

# The Fellowship Focus

of the

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Elkhart

*"A safe community nurturing individual spiritual and ethical growth"*



**December 2013**

## WELCOMING IN PEACE

December is a month to work for peace, pray for peace, and hope for peace. Every time we are kind to the stranger, helpful to the widow, and generous to the poor, we bring peace. While we marvel at the awe of children who hold such wonder in their eyes, we also see the need and loneliness reflected in the eyes of strangers and people we know and love.

December is a good time to reflect on what it means to be Welcoming in myriad ways. We just had the excellent congregational meeting in which we voted to affirm our commitment to the LGBTQ community. But what now? Taking on that designation signals a beginning and not an end. It means being even more loving than we have been, and we can look to the new year as a time to make our world more welcoming for *everyone*.

For many folks there is an expectation that the holiday season will be peaceful or even joyous. This is not the case for many people, either because things are tough this year, or they are tough every year. There are parents who can't buy their children gifts, while others feel keenly alone. For every uplifting, hopeful holiday tale there are many more that don't have happy outcomes.

Giving money helps. Donating time and items helps. Certainly there are ways right here at UUFE to give to families in need, but often those gifts help people we never meet. Being with a person as they—for instance—pass the first anniversary since the death of a loved one is much harder sometimes than writing a check. Sometimes we can be with somebody and never know of their suffering. Being with a person as they go through those hard times is actually the greatest gift, even if we are not aware of how meaningful our presence is. If we treat every person we encounter as potentially being that special baby from the manger, we can be more welcoming in every way to every person.

Wishing you peace this holiday season. In love and peace,

Rev. Amy

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### Sunday Mornings

Service with nursery care 9:00 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.

Adult Forum 10:00 a.m.

Youth Religious Education 10:45 a.m.

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## Our Month of Services

- Dec 1<sup>st</sup> “World AIDS Day”** Kevin DeBeck takes UUFE on a timeline walk through our history from our early awareness of AIDS to its international scope today.
- Dec 8<sup>th</sup> “Living Simply, Simply Living”** Many years ago the book “Unplugging the Christmas Machine” helped us explore ways to enjoy our winter celebrations, even in an overly commercialized culture. This morning Rev. Amy shares these lessons with us.
- Dec 15<sup>th</sup> “Impromptu Pageant”** Join us for a festive and joyful Children’s Pageant at the 10:45am service. Our kids and youth really know how to put on a show that is still, at its heart, worshipful. The 9am program will be a quiet vespers service.
- Dec 22<sup>nd</sup> ONE SERVICE 10am “A Christmas Carol”** Worship Chair Genee Crump directs UUFE players in the timeless classic.
- Dec 24<sup>th</sup> “Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols”** Rejoice with us at 7pm for this service that ends with candlelight. Stay for cookies after, and bring some to share if you can—sugarplums optional.
- Dec 29<sup>th</sup> “Bigger on the Inside”** For the third year in a row, the DeBeck boys get the last word of the calendar year. This year come to hear their lessons from Dr. Who and the TARDIS. Expect to leave knowing more about companions, angels, time travel, and wear a bow tie if you’d like.
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### What about the kids?

School age children (K-6) will start each Sunday in the service, then may be invited to our RE classes which offer lessons, discussion, and art. Nursery care is available during the services for the younger children.

The Elkhart South Bend UU Youth Group (ESBUUY), grades 7-12, meets two Sundays each month from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

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### The Forum

Join our open discussions on **Sunday at 10:00 a.m.** We meet downstairs in room A, courtesy of UUFE’s Heart of the Circle Pagans Group. Everyone is welcome. With so many different but like-minded folks, the topics for discussion are endless. Bring your thoughts and ideas and see where they lead.



*Love is the spirit of this church  
and service is its law.  
To dwell together in peace,  
to seek the truth in love,  
and to help one another,  
This is our covenant.*

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**The Fellowship Focus** is published monthly by members of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Elkhart. All members and friends are invited to submit articles and news items for inclusion by the 15th of each month. Send materials to Katrina Wilson at [katskirx@gmail.com](mailto:katskirx@gmail.com).

