

The Fellowship Focus

of the

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Elkhart

"A safe community nurturing individual spiritual and ethical growth"



January 2014

HAPPY NEW YEAR, EVERYONE, AND MAY PEACE BE WITH YOU

January is outwardly cold yet full of promise and inner warmth, a lovely juxtaposition. It is yet another time for fresh starts, and this year is no different. Our church year runs like a school year, from July 1st to June 30th, so January is really at midpoint, an excellent time to reflect on how things are going and imagine or plan for the second half of the year.

In 2014, there will be our personal stories to share, more states will recognize equal marriage, and our Fellowship will go through all kinds of usual, annual changes—all very exciting, and thinking about the unknown warms my soul. Little gifts, little pieces of grace.

One plan I will follow is from Standing on the Side of Love—a movement that encourages people to act courageously, with love, toward people and groups who are marginalized or oppressed. Their link is: <http://standingonthesideoflove.org/>

This is their third year of “30 Days of Love” which runs roughly from the weekend we honor Dr. King through Valentine’s Day weekend. This year I will follow it personally, and around UUFE. Its focus is defined each week, so you might use it too.

Week 1: Living the Dream
Week 2: Sharing Our Stories
Week 3: Building Bridges of Love
Week 4: Pause, Reflect, Celebrate!

My hope is that on Friday, February 14th, we can celebrate with our wider community that we are a new Welcoming Congregation. Planning is happening now for an evening of Valentine’s Day fun and festivities—keep looking here and at emails for updates.

In this first month of the new year, may you find little unexpected presents, little gifts of grace to warm you in the cold. And may we keep turning to each other not just during the Thirty Days of Love, but always.

In peace,

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 Sundays

- January 5 **“Coffin and Cradle—the Element of Generosity”**
Each year, on the first Sunday in January, we symbolically bury that which we wish to leave behind and give birth to that which we envision. Join us this Sunday, as the 10 Anniversary Ambassadors (who each gave out \$100 from UUFE) share thoughts on generosity.
- January 12 **“News from Heaven is Overrated”**
by guest speaker Anthony Hunt, Director of WVPE
- January 19 **“Living the Dream”**
Kicking off our 30 Days of Love campaign, Rev. Amy asks, “How might we not just commemorate but emulate Dr. King today?” Today being the third Sunday we will have potluck. And we re-start collecting personal care items for the AIDS ministry in Elkhart.
- January 26 **“A Story! A Story!”**
Most of our faith traditions are based on stories that stir our hearts and raise our consciousness. We can lose ourselves in a story because of feelings evoked, letting their lessons guide us. This morning we will look at some time-honored stories.
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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.

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.*

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.

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Ministers Emeriti

Rev. Gordon Gibson
- Knoxville, Tennessee

Rev. Robert T. Dick
- Foxboro, Massachusetts

Book Recommendations for January:

- Leo Africanus by Amin Maalouf
- The Telling Room by Michael Paterniti
- An Unholy Mission by Judith Campbell *
- Acid Row by Minette Walters
- Let's Explore Diabetes with Owls
by David Sedaris
- Putting Away Childish Things
by Marcus Borg

Books 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 e-mail skaggscat1@gmail.com

Worship & Arts

Jerry and Sheila Shaw have done a wonderful job in decorating our Fellowship and we appreciate their efforts to do so. Anthony Hunt will be speaking at our service on January 12th and we look forward to it! Rev. Amy will be leading us with services in January for the start of *30 Days of Love*, which is part of the *Standing on the Side of Love* program. See you on Sunday!

Cardboard Carnival and Chili Cook-off

Sunday January 26th starting at 2 PM

at the Van Paris Shelter in Bendix Woods County Park

Build your sled from ONLY cardboard, duct tape, and paint. Use different ingredients for the chili, please!

This will be the third year that UUFE and South Bend UU meet at Bendix for fun and food.

Prizes awarded for great sleds and great chili.

