

# 2013 Holiday Art Fair

**Affordable fine art by area artists.**

**5–9 p.m.                      10 a.m.–4 p.m.**

**Friday, December 13                      Saturday, December 14**

**Unitarian Universalist Church**  
**333 Meridian St., West Lafayette**  
**765.743.8812 • www.uulafayette.org •** **accepted**

Live music and gourmet food, delicious soup, pastries and more!

# THE LIGHTED CHALICE

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH, WEST LAFAYETTE, INDIANA: 1 DECEMBER 2013

A MONTH OF SUNDAYS	FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT
<p><i>Sunday Service &amp; Religious Exploration Classes begin at 10:30 am Nursery Childcare Available.</i></p> <p>In worship and religious exploration during the month of December, we will explore Unitarian Universalism’s third principle: acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth.</p> <hr/> <div> <div> <p><b>DECEMBER 1</b>  <b>“HANUKKAH DREIDELS”</b>  <b>Worship Leader:</b>  <b>Rev. Daniel Charles Davis</b>  <b>Worship Associate: Janice Thiel</b>  <b>Choir Director &amp; Pianist: Shellie Johnson</b>  <b>Sound: Gary Mueller</b>  <b>Sharing of Joys &amp; Sorrows</b>  <b>Potluck Sunday</b></p> <p>What does the Hanukkah game of Dreidel teach us about life? The Hebrew letters on the top stand for a phrase that commemorates Hanukkah: “A great miracle happened there.” But in the playing of the game the letters stand for how the jackpot is split. What is the relationship between religion and gambling?</p> </div> <div> <p><b>DECEMBER 8</b>  <b>“BODHI DAY”</b>  <b>Worship Leader:</b>  <b>Rev. Daniel Charles Davis</b>  <b>Worship Associate: Bill Welge</b>  <b>Choir Director &amp; Pianist: Shellie Johnson</b>  <b>Women’s Choir: “Shanti”</b>  <b>Sound: Dan Noland</b></p> <p>How does Buddhism teach us not to crave holiday gifts and food? What if enlightenment came from within and not a string of multi-colored lights?</p> </div> </div> <div> <div> <p><b>DECEMBER 15</b>  <b>“CHILDREN’S HOLIDAY PAGEANT”</b>  <b>Worship Leader:</b>  <b>Rev. Daniel Charles Davis</b>  <b>Worship Associate: Sheila Garrett, DRE</b>  <b>Choir Director &amp; Pianist: Shellie Johnson</b>  <b>Sound: Mary Finley</b></p> <p>The children will perform “The Light Of Life,” a December holiday pageant written by</p> </div> <div> <p><b>DECEMBER 21</b>  <b>SOLSTICE SERVICE</b>  <b>6PM, FELLOWSHIP HALL</b>  <b>Rev. Davis, Martha Gipson, Kirsten Reynolds, Rae Schnapp, Janice Thiel</b></p> <p>Rev. Randolph Becker of Williamsburg, VA. The pageant explores various festivals of light celebrated in late fall and early winter.</p> </div> </div> <div> <div> <p><b>DECEMBER 22</b>  <b>“HUMANLIGHT”</b>  <b>Worship Leader:</b>  <b>Rev. Daniel Charles Davis</b>  <b>Worship Associate: Dianna Poindexter</b>  <b>Choir Director &amp; Pianist: Shellie Johnson</b>  <b>Sound: Carl Seese</b></p> <p>HumanLight is a festival created by the New Jersey Humanist Network in 2001. It was celebrated at over 20 locations last year including 5 UU congregations.</p> </div> <div> <p><b>DECEMBER 24</b>  <b>CHRISTMAS EVE</b>  <b>CANDLELIGHT SERVICE, 6 PM</b>  <b>Worship Leader:</b>  <b>Rev. Daniel Charles Davis</b>  <b>Choir Director &amp; Pianist: Shellie Johnson</b>  <b>Special Music by the UU Church Choir</b>  <b>Sound: Jason Dufair</b></p> </div> </div> <div> <div> <p><b>DECEMBER 29</b>  <b>Lay Led Service TBA</b>  <b>Worship Leader:</b>  <b>Worship Associate:</b>  <b>Pianist: Yue Jiang</b>  <b>Sound: Noemi Ybarra</b>  <b>No Religious Exploration Classes</b></p> </div> </div>	<p>Earlier this year, we received a number of recommendations from UUA Stewardship Consultant Mary Gleason. Chief among these was that the UUC needs to find ways to grow non-pledge income by making our building "work for us." As part of this initiative, the Board of Trustees has approved a six month lease of room 106 in the office wing to member Kathy Willowode for use as her business office. Kathy is a diet and nutrition consultant and also practices Shamanic Healing. At the beginning of December she will be moving her practice into room 106, at which time the room will no longer be available for general use. The mailbox previously located in this room has been moved into the general office and the file cabinets to room 104. Please be sure to ask Kathy about her new business endeavor.</p> <p>Following the worship service on December 15th, there will be an important Congregational Meeting. At this time, a budget for 2014 will be presented to the congregation for consideration. Over the last several weeks, the Finance Committee has worked with the Board of Trustees and Stewardship Committee to draft a budget proposal that balances our fiscal resources against the costs needed to fund the programs we would like the UUC to offer next year. The proposed budget plans for a modest 5% increase in pledge income for next year. This amount is certainly achievable, but only with a successful completion to the pledge drive. Thank you to those who have already made a pledge. If you haven't found time to return one yet, it's not too late. Blank pledge cards are available in the church office or you can contact Laura Geiger at 838-0339.</p> <p>Copies of the proposed 2014 budget will be available in the church office and will also be sent in an email to all members. It is important to note that this budget proposal plans for us to decrease our reliance on capital campaign funds considerably. This is a very positive development, made possible by growth in pledge and non-pledge income as well as careful control over expenses. Please plan to attend the Congregational Meeting on December 15th so that we can work together to best prepare for the road ahead.</p> <p><i>Best Wishes,</i>  <i>Mark VanMeeter</i>  <i>Board President</i></p>
<p><b>SUNDAY MORNING FORUM</b>  <i>Sunday Morning Forum meets at 9:00 am in 101/103. Everyone is welcome! Childcare is provided.</i></p> <p><i>Forum co-chairs are Jim Anderson, Tom McConville, and Bill Welge.</i></p> <div> <div> <p><b>DECEMBER 1</b>     Jim Anderson, Ph.D., Purdue Prof. of Medical Sociology and Health Communication: <i>Is This the End of the Golden Age of Medicine?</i></p> <p><b>DECEMBER 8</b>     Janet Elmore, Potter: <i>Artists’ Own</i></p> <p><b>DECEMBER 15</b>    Petronio Bendito, Purdue Assoc. Prof. of Art &amp; Design; Indiana Arts Commission: <i>Technology Mediated Art &amp; Design Expressions.</i></p> <p><b>DECEMBER 22</b>    Denise Laussade, <i>Tour the Town on the Trolley by City Bus</i></p> <p><b>DECEMBER 29</b>    Joel Ebarb, Purdue Assoc. Professor, Theatre Designer &amp; Chair, Visual &amp; Performing Arts: <i>Theatre</i></p> </div> </div>	



