

March 3, 2010

UU Eye

Volume 30 No. 6

Unitarian Universalist Church of Indianapolis
Founded 1979

Sunday, March 7, 2010: "Of Tea and Taxes" Colleen Kelly

Our great nation has had two historic "Tea Parties" in the course of our history; one in 1774 and one in 2010. Our topic today will look at those two events, some of the causes, similarities and some of the characters involved. No solutions will be offered. *Special music: a trio of youth will sing the song "Thankful"*.

Sunday, March 14, 2010: "We Are Each Other's Shelter" Rev. Barbara Child

Elie Wiesel's words call us to a new vision of the church and what it asks of us. Occasionally I hear someone say of this congregation or of Unitarian Universalism that what they like about it is that it gives them so much freedom and asks so little in return. I can hear Elie Wiesel's voice calling out in response: "But friend, we ask you to be each other's shelter; we ask you to be sanctuary to each other." And you – how shall you respond to Wiesel's call? *Special music: the UUI choir will sing "Like a Beat of a Drum" accompanied by Barry and Sally Childs-Helton.*

[Today begins Daylight Saving Time, so be sure to have your alarm clock spring forward!]

Sunday, March 21, 2010: "De Colores: A Ceremony of Flowers" Rev. Barbara Child

Today's ceremony of flowers celebrates the beauty and individuality each of us brings to the congregation and the gifts we receive here from each other. Please bring one flower to give away, a flower that you especially love or that seems to you to represent something important about who you are. Please make sure each of your children brings a flower too. When you leave the service, you will leave with an equally precious flower, the gift of someone else. *Special music: UUI's improv group "Thin Air"*.

Sunday, March 28, 2010: "The Right of Conscience:

Lessons from an Illiterate New England Farm Boy" Rev. Barbara Child

After he was baptized in the Calvinist faith of his parents, he wanted to arm himself to defend it against the preaching in a congregation several miles down the road that called themselves Universalists. So he studied the Bible to refute them, but the more he read, the more he agreed with them. And the rest is a lot more than a chapter of our history. There's something in it for us too.

[See page 8 for descriptions of the UUI Seder on March 28 and the April 4th service.]



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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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 ueeye@uui.org. **The next deadline is 8 p.m. Friday, April 2.**

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
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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.

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In the Meantime

Rev. Barbara Child, Interim Minister

One evening in my “Engaging Our Theological Diversity” class, I asked: What are Sunday services for? Sure enough, someone soon brought up Joys and Sorrows. If you have been here as long as I have, you know that has changed over the past couple of years. The Worship Associates and the Caring Team and I have been in frequent conversation to help this part of the service become more meaningful. You now can light a candle as a private ritual act at the back of the Sanctuary any time before or during the service, and if you would like to have some quiet conversation about your joy or sorrow, the Caring Team has arranged for that by the candle tray after the service.

Milestones significant enough to be shared with the entire congregation are significant enough to be shared from the pulpit; therefore, I began inviting speakers to come to the microphone there instead of taking the hand-held microphone to the floor, which had the flavor of a reporter on the street interviewing passersby.

You may not be surprised to hear that Joys and Sorrows has been the most critiqued element of UU Sunday services. It has been called “the parade of the extroverts.” It has been misused for only slightly disguised announcements, editorials, or political endorsements. People have stolen the limelight to share other people’s news, including news the actual newsmakers didn’t want shared. Speakers have asked congregations to care deeply about their neighbors, co-workers, and others whom congregations do not know. Newcomers have sometimes wondered if they had stumbled into someone else’s family reunion by mistake.

If Joys and Sorrows is a time for congregants to have the attention of the whole congregation drawn to them, then the purpose is recognition and affirmation. But if instead this is a time for keeping vigil and opening ourselves to challenge and transformation, then it can be a far more powerful element of communal worship.

Of course it is important for the congregation to learn of milestones in the lives of congregants and their families. There are times when nothing can substitute for the heartfelt expression of, for instance, pure jubilation by the cancer patient with the clean MRI or the anxiety of one whose beloved is leaving for Iraq. But the shy person should be able to receive the congregation’s care without having to engage in public speaking. And so should the person whose emotions are still too muddled to be distilled for public expression. More and more people have been having me include their joys and sorrows in my words from the pulpit instead of coming forward themselves.