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Terry Mark  
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**Ministers Emeriti**  
Rev. Gordon Gibson  
- Knoxville, Tennessee  
  
Rev. Robert T. Dick  
- Foxboro, Massachusetts

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## Book Recommendations for December:

- Out of the Flames by Lawrence and Nancy Goldstone
- The Power of One by Bryce Courtaney
- A Predatory Mission by Judith Campbell\*
- The Immortals of Myrdwyer by Brian Kittrell\*
- Half Broke Horses by Jeanette Walls
- The Toss of a Lemon by Padma Viswanathan

Book marked \* available through interlibrary loan. All other books are available through the Elkhart Public Library. If you would like to recommend a book, contact: Gloria Salavarría at 343-0310 or email [skaggscat1@gmail.com](mailto:skaggscat1@gmail.com)

## Membership Committee

The membership committee has been working on improving our methods of welcoming visitors and greeting everyone who comes to UUFE. As part of our efforts we want to make sure that everyone who wants a name tag has one. If you do not have a name tag and would like one, make sure you put your name on the new name tag clipboard and sign up, or just ask Joan Clayborn, Kathy Lantz, or Rev Amy. We will make sure you get a name tag.

Our next **Breaking Bread** will be smack dab in the middle of the holiday season on **December 14<sup>th</sup>**. The deadline to sign up to attend or host a breaking bread dinner is Sunday December 8<sup>th</sup>. Just fill out a form and put it in the bread box in the foyer. This promises to be a festive evening for all.

Happy Holidays to you all from the Membership Committee.

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## Reverend Amy's Week-At-A-Glance

**Monday**—Office hours 9:00a.m.-noon, often meetings in and out of the church

**Tuesday**—Reading day, often evening meetings

**Wednesday**—Office 9:00a.m.-noon, often meetings in and out of the church

**Thursday**—Office 9:00a.m.- noon, often evening meetings

**Friday**—DAY OFF

**Saturday**—Church activities, Administrative duties

**Sunday**—at UUFE most weeks, most of the day

Call or email for appointments—I want to talk to you!

## Worship & Arts

On December 22<sup>nd</sup>, Worship & Arts will present a special Reader's Theater service. **There will be one service only at 10am that Sunday!** And also in December, we are looking forward to two different DeBeck men speaking in our December services! Thank you to our student pianists, we are very appreciative of the music they are performing. We also have a special Sunday service on December 15<sup>th</sup>, as our children bring us a Solstice Pageant. Finally, the Worship & Arts committee would like to thank you **AGAIN** for bringing water only into the Sanctuary during our worship services.

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**Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup> from 6-8pm** in the Gathering Place. Celebrate our 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of UUFE installing Rev. Amy. Potluck and games night—just like during candidating week!



This year UUFE has adopted families from the Elkhart Women's Shelter to supply with Christmas gifts. Please call or email Rev. Amy for shopping lists or be prepared to offer money to the fund for the Christmas baskets. The date the baskets will be given is **Monday, December 16<sup>th</sup>**. Don't have time to shop or money to donate but want to help them start new lives? A basket for donations of ANY items to pass along will be in the hallway outside Rev. Amy's office.

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### *UUUs: Heart of the Circle Pagans*

The Heart of the Circle Pagans invite you and your family to our annual Yule celebration, **Saturday, December 21<sup>st</sup> at 5pm** in The Gathering Place at UUFE. Yule is the Winter Solstice, the longest night of the year. From this point forward until the Summer Solstice, the days grow longer. Please join us as we celebrate the rebirth of the Sun through Druidic ritual, song and fellowship.

We will gather at 5pm with the ritual to start about 5:30pm. A potluck meal will follow so bring your favorite seasonal fare. A donation to the UUFE food pantry is always welcome.

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### **CHRISTMAS DAY 2-5pm at UUFE**

We bring turkey and board games; you bring sides and a sense of family-style fun. We all set up, feast, play games, sing carols, and clean up together. Join the DeBecks for a wonderful, warm way to spend Christmas with friends and family.



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Want to buy a REALLY special Christmas/Yule gift for someone? We will be having a Valentine's Day Gala to celebrate 30 Days of Love. As soon as a group is formed for the planning, tickets will be advertised at the Fellowship, in the Order of Service, and by email.

If you'd like to be a part of the upcoming Bob Milne concert **Saturday, January 25<sup>th</sup>** at UUFE, put your name on the sign-up sheet under the name tags, or let David Stokely know.

Openings include hall setup, ticket sales, poster distribution, refreshments, sound system, door keeper. Tickets for advance sale will be available. This is a fund raising event...and it's fun, too!

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Thank you to all for helping us celebrate our 60th wedding anniversary. The cake was beautiful and delicious. Special thanks to Genee Crump and Joan Clayborn for being hostesses. And we appreciate all the congratulatory cards from UUs far and near.