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contact dresheila@gmail.com

Newsletter articles are due on the 3rd Thursday  
of the month. No exceptions will be made.

Thank you.  
  
Newsletter Deadline:  
3rd Thursday, December 19, 5:00 pm  
E-mail articles to uuc@uulafayette.org with  
“Newsletter” in subject box or place items  
in Office Admin. mailbox, Office Workroom.

Unitarian Universalist Church  
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MINISTER’S MUSINGS:  
THERE IS NO WAR ON CHRISTMAS

There is no war on Christmas.  
There is, however, an offensive against inclusion.  
“Happy Holidays” is a phrase,  
intended to include everyone.  
It recognizes that many people celebrate a festival of lights.  
This time of year when the nights are longest.  
We need to share as much light as we can.  
I am grateful for the light of all people.  
But some want only the light of Christmas.  
They get offended when others are included in happy holiday cheer.

Actually Christmas is most harmed by the Christmas shopping season.  
It starts earlier each year.  
I saw Christmas stuff in stores this past September.  
Materialism spits in the face of Jesus,  
who declared that his kingdom was not of this world,  
and told the rich young man to give everything to the poor.

The Christmas stories tell of Jewish shepherds and Zoroastrian Magi  
visiting the holy child.  
If the first Christmas was multi-faith,  
why cannot Christians celebrate with other faiths?  
There is no reason to demand  
that this time of year be exclusively Christian.

On November 3, 2013, Hindus celebrated Diwali.  
Lamps were lit to celebrate the triumph of good over evil.  
Let us include the estimated 1.6 million Hindus in America.

From November 27 Through December 5, 2013 is Chanukah.  
This festival of lights celebrates the ancient Hebrews overcoming oppression.  
Let us include the estimated 5.5 million Jews living in America.

December 8, 2013 is Bodhi Day.  
It celebrates the enlightenment of the Buddha.  
Let us include the estimated 1.2 million Buddhists in America.

December 21, 2013 is the Winter Solstice.  
Indigenous people all over the northern hemisphere  
light candles on the longest night of the year.  
“Christmas” trees, mistletoe and Yule logs are pagan symbols.  
They are not present in the biblical stories of Christmas.  
Native Americans have a variety of traditions celebrated at the solstice  
Let us include the estimated 1 million Pagans living in America.  
Let us include the estimated 5 million Native Americans living in America.

December 23 is HumanLight, a Humanist holiday  
It was established by the New Jersey Humanist Network in 2001.  
It celebrates the light of reason.  
Let us include the estimated 34 million non-religious people in America.

December 25 is Christmas.  
It celebrates the birth of Jesus.  
Who encouraged us to let our light shine before all people.  
Let us include the estimated 230 million Christians in America

December 26-31 is Kwanzaa.  
Candles are lit each day to honor African American heritage.  
Let us include the estimated 39 million African Americans.

Only 73% of Americans identify as Christian.  
That means 1 in 4 people you greet are non-Christian.  
Saying “Happy Holidays” includes everybody.

Blessings, Rev. Charlie 2

Stewardship 2014: Abundant Hearts, Abundant Living

Our 2014 Stewardship Pledge Drive is off to a great start! As of November 19, we have collected 61 pledges, from approximately 30% of our membership, for a total of \$156,649.

Please take the time now to look into your hearts to determine the abundance you can share. Think about all that is important to you in our church community. What do you want to continue to support? What would make your heart broken if we could no longer provide it? Below is a suggested giving guide from the Unitarian Universalist Association.