Starting on March 14, the Worship Associates and I will begin a new way to provide multiple avenues to share and learn of milestones. There will be a Joys and Sorrows Book outside the Sanctuary doors on Sunday mornings. If you have had a milestone of joy or sorrow in the previous week, you will have an opportunity to write of it in the book before the service and indicate whether you would like the service leader to speak of it, whether you prefer to speak of it yourself if that would be appropriate, and likewise whether you would like it noted in the next issue of this newsletter.

In these ways, let us honor our milestones by keeping vigil for one another.

Barbara



Relating

Reverend Eva Českava, Interim Religious Educator

Those of us who have been around this congregation for any length of time know that our children are central in the life of this church. We include our children and youth in every Sunday service, and have more multigenerational services than any congregation I have served, ministering to all ages, especially families, with worship and education.

If you need evidence, look at our current senior high youth. Most of these young people have grown up in this congregation, and a significant portion of them have been through the Coming of Age program which we offer in alternate years. Do you remember the multigenerational Stone Soup service February 7 this year? That script was re-written by three of our teens, Ruth Hinkle, Elise and Julia Massicotte, the three runaways who (in the skit) remembered the story of sharing from a Sunday School lesson (!), and found a way to get fed while helping create a caring community. Creative, innovative, exemplary young people abound here.

Our Family Ministry Committee, now chaired by Carolyn Murphy, has created many opportunities for families to participate in church life together, and for those of us without children nearby to enjoy that young energy. The soup kitchen fundraiser, the chili supper at Winter Solstice, the upcoming Egg Hunt are some of the projects planned and carried out by the FMC. Another all-ages opportunity is the March 28 Seder, traditionally a family event; for us, it is a church family event.

The joyful, solemn ritual of child dedication will again take place during Sunday worship on Mother's Day, May 9. Parents with children who would like to be part of this celebration may contact either me or Rev. Barbara to have your child part of this service.

We often hear the phrase, "These children are our future." Friends, our children are our present, our now. We are witness to it constantly. Creating and sustaining a spiritual home where all ages may grow is the heritage and tradition of this church, and it is the heart of who we are. When we support and nurture this vitality, the bright future of UII is secure.

Creative Arts

UUI Choir

The UUI Choir will be rehearsing for its March and April performances on March 3 at 7:30 in the choir room, March 10 at 7:30 in the sanctuary, March 31 at 7:30 in the choir room and April 7 at 7:30 in the sanctuary. We will be singing "Like the Beat of a Drum" accompanied by drums and bass on March 14, and we will be doing a jazz! Music Sunday service on April 11. Please come and join us at UUI choir - new people are always welcomed - and babysitting is available at rehearsals.

Special thanks to all the singers from the choir who went with me over to the Heartland UU church to sing at their service on Feb. 21. We had a great time and enjoyed seeing our friends at Heartland.
Dianna

New Heartland Choral Festival

Singers from all over the Heartland Unitarian Universalist District are invited to join together for a weekend of fellowship and music-making on May 15-16, 2010 at All Souls in Indianapolis! The culmination will be a concert that Sunday at 4 pm. If you would like to participate please email heartlandchorafest@yahoo.com. For more information contact Mark Doerries, Choir Director of All Souls Unitarian Church.

New All-Church Exhibit

Participating in "Children as Seen through Adult Eyes" all-church exhibit are Judy Archer, Susan Beauchamp, Wendy Dougherty, Susan Ham, Lowell McCoskey, and Karl Zemlin. This show will be up through Sunday, April 25 after the service. Next will be the Arty Bash exhibit. Artwork for that exhibit will be taken in on Friday, April 30 (6 P.M. to 8 P.M.) and Saturday morning, May 1, from 10 until noon. The Arty Bash itself will take place on May 8.

Religious Education

Tent of Abraham

The Adult Religious Education committee will be offering a class based on the book *Tent of Abraham, Stories of Hope and Peace for Jews, Christians and Muslims* authored by Sister Joan Chittister, Murshid Saadi Shakur Christi and Rabbi Arthur Waskow. We'll explore the wisdom stories of Abraham from all three traditions for the mythic quality and the teachings on reconciliation. We are looking at the topic with an eye toward theology not politics.