Don & Marj Hershberger



## Volunteer of the Month

By Terry T. Mark  
President, UUFE Board of Trustees  
574-361-6210, [klagmorn@gmail.com](mailto:klagmorn@gmail.com)

For organizing and pulling off another fantastic Trunk or Treat event on November 2<sup>nd</sup>, the UUFE Board of Trustees has selected the people who worked on that event as the Volunteers of the Month. The volunteers include Lorna Lane, Holly Vernon, Georgiann and Stacy James, Kathy Lantz, Kevin DeBeck, Katrina Wilson, Rich Hackel's friend Karen, Sean Wilson, and youth group members Henry, Katie, and Julian. Thanks for a fun night, delicious pancakes and sausage, and activities and contests.

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## Board Report, November 2013

By Terry T. Mark, President, UUFE Board of Trustees  
574-361-6210, [klagmorn@gmail.com](mailto:klagmorn@gmail.com)

Last Sunday, Nov. 24, was an incredibly hectic day for me in a good way. It was exciting to see so many of you for our Thanksgiving service and the congregational meeting that followed.

I shared with some of you that day how nervous I felt. It wasn't because I held any doubts about the outcome of the vote, but I was feeling the weight of this moment in UUFE history. I would be chairing a meeting at which an affirmative vote for being recognized as a Welcoming Congregation would represent a monumental step for our community.

More importantly, I hope the ripples of what we did Sunday will be felt all around Elkhart County, north central Indiana and southwest Michigan. By being champions of equal rights and recognition of GLBTQ equality, I believe UUFE will take its place as a voice for change. I hope you'll all take advantage of these opportunities to influence change — from the private conversations you hold with friends, family, and neighbors, to participating in affirmative actions advocating for GLBTQ rights.

But that's not all that we in our small but mighty community do for social justice. I love hearing about the volunteers who help the hungry at Church Community Services and the Broadway church meal. I'm glad to see the Soup of Success table and urge you to support this worthy program that helps women reach their potential.

I look forward to being part of "UUFE Day" at CCS and other causes that are true to our Seven Principals.

And when we do, just as we did Sunday, perhaps we can share a piece of pie.



## BULLETIN BOARD

### Welcoming Congregation Workshops

**Sunday, December 1<sup>st</sup>, 12:15:**  
"AIDS: History, Prevention, Treatment"



### Tuesdays in December (3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, and 31<sup>st</sup>)

Learn how to call voters on a phone bank to defeat HJR6, an anti-LGBT bill. Come anytime, **5-8pm**. Freedom Indiana will teach you how!

The **Science and Society** group meets each month on the **first and third Tuesday at 7pm**. This month...

**December 3<sup>rd</sup>:** We will take a break from Leonardo for a week and see a 90 minute video on Nickola Tesla called "Tesla: Master of Lightning". **December 17<sup>th</sup>:** We will restart the Leonardo Da Vinci Series from Great Courses with two half hour lectures entitled "*Leonardo at Court-Portrait of a Musician*" and "*Leonardo and the Ladies*". Please join us.

Contact Ken Clayborn at [KClayborn@aol.com](mailto:KClayborn@aol.com) for more details.

**UUFE Feasters** will be gathering at the following locations. If you are interested in attending any of the upcoming gatherings, email Kathy Lantz ([ktwlls@hotmail.com](mailto:ktwlls@hotmail.com)) to reserve your spot.

**Wed December 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm**  
(moved up one week due to Christmas)

India Garden

615 W Edison Rd, Mishawaka, IN

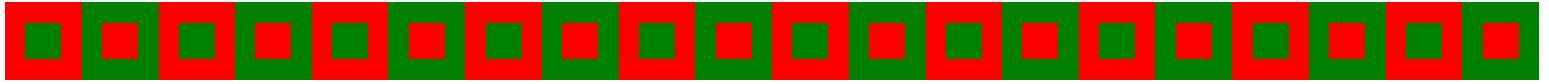
[www.theindiagarden.com](http://www.theindiagarden.com)

One of the best Indian restaurants in Michiana - Gordon says it is his favorite.

The next Music Listening Group will meet at Susan Arneaud's house at **5pm on December 22<sup>nd</sup>**. Susan is only able to play CDs. You can bring any format you wish but she will not have equipment to play any other format. All are invited to attend. As usual if you have not been a regular, please give Susan a call at 264-9064 so she can plan for the light supper and seating. The January meeting will be at Phyllis and Gordon Hostetler's house on January 19<sup>th</sup>. Their phone number is 293-2924.

On Sunday November 17<sup>th</sup>, we met at Martha Pickrell's house. Eleven of us attended and we listened to a wide range of music ranging from folk to classical and vocal, solo and group, to instrumental orchestra and band. Unfortunately we did not hear any jazz or current pop. Themes included Disney, Christmas, Satire, Morning and the Andes.