Supporter, Sustainer, Visionary, or Chalice Lighter  
~ Which one are you?

<b>Supporter- 2-3%</b> The congregation is a significant part of your life and it promotes your spiritual growth. If your income is \$50,000, your fair-share commitment is ~\$125/month, or \$1000- \$1500/yr.	<b>Visionary- 7-9%</b> You are committed to both the present and future growth of the congregation. If your income is \$50,000, your fair-share commitment is \$290/month, or \$3500/year.
<b>Sustainer- 4-6%</b> The congregation is central to your identity, and you are committed to sustaining the programs and ministries of the church. If your income is \$50,000, your fair-share commitment is \$167/month, or \$2000/year.	<b>Chalice Lighter- 10%+</b> You designate 10 per cent of your income as a way of living out your spiritual principles. If your income is \$50,000, your fair-share commitment is \$417/month, or \$5,000/year.



Please turn in your heart-felt pledge soon.  
Our goal is to have 100% of members’ pledge cards returned.  
Last year we received \$229,258 in generous pledges! What will 2014 bring?  
The sky is the limit through your abundant hearts!

If you have any questions, please contact Laura Geiger 838-0339; [laura.lbg@gmail.com](mailto:laura.lbg@gmail.com)  
or Mark VanMeeter [markvanmeeter@comcast.net](mailto:markvanmeeter@comcast.net).

Thank You for Sharing Your Abundance



**HOLIDAY ART FAIR  
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**

The UUC annual Holiday Art Fair is quickly approaching and we need everyone's help to make it a successful community event and fundraiser! This is a wonderful way to serve the community, meet and have fun with fellow UUs and contribute in whatever way suits you.

Please consider volunteering for one or two time slots listed on the excel-spreadsheets attached to a recent link sent as an “all church e-mail” to “uulafayette-allchurch@googlegroups.com. There are 3 tabs on bottom left of the spreadsheet: one for pre-sale activities, one for Friday, Dec. 13 and one for Sat. Dec. 14. Send your requested time to Lisa Pantea (lisapantea@gmail.com) and copy Karin (uuc@uulafayette.org). The sheets will be available for sign up the next two Sundays at church too!

There are many ways to help...baking cookies, helping to decorate and set up, or help at the actual event with serving food in the cafe, being a cashier, shopkeeper or even doing the dreaded clean-up!

Art Fair posters for in 8.5x11 and 4/sheet format were also attached in the recent e-mail. There will be posters and handbills at church to give to family and friends as well! Look for them on the volunteer desk in the office wing--

Thanks for your help and have a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday!

*Lisa Pantea*  
*Volunteer Coordinator*

**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**

Newsletter articles are due the 3rd Thursday of each month, next December 19 for the last week of January issue of the “Lighted Chalice.” Even though we are switching to a weekly “Lighted Chalice” newsletter, the last week’s newsletter distributed on Sundays with the Order of Service will still be the largest newsletter of the month, with set deadlines. If you have a major “Big Rock” event coming up, please announce it as soon as Program Council approves the event so that the optimal number of people will be aware the schedule.

**FIBER ARTS**

Please be sure to join us each 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after church for Fiberarts in room 101/103, next December 8. Bring the fiber of your choice—quilting, knitting, crochet, embroidery, lacework, tatting, quillwork, basketry...and enjoy the fellowship of friends being creative together! Please contact Amanda Estes, [amandamestes@gmail.com](mailto:amandamestes@gmail.com) for further information. Bring a friend! See you soon—

**THE EASY WAY TO EARN MONEY FOR UUC  
AT PAYLESS/KROGER**

- Filling up the gas tank? Stop at Payless and use your UU Payless Gift Card!
- Need to buy a gift certificate? Stop at Payless and use your UU Payless Gift Card!
- Groceries? Yep, stop at Payless and use your UU Payless gift card.
- 3% of the value of your purchases is sent directly to our UU. It’s a great way to support the church while just doing those routine things like filling up the car.
- Need a gift card? Check with Karin Bergman, Office Administrator, during the week. Each card is pre-loaded with \$25 and you can buy the card for \$25 with cash or check.
- Can't I just stop at the service desk at Payless to get a new one? Unfortunately, no; they have to be ordered & paid for by the church in advance. The amount on the card CAN be reloaded, however, for any amount you wish to add, at any time, for continued purchases. Please be sure to re-load your card at the beginning of your shopping trip so the computer can update your information in time for purchases made that day—this update time usually takes at least 10 minutes. Thank you!

**INTER-RELIGIOUS NETWORK (IRN)  
DINNER & CONVERSATION CIRCLES**

Interfaith conversation dinners are sponsored by the Inter-Religious Network Conversation Circles of the Abrahamic Faith Traditions. They occur twice a month at various faith communities in the Lafayette area, and are led by Cem Akatay, a Turkish graduate student at Purdue. People of the Turkish community at Purdue are committed to interfaith dialogue between Muslims and other faiths.

Our Unitarian Universalist Church was host to an IRN Dinner on Oct. 26, and **will again host dinners on February 8, March 29, and April 26 at 6:00 pm. Delicious Turkish food will be provided; suggested donation \$2. For further information, or to register to attend a dinner, please visit [www.facebook.com/interreligiousnetwork](http://www.facebook.com/interreligiousnetwork).** Thank you.