The class will be held every Thursday in April at 7:00 p.m. in the Cottage Library. Registration will only be available after the services on March 21st and 28th. The book cost is \$16 and will be available at the time of registration. For more information please contact the facilitator, Susan Weickum, at sumirich7@comcast.net or by phone at 826-9144.



Town hall conversations

As one of our goals this year the Board of Trustees committed to having periodic discussions about topics that affect our congregants. I am pleased to invite you to two such conversations to be held after church service. The first will be held on March 28. We will host a discussion on behavior or, as Rev. Child asked us on Valentines Day, how do we love those with whom we do not agree? The second meeting will be hosted by the Board and Denominational Affairs and will be held on April 4 where we will take up the topic of language of inclusion. The information we gather at these meetings could lead to new policies or to proposals to amend our by-laws. I hope to see many of you at both meetings.
Eric Hinkle, President of the Board

January Visitors

1/3 Becky Sanders, Jenny Deaton, Gary Connett, Natalie Falk, Kathy Orellana, Heather Haddock, Karen Sterchi, Jody Bish

1/10 Carrie Campassi

1/17 Emmy & Jeremy Weidner, Christopher Fecteau, Mary Byrne, Tandy Arnold

1/24 Kim Hahn, Karrie Maxwell, Roger Copple

1/31 Tiffany & Charlie McIntosh, Mike & Stacy Morgan, John & Kerstin Buisson, Kamran B. Parsen

8th Annual UII Rummage Sale

Just a reminder to begin cleaning those closets, attics and basements and tag your gently used household items for our 8th annual Habitat for Humanity Rummage Sale benefitting the Senior High youth on their trip to Michigan to build a home with Habitat for Humanity. This year the Heavy Pick Up is Saturday April 18th from 10:00 a.m.- 3:00p.m., where we come to you for those larger items you can't transport yourself, i.e. couches, dining tables and chairs, recliners, drafting tables and the like. More details for the remainder of the week coming soon. This year we will accept very gently used children's clothing. The All Church preview Sale will be held on Friday, April 23rd. 6:00- 8:00 p.m. with the community sale on Saturday, April 24th. Ready to volunteer or just have a question? Please call Sandra Gruber 317-407-1852 or e-mail sgruber@mw.net.

February Visitors

2/7 Rod Nisis & Debra Litzelman

2/14 Kelsie Longway-Vince, Jamie Shepherd

2/21 Stephen & Venita Kirchhoff, Lisa Nagel, Marcie Sherman

UII By the Numbers

Pledges in force: 156

Pledges value: \$214,153

Congregational Life

Easter Egg Hunt

Come celebrate spring and rebirth with your church family. Everyone is invited to UUI's Easter Egg Hunt Sunday, March 28, beginning at noon. Although there is snow on the ground now, we expect warmer weather and green grass by Palm Sunday.

In addition to egg-hiding by the youth and egg-hunting by the children, all ages are invited to stay for punch and cookies in the RE Building, sponsored by the Family Ministry Committee. Of course, everyone is invited to watch from the sidelines as the young people search for their treasures. The preschoolers will hunt within the fenced playground. Older children will search a broader area on campus.

All children are encouraged to bring something to put their eggs in (a basket or a bag) to church that morning. Everyone is encouraged to celebrate spring with UUI!

February Volunteer of the Week

2/7 Gail Henrie
2/14 Pat Lawler
2/21 Wendy Dougherty
2/28 Lynne Arrowsmith

Circles of Life

Rev. Loring Prosser is serving as part-time pastoral services minister at All Souls Unitarian Church while Rev. Bruce Clear is on sabbatical/renewal until Friday, June 13.

Ministerial Search

Search Update

The search for UUI's next settled minister is nearing a finish. The Ministerial Search Committee expects to decide on a candidate during March, wrapping up months of work, including weeks of in-depth visits and interviews with several finalists. We will announce our decision to the congregation as soon as possible, following a Sunday worship service. Stay tuned for more news.

Your first chance to meet the candidate will be at an informal potluck dinner and kickoff party at UUI from 6 to 9 p.m. on Saturday, April 24. The entire congregation is invited. The next day, Sunday, April 25, the candidate will lead a worship service here and begin a full week of activities and meetings with groups in the congregation. We will announce further details in coming weeks.

