by Liz Efroymsen.*

Sunday, January 17, 2010: “Beyond *The Color of Fear*” *Rev. Barbara Child*

Last September the Ministerial Search Committee sponsored the UUA’s “Beyond Categorical Thinking” program for congregations in ministerial search. Last October on a Saturday morning a number of us watched the film dialogue on race and ethnicity called *The Color of Fear*, and then we participated in a workshop based on the film. Well, here it is, almost three months later, the weekend for celebrating Martin Luther King, Jr.’s birthday. So how do we get beyond *The Color of Fear*? *Special music: The UUI choir will sing a gospel song based on MLK’s famous “I’ve Been to the Mountain Top” speech.*

Sunday, January 24, 2010: “Sweet Surrender: The Gifts of Improvisation”

Pam Blevins Hinkle

Pam Blevins Hinkle shares lessons from her work in music improvisation and proclaims that this creative, spontaneous impulse (which we all possess) is a key to our individual and collective salvation. Hear improvisations from members of the Indianapolis Women’s Chorus and “Thin Air,” UUI’s own improv ensemble which features Sally Childs-Helton, Liz Efroymon, Dianna Davis, Shannon McGuire, and Pam.

Sunday, January 31, 2010: “Working, Not Working, and Not Working Anymore”

Rev. Barbara Child

Do you work to live or live to work? Do you love your job or hate it? Have you thought of changing careers but wondered if you’re too old? Is retirement weighing you down, or can you hardly wait for it to begin? Or are you wishing you had a job, almost any job? We will have some plain talk today about the roles of work in our lives.



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



Contents

Sunday Services	Page 1
Minister's Column	Page 3
Religious Education	Page 4
Creative Arts	Page 5
Community Action	Page 6
Circles of Life	Page 6
Congregational Life	Pages 7-9
Ministerial Search	Page 9
Small Groups	Page 10
Calendar	Page 11
UU Connections	Page 12

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 29.**

UUI 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
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.

UUI 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

283-4760; office@uui.org

Interim Director of Rel. Ed.

Eva Českava

dre@uui.org

Interim Music Director:

Dianna Davis

dianna.davis@gmail.com



In the Meantime

Rev. Barbara Child, Interim Minister

Yes, I know. The holidays are over, and it's time to look forward. Well, I'll get there in a minute, but I'm not quite finished with December yet. It all started with Garrison Keillor's article on Salon.com titled "Don't Mess with Christmas." It had a subheading: "It's a Christian holiday ... and it's plain wrong to rewrite Silent Night. Unitarians, I'm talking to you." He concluded the article: "If you're not in the club, buzz off."

Now I'm one of those people who have long gotten a kick out of Keillor's witticisms at our expense, partly on the theory that bad publicity is better than none, also because it appeared that others weren't immune to his barbs. I even fantasized – silly me – that good old Garrison was a closet UU. Well, after the Salon.com piece, the UU ministers' chat began to hum, and it was discouraging to learn some facts that didn't square with my fantasies. It became more and more clear that old Garrison laughs at us, not with us.

I think I'll be able to turn my sights to the new year once I share with you a little of my colleagues' responses to the article on Salon.com. Rev. Debra Haffner serves our church in Westport, CT. In her open letter on her blog, she points out that some of us are Christian and some, like her, grew up Jewish – and that we are a people of many backgrounds who "have joined together ..., finding a new religious and spiritual community." She says: "We may not believe that Jesus is God, but we celebrate what Jesus stood for. Loving your neighbor as yourself. Radical hospitality and radical inclusion of all. Speaking truth to power. Taking care of those who are less fortunate. Working together to heal a broken world." You can read her entire open letter at <http://debrahaffner.blogspot.com/2009/12/response-to-garrison-keiller-our.html>. (The misspelling of Keillor's name is required for the link to work correctly.)

Rev. Thomas Schade serves First Unitarian Church in Worcester, MA. With permission, I share a little of his post on the ministers' chat. He was anticipating Christmas Eve services in our churches when he wrote: "Most of us will preach and enact a meaning of the birth of Jesus this season, that of a winter festival that reminds us that what we hope for will come from the most unexpected places (a poor baby), in sudden and seemingly miraculous reversals (like light in the darkest hour, kings worshipping in stables, virgin births), and be incarnated in acts of generosity, kindness, hospitality and rootedness. We are telling the same story, but stripped of all the elements by which Christianity has traditionally claimed earthly power by holding the keys to the Kingdom. We tell of a salvation that spreads from hand to hand like the candlelight in a darkened sanctuary on Christmas Eve."

All right. Now I'm ready for 2010. Happy New Year!