*Ever since we crawled out of that primordial slime, that's been our unifying cry, "More light." Sunlight. Torchlight. Candlelight. Neon, incandescent lights that banish the darkness from our caves to illuminate our roads, the insides of our refrigerators. Big floods for the night games at Soldier's Field. Little tiny flashlights for those books we read under the covers when we're supposed to be asleep. Light is more than watts and foot-candles. Light is metaphor. Light is knowledge. Light is life. Light is light.* ~Diane Frolov and Andrew Schneider

It’s here. That time of year when the sun takes its time to rise in the morning and calls it a day way earlier than most of us living our modern lives can allow ourselves to, even if we wanted. And here in the Midwest, its growing colder, with unpredictable weather which can often be challenging, or as some of us in the area recently experienced with the spate of November tornados first hand, downright threatening. Add to these circumstances personal struggles many of us face with loss, strained finances, or separation from loved ones, this time of year can be tough, even downright defeating. So alongside our December theme, “acceptance and spiritual growth,” we are exploring how light plays a part in the rituals, celebrations, and search for hope and meaning of several faith traditions in this, literally the darkest time, of year.

- On **December 1<sup>st</sup>**, Reverend Charlie will be leading an all ages worship service on Hanukah. Care for preschool age and younger children is available in the nursery. Older kids are welcome to join their families in the sanctuary for the service. RE volunteers get a break today!
- **December 8<sup>th</sup>** Help decorate the mitten tree!! Please bring warm hats, mittens, and scarves to dress up our tree during the time for all ages portion of the worship service. Our collection this year will go to MESA, a local organization that serves the migrant farm worker population in our community. “MESA focuses on reaching families that do not receive traditional support from under-served communities.”
- Preparation for this year’s holiday pageant, *Celebrate the Light*, started November 27<sup>th</sup>. If your family wasn’t at church that day and your child wants to participate (and we hope everyone will!), please plan on joining us December 8<sup>th</sup>. Because we want everyone who wants to participate to be able to, we’ve tried keep the format flexible and simple by design. During RE that day, we will continue learning our parts in the forum rooms during the worship service. Children are welcome to bring a snack to share near the end of this time. We will then do a run through on the stage immediately after the worship service to go no later than 12:45.
- **December 15<sup>th</sup>** *Celebrate the Light* all ages holiday pageant
- **December 22<sup>nd</sup>** Holiday Crafts in the Fellowship Hall- please join me in giving a HUGE thanks to Elizabeth Lincort for organizing!
- **December 29<sup>th</sup>** Holiday Break for Volunteers- no RE today!
- **Our Theme in January: Responsible Search for Truth and Meaning**
- After all the hub-bub of the holidays, RE classes will fall back into a more predictable pattern.
- New! Youth will have the opportunity to volunteer at Family Promise- *watch for details coming soon!*
- **Preschool: Spirit Play**
  - 1-4<sup>th</sup> Grades: Workshop Rotation
  - Tony Pawli- cartooning
  - Cindy Gerlach- reporting
  - Della Willmann- photography (perspective taking)
  - 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade: Quest for Meaning
  - Youth Group: self-selected topics/projects

*See you in church, Sheila*

**UU RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION ON THE  
ROAD AND INVOLVED IN COMMUNITY**



UU Religious Exploration students visited Purdue's *Black Cultural Center* (above and at right). Jolivet Anderson-

Douoning, Cultural Liaison and Program Specialist at the Purdue BCC, facilitated—not only educating us about the history and role of the Center in the Greater Lafayette community, but also about the role UUs have played in the struggle for abolition and civil rights. Her message to the children: *"That's the heritage you come from."*



RE students learned about the problem of homelessness in a program presented by UU Church member and *Family Promise* Representative Joshua Prokopy. The students then created 36 pillows for *Family Promise* (at right).





# December Calendar Highlights

## Weekly

Sunday, December 1, 8, 15, 22, 29  
9:00am, *Forum*, 101/103  
10:30am, *Worship & RE Magazine Exchange, & Potluck*, December 1 (1st Sunday of month)  
*Membership Class*, 1st Sundays, December 1  
*Talk and Tour*, 2nd Sundays, December 8  
Monday, December 2, 9, 16, 23, 30  
7:30am, Taiji Qigong with Lisa Peterson (anyone may join at any time; FH)  
7:00pm, *Monday Meditation*, 101/103  
Tuesday, December 3, 10, 17, 24, 31  
7:00pm, *Lafayette Chamber Singers* (S)  
Wednesday, December 4, 11, 18, 25  
7:30am, Taiji Qigong with Lisa Peterson (anyone may join at any time; FH)  
12:00pm, *The Principled Group*, 101/103  
7:00pm Choir (S)  
Thursday, December 5, 12, 19, 26  
5:40pm, *Dinner @MCL*  
5:30pm, *Zazen; Zen Chanting & Reading; sitting*; M  
Friday, December 6, 13, 20, 27  
7:30am, Taiji Qigong with Lisa Peterson (anyone may join at any time; FH)  
Saturday, December 7, 14, 21, 28  
8:00am, Zen, Meditation Room

## Bi-Weekly

Monday, December 2, 16, 1:30pm, *Writers' Group*, 106  
Thursday, December 5, 19 7:30pm, *SHM/UU House Band*, S  
Friday, December 6, 20, 6:30pm, *PRYSM*, 102