The following Sunday, May 2, the candidate will lead another worship service. Afterward, our congregation will vote on whether to call the candidate as our next settled minister. Your full participation and interest is key to our success in our starting a new chapter in our church history.

Key dates:

April 24 Meet the Candidate Pitch-in
April 25 Candidate leads worship service
May 2 Candidate leads worship service
May 2 Congregational vote



AN INVITATION TO JOIN IN A UU PASSOVER SEDER

The festival of Passover is an important part of our religious heritage, which comes to us from our Jewish ancestors. Our Seder, a combined festive meal and worship service, will be a success if we come to it, not with the idea that we are celebrating an interesting tradition of another religious group, but with the understanding that this festival is a living part of our own tradition and a celebration of freedom from oppression of any kind.

We will gather at tables in the Meeting House at 6:00 on Sunday evening, March 28. Our Seder will precede the beginning of Passover by one day so it will not interfere with plans for family Seders in any UUI homes. Our Haggadah (the book or story of the Seder) will begin with the Kadesh, the Sanctification of the Day. The first Leader will begin:

We gather to join with the generations who have kept alive a vision of freedom. The Jews were the first slaves in recorded history ever to wage a successful rebellion against their masters. Theirs was the first national liberation struggle. In community we heed the call to remember. With the emblems of festive rejoicing before us, we gather for a sacred celebration.

UUI's Seder is being planned by a group with representatives from the Worship Associates and the Transition Team along with Barbara Child. It is a family celebration with special parts for children, so be sure to bring them. The meal will be a pitch-in. You will need to sign up to let the planning group know how many are coming and what you will bring. Look for the sign-up sheet on the kiosk in the Social Hall on Sundays or on the bulletin board inside the front door of the Cottage during the week. March 21 is the last day to sign up.

Please join us! Le Chayim! To Life!

Sunday, April 4, 2010: "The Empty Space Behind the Stone" Rev. Barbara Child
Unitarian Universalists sometimes say we are interested in the pre-Easter Jesus, not the post-Easter Jesus. That is, we are interested in the teachings *of* Jesus about love and justice, but we don't put much stock in the stories *about* him that dwell on his crucifixion and resurrection. So what message might Easter hold for us that has something more complicated to say than noting with delight the coming of Spring? Why might we need Easter as much as any trinitarian?



Taking Wing with Stewardship Kick-Off!

Join us for "Taking Wing" on Saturday, March 13, 2-7:30 PM at UII. (That's right, the date's been changed). The day promises fellowship, food, music, fun, and the chance to launch a bright future for our congregation. Childcare provided. To sign up, contact Kim Beck at kimberlybk@sbcglobal.net or Cindy Wilson at lmwilson@butler.edu.

Create New Projects from 2-6 PM. Share that cool idea you have for UII, hear about other nifty project possibilities, and help create new initiatives that engage us more deeply in strengthening ties to both congregation and community. Discussion and interaction will be modeled after the June 2009 Greater Good Gathering, Indy's first gathering of UUs, which launched several inter-church initiatives including a peace camp, the Huusier Paluza (a celebration of the UU creative spirit), an arts salon, and the Central Indiana UU Council.

Celebrate at 6 PM with the kick-off of the 2010 Stewardship Campaign. Tasty *hors d'oeuvres*, door prizes, and music by Thin Air, UII's one-of-kind improvisation ensemble, will set the stage for reveling in how WE create the current upon which our future takes flight.

A Circle of Warmth

Have you noticed something happening by the candle tray after each service --someone standing there with a couple of chairs? Maybe you have noticed this message in the order of service under **Joys and Sorrows**:

If you would like an opportunity for quiet conversation about your joy or sorrow, you are invited to come to the back of the sanctuary by the candle tray after the service.

The purpose of this quiet place by the candle tray is to create a different opportunity for those who do not want or need their recent joy or concern to be announced from the pulpit. It is a place to be heard, to have someone listen, to receive a hug, to meditate for a moment. Chairs are gathered 'round after the service to delineate this quiet space and to make it inviting. A volunteer is available to give a hug or a high five and to listen. This space also provides a quiet spot to think, reflect, and regroup before entering the bustle of the social hall. Since this space is intended for quiet sharing and contemplation, it is hoped that other conversations and activities would move away from this area.