Barbara



Relating

Reverend Eva Českava, Interim Religious Educator

I am filled with gratitude this holiday season for the many people who have been part of recent activities at UUI. In addition to the children and helpers with the Christmas pageant listed in the order of service, I am grateful to Tina Nehrling and Scott Jackoway for filling in last minute spaces in the service presentation. The many parents with creativity and style fashioned garments for the Magi and shepherds. We all owe a debt of gratitude to the RE Council, the Family Ministry Committee and their helpers who hosted the Solstice Chili Supper Dec. 19, serving delicious donated chili and cornbread, all proceeds going directly into the UUI operating fund.

I am personally indebted to Leslie Massicotte for her help with clerical tasks and data entry in the Religious Education Office. Leslie has been a faithful childcare provider on Sunday mornings, and we will miss her in many ways come the middle of January when she leaves for Ecuador. Her cheerful assistance has brightened my life.

As the earth turns again toward the sun, I share these words from a former UUA President, the Reverend Paul Carnes.

As the winter solstice turns our earth and early twilight closes down the day, while all about December snowfall covers our streets and walks with its frosty garment, we come together as people have done from earliest times to celebrate with flame the waning winter and rejoice that our globe swings once more toward the light. As our burning candles bespeak this ancient faith, so may it express our prayer that the power that directs our planet in its path will set such a solstice for our hopes for our future. From the dark hours of perversity and wrath, we pray that sad humanity may be guided in the path of peace, that like our earth we may emerge from darkness to a brighter day.

Blessings for the new year are in order for the whole world...no exceptions!

Welcome to Visitors

November 29: Jane Griesemer, Luis & Karin Guarnevo, Ella Janssen, Emily & Carmelo Leal, Peter Smiawshi, Katie & Aaron Springer

December 6: Sarah Slauine

December 13: Jack Head, Susan & John Hesch, Tom Rich, Seth Tennyson

December 20: Karin Bish, Grant Eaton, Jennifer Lamkin, Paul Guthrie & Juliana Lang, Beth Rimanoczy

December 27: Bill Bechman, Jeff Burke, Carah & Paul Kennedy, Mary Ellen Matthews, Tony Schaab, Joy Tobin



Creative Arts



UUI Choir Update

UUI choir starts up again in January!

The UUI choir will begin rehearsing in January for a performance for the MLK service on January 17. The rehearsals are on January 6 and 13 from 7:30-9:00 p.m. in the Music room in the Cottage. In February, the rehearsals will be on 2/3 and 2/10 also at 7:30 p.m. in the Music room to prepare for the Valentine's service on Feb 14. Hope to see you there.

Calling all Tenors

The UUI choir has a particular need for tenors lately. So tenors, if you've been waiting to join and want to go where you are needed :), this is your chance.

Special Thank You

A big round of thanks go to all the people who came out caroling last month to our home-bound UUI members; nineteen people is a great turnout and we almost couldn't fit in all the houses. Your gift of music was very appreciated by the residents and I'm glad everyone had a great time!

Dianna Davis

Upcoming UUI Art Displays

On 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.

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

For the Parents of Artists in RE

I hope that the youth in your household will bring their framed, mounted or matted artwork (or sculpture as is) to church Sunday, January 10. The Fine Arts Committee will be putting up the Youth Art Exhibit after the Sunday service.

It would help immensely if you would provide:

1. Name of artist
2. The titles
3. The medium (material used)
4. Age of artist

Please send the label information to Wdougherty@indy.rr.com so I can make the labels ahead of time,

The work may be taken home after church on Sunday, February 28, 2010.

Wendy Dougherty

Community Action

Recycling Event on January 9th

The fourth annual post-holiday recycling event is scheduled for Saturday, January 9, from 9:45 a.m. until 2 p.m. at four Indianapolis area parks: Broad Ripple, Ellenberger, Garfield and Krannert.

Materials accepted include: Holiday trees for mulching, electronics ("anything with a cord!"), cardboard and, this year, molded foam packaging (also known as Styrofoam)!

Earlier this year, a local company named Createc installed a polystyrene (Styrofoam) densifier, so they can now grind molded foam packaging (Styrofoam) and easily ship it to be re-manufactured! The City of Indianapolis has agreed to provide containers at the four parks on January 9th and will haul the collected material to Createc at the end of the event!

Createc does accept molded Styrofoam from the public as well — you can find them listed on the Keep Indianapolis Beautiful (KIB) online Recycle & Reuse Guide at www.kibi.org/recycle_and_reuse_guide.