## By Date

- Sunday, **POTLUCK** held following service!  
11:45 *Membership Class: Discovering Your Spiritual Path*  
7:30pm, *Lafayette Area Peace Coalition* (101/103)
- Tuesday, 6:00 pm, *Program Council* 101/103
- Thursday, 6:30pm *A-REC* (101/103)
- Friday, 4pm *WEDDING REHEARSAL* (S)
- Saturday, Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day  
*WEDDING*, Ruhl-Westerman (S)
- Sunday, 11:30am, *UU Talk & Tour*  
12:00pm, *UU Fiberarts Quilting Bee* (Youth Room)
- 9-10 **ART FAIR SET UP!**
- Tuesday, 1:00pm *Buddhist Study Group* (101/103)  
5:30pm *Pastoral Care* (106)  
6:00pm *RE Council* (Youth Room)  
7:00pm *ACLU-IN Board* (212)  
7:30pm *UU Drumming Circle with cirqueAfrique's Sundeep Rao and Robin Pickett* (101/103)

## By Date, cont'd.

- Wednesday, *ART FAIR BOOTH SET UP!*  
*Minister at HUUMA Meeting, Indianapolis*
- Thursday, *ART FAIR BOOTH SET UP!*
- Friday, *ART FAIR FINAL SET UP IN A.M.*  
**UU ART SHOW BEGINS 5-9pm**
- Saturday, *UU ART SHOW 10-4pm*  
10:00am *Quarterly Meditation Workshop, Jason Kniola*  
**LUM JUBILEE CHRISTMAS, CHURCH OF BRETHREN**  
5PM *ART SHOW DECONSTRUCTION & ARTIST PICKUP*
- Sunday, 10:30am **HOLIDAY PAGEANT**  
11:30am **CONGREGATIONAL MEETING** (S)  
4:00pm *UU Photo Group*, 101/103
- Tuesday, 6:30pm, *Board Meeting*, 3rd Tuesdays, 101/103
- Thursday, *Newsletter Deadline*
- 6pm **WINTER SOLSTICE SERVICE (FH)**
- Tuesday, 7pm, **CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE**
- Wednesday, **CHRISTMAS DAY OFFICE CLOSED**
- Tuesday, *NEW YEAR'S EVE*  
1 JANUARY 2014, **HAPPY NEW YEAR!** (Office Closed)



### DECEMBER SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP TEAM LEADERS, SANCTUARY PREPARATION

#### DECEMBER 1, POTLUCK!

*Fellowship Team Leader:*  
Dorothy Hughes  
*Sanctuary Preparation:*  
Janice Thiel

#### DECEMBER 8:

*Fellowship Team Leaders:*  
Andrea and Gary Burniske  
*Sanctuary Preparation:*  
Michael Lewis

#### DECEMBER 15:

*Fellowship Team Leader:*  
Mark VanMeeter  
*Sanctuary Preparation:*  
Dianna Poindexter

#### DECEMBER 22:

*Fellowship Team Leader:*  
Susanne McConville  
*Sanctuary Preparation:*  
Robin Poindexter

#### DECEMBER 29:

*Fellowship Team Leaders:*  
Linda and Joshua Prokopy  
*Sanctuary Preparation:*  
tbd



### BUILDING YOUR OWN THEOLOGY

*Building Your Own Theology* is a 10-week class that helps UUs explore what they believe and how their faith can be expressed. Fifteen members of our church completed this course recently. They spent 10 Sunday afternoons together sharing and exploring and being enlightened by each other. Here are comments about the class from some of the attendees:

**Ellen Phelps:** I've been thinking about my credo, but am not sure I am there yet. But the fact I'm thinking about it says a lot about what the class did for me! I especially enjoyed meeting people whom I did not know, or only knew superficially. Perhaps that was the highlight for me.

**Rosemary Leary:** Our Building Your Own Theology (BYOT) class gave us the opportunity to explore our own values while learning about how other people describe theirs.

Our church does not require that we all subscribe to a given creed. Instead it encourages us to find our own creed—we are a congregation of fellow seekers.

We read pieces written by others - theologians and an assortment of thoughtful people. We worked through a variety of worksheets and exercises that helped us explore our inner values. We participated in animated discussions.

I had a chance to test my ideas about what I believed. Some of them held up to scrutiny. Some I will need to discard. I've condensed my credo to a fairly simple statement that is satisfying. But I am open to future revision should my understanding change.

**Nancy Patchen:** I loved the rich "immersion" in readings, written and visual exercises and group discussion, warmly and ably led by Ellen. Thanks to this experience, I am more comfortable both with ethical and religious issues that trouble me and with the spiritual beliefs I do have.

**Keith Brown:** I discovered that there was branch of philosophy, Methodological Naturalism, which pretty well fit the way I was trying to think about theology. I remembered how difficult it is to think and write communicatively in a precise style. I was enriched through interaction and exchange with the diverse and powerful course colleagues. It was a unique and valuable experience.

**Marty Patchen:** The readings and discussions for the "building your own theology" group helped me to articulate and to clarify my thoughts about the world and my place in it. In this process, it was valuable to hear the ideas of others in the group

**Kirsten Reynolds:** Spirituality courses that I have taken in the past have been short in duration so they typically stop with doing the spiritual journey. This course looked at spirituality with a wider lens; for example, how does your faith sustain in both good times and bad? I had not done this before.