# December 2013



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

<p><b>1</b></p> <p><b>Genee Crump</b> 9a Service 10a Forum 10:45 Service/RE</p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p>6p Buddhist Society of Elkhart 7p Membership</p>	<p><b>3</b></p> <p><b>Francisco Avila</b> <b>Gloria Carney</b> 5-8p Phone Bank 7p Science and Society</p>	<p><b>4</b></p>	<p><b>5</b></p> <p>7p Adult Discussion</p>	<p><b>6</b></p> <p><b>Cara Lawson-Ball</b></p>	<p><b>7</b></p> <p>6-8p Game Night/ 5th Anniversary of Rev. Amy's Instal- lation</p>
<p><b>8</b></p> <p>9a Service 10a Forum 10:45 Service/RE</p>	<p><b>9</b></p> <p>6p Buddhist Society of Elkhart</p>	<p><b>10</b></p> <p>5-8p Phone Bank</p>	<p><b>11</b></p>	<p><b>12</b></p> <p>7p Adult Discussion</p>	<p><b>13</b></p> <p><b>Patty French</b></p>	<p><b>14</b></p> <p><b>Ron Gill</b>  Breaking Bread Dinners</p>
<p><b>15</b></p> <p>9a Service 10a Forum 10:45 Service/RE 12p Potluck (Hosts: COM/ Stewardship)</p>	<p><b>16</b></p> <p>6p Buddhist Society of Elkhart</p>	<p><b>17</b></p> <p><b>Randi Pickley</b> <b>Don Wycliff</b> 5-8p Phone Bank 7p Science and Society</p>	<p><b>18</b></p> <p><b>Maryann Harman</b> 6:30p Board 6:30p Feasters @ India Garden</p>	<p><b>19</b></p> <p><b>Dale Kern</b> <b>Martie Ludlow</b> <b>Lee Sones</b> 7p Adult Discussion</p>	<p><b>20</b></p>	<p><b>21</b></p> <p><b>5p CUUPS: YULE Celebration</b></p>
<p><b>22</b></p> <p>10a Service</p>	<p><b>23</b></p> <p>6p Buddhist Society of Elkhart</p>	<p><b>24</b></p> <p><b>7p Service</b></p>	<p><b>25</b></p> <p><b>Cindy Benedict</b> 2-5p Christmas with the DeBecks</p>	<p><b>26</b></p> <p>7p Adult Discussion</p>	<p><b>27</b></p>	<p><b>28</b></p> <p><b>Elena Mark</b> <b>Victoria Mark</b></p>
<p><b>29</b></p> <p>9a Service 10a Forum 10:45 Service/RE</p>	<p><b>30</b></p> <p><b>Chris Hunsberger</b> <b>Stacey James</b> <b>Bill Wehner</b> 6p Buddhist Society of Elkhart</p>	<p><b>31</b></p> <p><b>Zanzer Anderson</b> 5-8p Phone Bank</p>	<p>What do you get from sitting on the ice too long?</p>		<p>POLAROID!</p>	

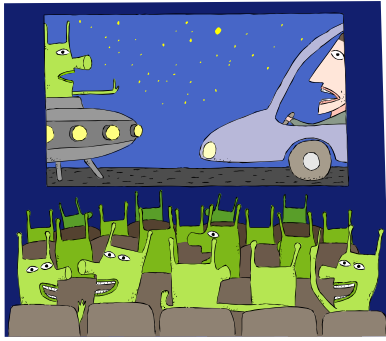




Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Elkhart

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with love to:

## FROM THE ARCHIVES

By Kevin DeBeck

This will not be a shock to any of you who know me, but I've been a geek my whole life, primarily a Star Trek geek. Star Trek and UUism have a lot in common, the foremost being a certain outlook on how society can always be better and more accepting. Of course, in the realms of geek-dom, Star Trek is just merely a slice of the pie. It appears that geek types have been coming to UUFE long before Amy and I arrived. From the December 2003 edition of the Focus came this slice of fellowship life:

“UUFE’s Lord of the Rings festival will kick off at 6:00 PM, Friday, December 5 with a showing of The Fellowship of the Ring and pizza. The Two Towers and more pizza will command our attention at the same hour next Friday, December 12. . .To cap the festival, we will meet midafternoon on Saturday, December 20 to carpool to Encore Theater for Return of the King. . . Signup sheets for all three events are on the table by the nametag tree.”

There is no mention of who organized this geek-fest, but I'll bet a good time was had by all. And, here we are, 10 years later, and this December there is another Tolkien inspired movie about to hit the theaters. It's the second movie based on The Hobbit that will be coming out. While there is nothing officially planned at the church this time around, I suspect there will be another group of UUs headed off to the theater to catch the latest sci-fi, fantastic, geekiest movie showing. It's just what we do!