Don Somers, Environmental Sustainability Committee

Circles of Life

Condolences

The Nesbit and Newton families suffered a great loss January 1 when my Aunt Alsie lost her battle with cancer. Joe Nesbit is the brother of my mother, Melba Nesbit Newton (who passed away February 1, 1996); and Alsie is Joe's loving wife of an amazing 72 years. All my life, Alsie has been the lovely, spunky, gentle presence, reaching out to the far corners of our families, the uncountable cousins, nephews, nieces, aunts, uncles, sisters and brothers whose names and relationships I could barely remember--she remembered and communicated with them all. She was an essential glue which has held us together. In the Nesbit and Newton families, you have to be spunky to hold your own; and she did that with her own brand of gentleness and bright, witty intelligence, always eager to learn new things and read new books and talk about them. I will miss the light in her eyes and the warmth in her heart more than I can say. The memorial service for Alsie Nesbit will be held at UUI on Saturday, Jan 9, at 3:00 p.m.

Lucy Park Newton

Congratulations

Happy 18th birthday to Ruth Eleanor Hinkle, who was born on Christmas day in 1991.



Stewardship Needs Your Help

Do you care about UUI's future and want to make a difference? If you answered, "Yes!", then please consider joining UUI's 2010 Stewardship Committee. You don't have to be a financial wizard; we're looking for people of all types - creative types, friendly types, organized types, musical types, funny types, etc. Just like at UUI, anything you can bring to the table will be appreciated and add to our eclectic mix!

We will have a brainstorming session in late January to review past stewardship efforts and to begin planning our campaign and goals for 2010. Please contact Stacy Robinson at sr_robinson521@yahoo.com or by phone at 317-385-9674 to indicate your interest in helping with this very important work.

UUI by the numbers: December

Average Number of Adults Attending on Sundays: 131

Average Number of Children and Youth Attending on Sundays: 41

Pledges in force: 168

Pledges value: 213,618

CUUPs January Meeting

It is the start of a new calendar year ... and it is time for us to begin something again ...

For our Jan 14th meeting I would like you to bring your colored candle wax that you have been saving (remove wicks and anything that is not wax) and we will repour our CUUPs Center Candle and tell CUUPs stories ... about our experiences, what we get out of CUUPs, what we would like to see brought in this new year ... and just a general fun time playing with wax.

If you have small coffee cans or larger soup cans (totally cleaned out please) bring one or two so we can melt the colors of wax and pour our candle in layers ... perhaps by the seasons of the year.

So sort your wax by color, bring cans and a treat if you like to share.

Let's start the cold new year off with a warm and heart warming experience.

Colleen Kelly and Robin Chestek





Announcing UUI's Share the Plate program

At first glance, it may seem odd that, at a time when our church is facing a budget deficit, the Board would decide to give away half of every Sunday's undesignated collection.

But think about it. A large part of the reason our budget has a deficit is because many of our members are financially strapped due to the current economic climate. That same economic climate affects the entire Indianapolis community. Our problems are not unique to us. Yet one thing we learned during our recent self-study is that our church community is deeply committed to social justice. Our financial problem can thus be seen as an opportunity to put that commitment into action.

This is why the Board has chosen this moment to Share the Plate with the larger Indianapolis community. Beginning with the first collection plate in January, for the next six months one half of the undesignated donations in our Sunday offerings will be given to a local charitable organization, chosen by our members.

For the past two weeks, UUI members have been voting for local organizations nominated by us. Each month, one of those charities will be designated as the "Charity of the Month" and will receive half of the undesignated offering for one month. We are happy to announce that the Indiana Youth Group will be January's Charity of the Month. IYG provides a safe place, a confidential environment, youth development programs and support services which foster personal strength and wellness among self-identified lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender young people. IYG advocates on their behalf in schools, on the streets, and in the community. We hope to have a representative of IYG in attendance in the Social Hall after church on at least one Sunday in January to answer questions about its program.

"Undesignated offering" means non-pledge payments. If you wish to pay your UUI pledge by placing a check in the plate, please be sure to mark it as a "pledge payment." These payments will be retained by UUI and recorded as pledge payments. If you wish to make a donation to the Charity of the Month, the simplest way will be to simply put some additional cash into the plate each Sunday. We will report back every month as to how much we have raised for each of the charities chosen.

This has been approved by the Board as a pilot project for six months. Let's be generous and make the program a success so that we can help to meet the social justice needs of our larger community long into the future.

Congregational Life

Scrip Program Expanding!

The UUI Scrip Program is up and running! So far, we have sold about \$1,300 in scrip for Marsh Supermarkets, generating \$65 in revenue for the church, in about three weeks. We know we can do better as people get used to doing their grocery shopping with scrip. Marsh scrip is available in denominations of \$20 and \$50, but there is no limit on how much you can buy (and then spend, dollar-for-dollar, at Marsh). We are planning to have Marsh scrip available for sale every Sunday before and after the service in the Social Hall.