The second thing that I got out of this course was the fellowship with the other classmates.

*Many thanks to Ellen Germann Melosh for presenting this wonderful class, enjoyed by all participants. Watch the calendar for a forthcoming Building Your Own Theology class, as well as a possible "BYOT Part II."*

### MONTHLY AT UUC: A-REC PRESENTS...

#### Monthly Drumming Session (2nd Tuesdays) 7:30 pm-9:00 pm, December 10

Structured drumming sessions! Learn about drumming in the West African style, facilitated by **Sundeep Rao and Robin Pickett** of the local West African percussion ensemble circAfrique. Bring your drum, or ask if a drum is available for use (there are about 6-8) for a small, extra donation. Your drum will need to make at least two distinct sounds. Bells, shakers, and other percussive instruments are welcome! \$10 requested donation per session. Some scholarships available so let us know of your needs. RSVP & details: <http://goo.gl/2gw2I> or information email [info@circafrigue.com](mailto:info@circafrigue.com) or call Suzan at 765-714-6173 or via Facebook pages for UUC or CircAfrique!

#### Quarterly Meditation Workshops 10:00 am-Noon, December 14

Workshop teaches various techniques to aid in stress relief, relaxation and helping to maintain a calm & centered mind. Workshop leader is **Jason Kniola**, Hakomi Body-Centered Psychotherapist. \$10 requested donation. *Child care available if requested by at least 2 participants one week in advance. To RSVP email Jason at [jckniola@hotmail.com](mailto:jckniola@hotmail.com) or via UUC's Facebook page*

#### Journey to Mecca Film & Discussion About Islam 6-8 pm, January 22, 2014

A-REC will sponsor a showing of "Journey to Mecca," a 45-minute movie about young Ibn Battutah, the 14th century Muslim explorer. The movie will be followed by a discussion about Islam, lead by Ahmed Idrissi Alami, Director of Purdue's Arabic Program. For more on the film, please see [http://www.imdb.com/title/tt1235836/?ref=ttextrv\\_exrv\\_tt](http://www.imdb.com/title/tt1235836/?ref=ttextrv_exrv_tt). The movie and discussion will take place on January 22, 2014, from 6-8 pm, in room 101/103. For questions, see Beth Hoffmann ([elizabethhoffmann1@mac.com](mailto:elizabethhoffmann1@mac.com)).

### ONGOING AT UUC!

**Monday Meditation:** Mondays at 7:00 p.m.  
With Larry Hicks

**Zen Meditation:** Thursday 5:30 pm, sitting, chanting & reading  
Saturday 8:00 am, with Russ Flynn

**Taiji Qi Gong:** Monday/Wednesday/Friday  
7:30 am with Lisa Petersen

*Suzan Windnagel*  
*A-REC Chair*  
[Suzan\\_windnagel@yahoo.com](mailto:Suzan_windnagel@yahoo.com)  
765-714-6173







The UU Social Justice Committee was extremely busy during the month of November, engaging in activities with other community groups to oppose HJR-6, a bill coming before the Indiana legislature in January that would amend the Indiana constitution to state that marriage in our state must be between a man and a woman.

On October 27 we had a very successful letter writing party after the Sunday service, as congregants wrote their legislators asking them to oppose HJR-6. We collected 66 letters on Sunday and more were written at home and sent during the following week.

The following Sunday, we sponsored a screening of an excellent documentary on same sex marriage, "In-laws and Outlaws" to help raise awareness of the issues and to encourage attendees to contact their legislators regarding the bill.

We also partnered with the UU Book Group to discuss "The New Jim Crow", a book by Michelle Alexander about how mass incarceration of African American males has led to the deprivation of many of the rights the rest of us take for granted. Alexander spoke about the book at Purdue; with many UU's in attendance. Our discussion followed her presentation.

There is much to be done in the social justice arena; if you are interested in becoming involved in our activities, please join us at our next meeting--Thursday, January 9 at 7:00 pm in Room 101-103.  
*Joan Marshall, Co Chair,  
Social Justice Committee*

**CHANGE FOR CHANGE:  
NOVEMBER-DECEMBER: NICHES**

The theme for Change for Change in 2013 is "Social Justice and Climate Change." All loose coins in the Sunday offering will go to organizations striving to address social justice issues in these areas. Our *November and December* recipient of C4C is NICHES, "Northern Indiana Citizens Helping Ecosystems Survive." This nonprofit 501(c)(3) corporation was formed in 1995 by a diverse group of concerned people acting to protect natural spaces in the face of increasing threat. It recognizes that a strong economy and a continued high quality of life in our area of Indiana is ultimately dependent upon and related to the state of our environment. NICHES protects, restores and sustains Northern Indiana's ecosystems by providing habitat for native species and offering natural places for the education, appreciation and enjoyment of current and future generations. The Northern Indiana landscape is home to ecosystems of native plants and animals that should be protected. Access and connection with natural areas and open space improves the quality of people's lives. People in our region should be able to live among sustainable, healthy, attractive landscapes.