If you would like to be a candle tray volunteer or to help with scheduling the volunteers, please contact Lynne Arrowsmith: learrowsmith@yahoo.com. No special skills are needed - just a warm heart and a willingness to listen.

Small Groups

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

Do you use the word "miracle," and what does it mean to you? We will discuss this at the **Credo Forum** on Sunday, March 7 at 9:15 am in the Cottage Library. For more information contact Lowell McCoskey at Monontrailbiker@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.

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 February 21 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 for information about the next meeting of the **UUI Men's Breakfast Group** at rkirk1937@aol.com.

The **UUI Photo Club** meets 2nd Mondays at 7 P.M. in the Cottage Library. The topic for March 8 is "Fire", 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 changed in any way one wishes.

The **Women of UUI** are invited to meet for dinner on Wednesday, March 3 at 6 pm at Capri Restaurant at 2602 Ruth Drive. This is about a block east of Keystone just north of the Walmart. For information, contact Susan Beauchamp at 634-2448 or beauartnow@yahoo.com.

The **Women's Spirituality in Writing** group meets the third Tuesday of the month in the cottage library to listen to each others' written responses to an assigned topic. There is no critiquing, just an open sharing and discussion. New members are welcome. Contact Sylvia Reichel, reichelronald@sbcglobal.net.

Happenings in March & April

SUN 7	MON 8	TUE 9	WED 10	THU 11	FRI 12	SAT 13
Credo Forum Cottage, 9:15am	Photo Club Cottage, 7pm	UII Board Meeting Cottage, 7pm	Guitar Circle Wisdom, 7pm UII Choir Cottage, 7:30pm	Adult RE Sanctuary, 7pm CUUPS Cottage, 7pm		Taking Wing 2-6pm Stewardship Kick-Off 6-7:30pm
14	15	16 Women's Spirituality in Writing Cottage, 7pm	17	18	19	20
21 Drumming Circle Sanctuary, 12pm	22 UU Palooza Planning Cottage, 7pm	23 UII Knitters Cottage, 7pm	24 Guitar Circle Wisdom Rm, 7pm	25 Adult RE Sanctuary, 7pm CUUPS Cottage, 7pm	26	27 Indy Folk Series Sanctuary, 7pm
28 Town Hall Sanctuary, 12pm Seder Sanctuary, 6pm	29	30	31 UII Choir Cottage, 7:30pm	01	02	03
04 Town Hall Sanctuary, 12pm	05	06	07 UII Choir Cottage, 7:30pm	08 CUUPS Cottage, 7pm	09	10 UII Knitters Cottage, 7pm

Indy Folk Series - Maple Trio

The Indy Folk Series is excited to present Maple Trio -- the versatile instrumental force behind Blueprint Music. They will perform on Saturday, March 27, 7:00 p.m, not March 20 as previously announced! The Maple Trio is Matt Koher, Grover Parido, and Doug Sauter. The trio instrumentation includes violin, mandolin, guitar, cello, and banjo. Genre influences include traditional fiddle tunes, classical, ragtime, jazz, and tango, giving the trio a cross-generational, cross-cultural appeal. Don't miss this one! Tickets: \$10 at the door.

Community Action

CITY TOXDROP SITES OFFER NEW RECYCLING SERVICES

ToxDrop is a City of Indianapolis program where residents can take household hazardous waste and other recycleable materials for proper disposal. Now you can recycle your CLF light bulbs, cardboard and electronic devices, formerly items more difficult to recycle, at several Indianapolis toxdrop sites around the city during their regularly scheduled hours.

They include:

- **Belmont Avenue Collection Facility**, 2700 S. Belmont Ave., Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9am- 11am;
- **IMPD Training Facility (located near Superior Court 13)**, 9049 E. 10th St., 1st & 3rd Saturday of each month, 9am- 2pm;
- **Perry Township Government Center**, 4925 S. Shelby St., 2nd & 4th Saturday of each month, 9am- 2pm;
- **Traders Point Collection Facility**, 7550 N. Lafayette Rd., 1st & 3rd Saturday of each month, 9am- 2pm.

ToxDrop sites are closed on any fifth Saturday and some holidays. For more information about the Indianapolis ToxDrop sites and the other materials that they accept for recycling, please refer to the KIBI (Keep Indianapolis Beautiful, Inc.) website www.kibi.org. Select ToxDrop from the Recycle menu .

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