But we're just beginning. Starting in January, we plan to expand the scrip program to many more stores, through an organization known as the Great Lakes Scrip Center. GLSC acts as a clearinghouse for many vendors. Through GLSC, UUI members will be able to order scrip from places like Starbucks, Chili's, Lowes, Home Depot, Barnes and Noble, Walgreens, Panera Bread, iTunes and many more. Each vendor gives UUI a percentage of the scrip sales, varying from 3% to 18%. Our current plans are to place orders for scrip from the GLSC once a month. We will have order forms on the scrip sale table in the Social Hall every Sunday. All you need to do is to fill out the form to designate the vendors you want to purchase from, and the amount you wish to purchase. We will then place the order; once the order is delivered to us, you can pick up (and pay for) your scrip at the scrip table any Sunday before or after church.

Remember, scrip does not cost you anything! By pre-paying for items you would purchase anyway, you can help raise money for our church. Look for us in the Social Hall!

Ministerial Search

Search Update

The Ministerial Search Committee is about to begin interviewing candidates. It's an exciting stage in the search, made possible by many months of preparation, during which the committee surveyed UUI members and groups, discussed what kind of minister would make a good fit, and prepared our congregational record as a way for ministers to learn about us.

The committee has recently exchanged detailed information, known as packets, with interested ministers and is now studying that information to select candidates to interview. During this month we will conduct telephone interviews with candidates and begin checking references. Then we will choose a few candidates to bring to Indianapolis for more in-depth interviews and to hear preach in neutral pulpits.

Though confidentiality must be preserved, search committee members are always available to discuss the search process on Sundays after services or through email, UUISearch2010@gmail.com. Also remember to check the Search Committee bulletin board in the social hall for updates.

Candidating Week!

Please mark your calendars for the week of **April 25 to May 2**, a time to meet and learn about the Ministerial Search Committee's recommended candidate for our next settled minister. The candidate will visit UUI for a full week of activities and meetings, including two back-to-back Sundays, when the minister will preach here. Following the service on May 2, our congregation will vote on whether to call this candidate as our next settled minister.

Small Groups

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

Credo Forum will discuss whether people have souls on Sunday, February 7 at 9:15 am in the Cottage Library. Contact Lowell McCoskey (Monontrailbiker@aol.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, wooglet@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. For more information contact 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.

The **UUI Men's Breakfast Group** will meet on Wednesday, January 20 at 7:30 a.m. at the Keystone Deli, 2344 E. 53rd St. Contact Bob Kirk, rkirk1937@aol.com to have your name added to the email list.

The **UUI Photo Club** meets 2nd Mondays at 7 P.M. in the Cottage Library. The topic for January 11th is "Ice", 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 file to be printed to compare results from various printers.

The **Women of UUI** are invited to meet for dinner on Wed., Jan. 6 at 6 P.M. at Deano's Vino Restaurant and Wine Bar at 1112 Shelby St. in Fountain Square. Parking is on the south side of the restaurant. Enter it from the alley behind. Wednesday is wine tasting night. The chef, James, creates great food! For questions, contact Susan Beauchamp at 634-2448 or beauartnow@yahoo.com.



Happenings in January & February

SUN 10	MON 11	TUE 12	WED 13	THU 14	FRI 15	SAT 16
	Photo Club Cottage, 7pm	UUI Board Meeting Cottage, 7pm	UUI Choir Cottage, 7pm	CUUPS Sanctuary, 7pm Adult RE Sanctuary, 7pm		Youth Overnight RE Building 6pm
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Drumming Circle Sanctuary, 12pm			Guitar Circle Wisdom Rm, 7pm			
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
	UU Palooza Planning Cottage, 7pm	UUI Knitters Cottage, 7pm	UUI Choir Cottage, 7pm	CUUPS Sanctuary, 7pm		
31	01	02	03	04	05	06
			UUI Choir Cottage, 7pm	Adult RE Sanctuary, 7pm		

UU Connections

We Want You...

to attend the UUA Heartland District Meeting and the UUA General Assembly.

January is the time to make decisions about going to the UUA Heartland District meeting on April 9-11, 2010, in Ann Arbor, Michigan and/or the UUA General Assembly on June 23-27, 2010 in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Both are drivable and offer many exciting opportunities to expand your UU knowledge and experiences. You will learn all kinds of thing you can bring back and put into practice in our congregation and as an individual. There are programs for all family members and ages, and the contacts and fellowship are fantastic!

Registration for Heartland starts in February, and registration for General Assembly starts March 1. Please contact Gail Henrie (grhenrie@amertiech.net) or any member of the Denominational Affairs Committee for more information and to express your interest.

Please consider being an official UUI delegate. We will be voting for delegates at the February congregational meeting, but you don't have to be a delegate or even member of the church to attend. Ministerial candidates love to see lots of UUI representatives showing a sincere interest in our denomination.

Gail Henrie

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

Mailed on January 6, 2010
Address Service Requested

Nonprofit Organization
US Postage Paid
Indianapolis IN
Permit #5073