**FAMILY PROMISE**

Many thanks to the UU volunteers who helped with *Family Promise* the week of September 22 to 29: Reverend Charlie Davis, Laura Helms, Tom McConville, Jason Rubsam, and Gabriela Weaver. Our next week to support Our Saviour Lutheran Church as we host homeless families in crisis will be December 15 to 22.  
*Joshua Prokopy,  
UU Family Service Representative*

**WOMEN'S SHELTER COLLECTION**

The local Women's Shelter is running low on personal products as well as blankets and towels. If you have new bottles of shampoo for adults and children, rinses, soaps, toothpaste and toothbrushes, combs, new socks, personal products including feminine items, be sure to leave your donations in the labeled plastic bins in the Fellowship Hall. Please consider giving generously to those less fortunate than ourselves. Thank you.

**LAFAYETTE URBAN MINISTRY  
CHRISTMAS JUBILEE!**

This year's LUM Jubilee celebration will be held on Saturday December 14th, at 10:00 a.m.. This year we will be partnering with the Church of the Brethren and the Lafayette Friends Meeting. Jubilee will be held at the Church of the Brethren in Lafayette. Please mark your calendars and consider volunteering and/ or donating a gift to help make this year's LUM Jubilee Christmas the best ever! Signup sheets and gift tags will be available after church service every Sunday until Jubilee. We still need hosts and co-host/gift wrappers.

Volunteers will be asked to arrive at the **Church of the Brethren, located at 1107 S. 18th. St. Lafayette** between 9:00 a.m. and 9:30 depending on the task you are volunteering for. Jubilee usually takes about 3 hours to complete. You may contact Mary Finley or Jean Tyner with questions. Thanks!

*Mary Finley,  
Co-coordinator LUM Jubilee Christmas*

**BECOME AN ADVOCATE FOR  
INTERNATIONAL PEACE & JUSTICE  
THROUGH THE UU-UNO.**

A Brief History: The Unitarian Universalists have been involved with the United Nations since 1946. Both the Unitarians and the Universalists were active in the League of Nations and later closely monitored the creation of the United Nations. In 1956, the Universalists and Unitarians convened the first annual UN Seminar. In 1961, the two denominations merged to form the Unitarian Universalist Association, and opened an office at the UN the following year.

Since that time, the UU-UNO has made history in promoting religious cooperation for peace, the formation of the International Criminal Court, and promoting equal human rights regardless of gender, gender identity or sexual orientation. In these three critical areas, the UU-UNO can justly say that it changed world history at the United Nations over its first 50 years.

From 1962-1970, the UU-UNO operated as an office of the UUA. From 1971-2011, it operated as an independent office in association with the UUA. Since July 2011, it operates again as an office of the UUA with both United Nations ECOSOC (Economic and Social Council) and DPI/NGO (Department of Public Information/Non-Governing Organization) consultative status, which gives the UU-UNO the ability to engage with the UN in powerful and influential ways.

Under  
Our  
Roof



UU Church photograph & cover photo© by Charles Reynolds.

Our deepest sympathies are extended to Sharon, Doug, and Addie McKnight. Sharon's father, Ambrose F. Dressen, died on November 11, 2013 at the age of 94 in Waconia, Minnesota where he made his lifelong home. He had turned 94 on October 18 of this year.

Mr. Dressen greatly enjoyed vegetable gardening most of his life. He worked as a machinist until he retired, after which he took up woodworking. Early on he enjoyed pheasant and duck hunting, and fishing. He was an avid Minnesota Twins baseball fan.

He and his wife Monica, who survives him along with 3 sons and 2 daughters, including Sharon, had just celebrated their 70th anniversary in June with a big party.

Funeral Mass was at the St. Boniface Catholic Church in Waconia, followed by interment at the church cemetery.

*Linda LeMar, Chair  
Pastoral Care Group*

**ATTENTION AMAZON SHOPPERS...**

Your online purchases at Amazon.com can now benefit the church. If you open the UUC website at uulafayette.wordpress.com and select Links from the menu you'll see an Amazon.com logo. Clicking on this will take you to Amazon.com, where your online shopping experience will be the same as usual - with one key difference. Amazon will pay the UUC a 6% commission on all purchases made in the session. You pay the same Amazon prices and use your normal Amazon account information when checking out.

This program has the potential to be a significant revenue source for the church. All you need to do is remember to use the link on the UUC website. Once you've navigated to Amazon from the UUC website, you may also bookmark the page in your browser for later use. If you have any questions about this program, please contact Mark VanMeeter - [mvanmeeter@comcast.net](mailto:mvanmeeter@comcast.net).

*Mark VanMeeter,  
President, Board of Trustees*

## MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE VISION 2013-2014

The Membership Committee's vision is *to nurture and support members through all stages of their membership journey*. As a part of this vision we would like to encourage the entire church to participate in growing and sustaining our congregation.

## MEMBER BIOGRAPHIES

The Membership Committee is composing biographies of every church member, placed each month on the Membership bulletin board and then published in the newsletter. As new biographies are added to the membership board, old biographies will be "archived" in a scrapbook in the library.

New members will be a priority for biographies so we can get to know our newest congregants quickly. Concurrent with publishing biographies of new members, we'll also be publishing biographies of "old" members.

If you have not yet completed a biography or are a new member/friend of the church, notify Joshua Prokopy, [josh@prokopyfamily.com](mailto:josh@prokopyfamily.com) and he will contact you regarding how to contribute your information for publication in the *Lighted Chalice* Newsletter. Many thanks to Joshua for writing these biographies!

*Sarah Cooke*  
Membership Chairperson  
[sallie@frontier.com](mailto:sallie@frontier.com)



## UU MEMBERSHIP CLASSES, FIRST SUNDAYS, 2013-2014

UU Membership Classes now meet each 1st Sunday on a rotating basis after service, presented by Rev. Charlie Davis and the Membership Committee. Sessions will be held in Rm. 101/103; please select your meal from the potluck and bring your food to the class. Child care will be available if requested one week in advance. If you plan to attend, please RSVP to Sherry Tripodi, [sherrytripodi@yahoo.com](mailto:sherrytripodi@yahoo.com) one week prior to class, so we have an accurate count for child care.

•**DISCOVERING YOUR SPIRITUAL PATH December 8.** What gifts have you kept from your religious heritage? What have you discarded? How do you wish to improve yourself and the world? Come explore and share your stories with others. By speaking our truth and listening to others, we can deepen the meaning of community. Intended for everyone.

•**UU HISTORY January 5.** This class will cover topics such as: How did this denomination get to where it is today and how did Unitarian Christianity and Universalist Christianity evolve into the free religion we have today? By reviewing some of the controversies of the past we see how they shape our present. Intended for everyone new and old to UU congregations.

•**EXPLORING MEMBERSHIP: PARTICIPATING AT UUC, WEST LAFAYETTE February 2.** Learn more about the history of our UU church and what it means to be a member. This course is intended for visitors who are interested in learning more about membership.

## TALK AND TOUR ON SECOND SUNDAYS AFTER SERVICE

Please join us immediately following service each 2nd Sunday for "Talk and Tour," next on November 10. This 15 minute guided walk through the building is designed to familiarize newcomers with our congregation and facilities. Participants do not need to sign up in advance—simply gather at the Newcomers Table outside the Fellowship Hall at 11:45. Thanks!

## Annual Interest Groups 2013-2014

**Everyone – from first-time visitors to lifetime members – is encouraged to join at least one group!**

*This is a great way to get to know other church friends and members!*

- **Book Group.** This group reads a variety of different types of books and usually meets on Sundays. Gale Charlotte [galekchar@gmail.com](mailto:galekchar@gmail.com).
- **Digital Photography.** This group generally meets on Sunday afternoons and members share tips and techniques. Caroline Barnhart, [carolinebarnhart76@gmail.com](mailto:carolinebarnhart76@gmail.com).
- **Families with Kids.** This group meets in family-friendly locations throughout the year. Josh Prokopy, [josh@prokopyfamily.com](mailto:josh@prokopyfamily.com).
- **Feminist Book Group.** This group reads books (mostly fiction) written by women authors about strong female characters. Men are welcome! Usually meets on Friday evenings. Linda Prokopy, [lprokopy@gmail.com](mailto:lprokopy@gmail.com).
- **Herbs Group.** This group focuses on medicinal herbs. Lisa Pantea, [lisapantea@gmail.com](mailto:lisapantea@gmail.com) or JJ Rode, [jj-home@fpnmail.com](mailto:jj-home@fpnmail.com).
- **Looking for Laughs.** This group will go to funny movies, live shows, etc. Dorothy Hughes, [djhugheslmhc@gmail.com](mailto:djhugheslmhc@gmail.com).
- **Men's Night Out.** Get together with other men to relax and make new friends. Mike Tripodi, [mtripodi@girtz.com](mailto:mtripodi@girtz.com).
- **Outdoor Group.** Join in fun group outdoor outings. Activities may include hiking, canoeing, bird watching, etc. Rae Schnapp, [raeschnapp@gmail.com](mailto:raeschnapp@gmail.com).
- **Quilting Bee/Fiber Arts.** This group meets in room 101/103 immediately following service each second Sunday of the month. Amanda Estes, [amandaestes@gmail.com](mailto:amandaestes@gmail.com).
- **Softball Team.** This team plays together during the season and meets periodically during the off-season. Mike Tripodi, [mtripodi@girtz.com](mailto:mtripodi@girtz.com).
- **UU Movie Group.** This group watches movies together at church and at local movie theaters and gathers afterwards to discuss the movies. Joan Marshall [jmarshall@purdue.edu](mailto:jmarshall@purdue.edu), Chuck Reynolds [vmritz@msn.com](mailto:vmritz@msn.com), or Verna Ritz [vmritz@msn.com](mailto:vmritz@msn.com).
- **Walking Group.** Join us after church and coffee, noonish, to walk around the West Lafayette High School track for chatting and exercising. Walkers, runners, everyone is welcome. Noemi Ybarra, [ensenadasailor@gmail.com](mailto:ensenadasailor@gmail.com).
- **Women's Night Out.** Spend time with other women to chat and get to know each other better. Christine Schertz, [cgschertz@gmail.com](mailto:cdschertz@gmail.com). Request to join Facebook page [www.facebook.com/groups/502474896468152/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/502474896468152/).
- **Writers' Group.** This group meets first and third Mondays at 1:30 in Room 106 to share and support each other in writing endeavors. Caroline Barnhart, [carolinebarnhart76@gmail.com](mailto:carolinebarnhart76@gmail.com).

**~ To join a group, please contact the person listed.**

**If you need a phone number, please contact Karin Bergman in the church office,  
743-8812, [uuc@uulafayette.org](mailto:uuc@uulafayette.org)**