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 mtgs

Friday—DAY OFF

Saturday—Church activities, Administrative duties

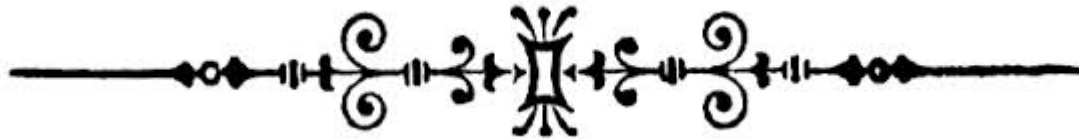
Sunday—at UUFE most weeks, most of the day

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

Membership Committee

The Membership Committee rolled out 2013 with lots of celebrations. The holiday Breaking Bread Dinners were wonderful events held on Saturday, December 14th, with 30 folks participating. We also enjoyed an evening of Christmas caroling, spreading holiday cheer in the UUFE neighborhood on December 20th. You should have heard us sing Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer! This might become an annual tradition. We also have been reaching out to members and friends who we have not seen in awhile at church hoping to reconnect with them, and are in the process of certifying our membership to the UUA. We are looking forward to introducing and participating in other new events in 2014, designed to help build and strengthen our community and draw us all closer together.

We are privileged to have had Dr. Bill Atwood as a member and his wife, Jan, as a friend. Bill died on December 12th and his Celebration of Life will be on Saturday, January 4th at UUFÉ Visitation from 11:00am to 1:00pm, with the service and reception to follow at 1:00pm
O, the Beauty in a life!



On Tuesdays in January we will hold **phone banks**, calling Hoosiers and asking them to call their Indiana legislators and ask them to oppose HJR 6 to keep it from being put on the ballot. HJR 6 has the potential to hurt all Hoosier families, and in particular, gay and lesbian families. Come out and help us make phone calls on **Tuesday nights from 6-9pm** until Indiana legislators call for a vote—check with Rev. Amy for details. More info on the bill can be read at <http://www.freedomindiana.org/protecting-freedom/>



In December we learned about people living with AIDS in our community at a World AIDS Day seminar. Rev. Amy connected with AIDS Assist and found that they do have specific needs. Some of you might remember that we used to collect for them and we will start that again, **on the third Sunday of each month**. Please bring travel or full size personal health care items for collections, which will then be delivered to their office each month.



During our 30 Days of Love, we will also be loving our non-human friends. Bring in anything you might wish to donate to the Humane Society **from January 18th to February 16th** and we will get it to them. Here is the link for their full wishlist: <http://www.elkharthumanesociety.org/donations/wish-list/> or simply bring in an extra can or bag of food.

Have you met Abby Halling?

Abby is originally from Hutchinson, Kansas. She currently lives in Elkhart with her parents and older brother. She is a Senior at Marian High School and is overjoyed that she was recently accepted to the University of Kansas. She is currently undecided on what school to go to and plans to major in elementary education. Her career aspirations are to teach kindergarten, or music. Abby is an animal lover, she has six pets including her dog Ulla, four cats, and hedgehog named O'Neil.

Last Christmas Abby starred as Mrs. Claus in the UUFE production of the North Pole Monologues where she delighted us with her acting talents. She has also had roles in "A Christmas Carol", "Gypsy", and "All Shook Up".

Abby is one of the youngest members of UUFE. She began attending UUFE in spring 2012 and has been an active member of the youth group. She enjoys traveling and being involved, having gone to GA and the inauguration in the past year. She says that what she most likes about UUFE is the people and amount of love and acceptance you receive here. It is a place where you can truly be yourself with no judgment.



Board Report, December 2013

By Terry T. Mark, President, Board of Trustees

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One of my favorite events on the church calendar is only a couple of days in the past as I write this, and already I can't wait until next year's. On Christmas Day at UUFE, a couple dozen of us gathered to share a meal of turkey, mashed potatoes, dressing, shrimp cocktail and pie, then played games and laughed together until dark. Then we worked together to clean up before returning to our homes.

It was another wonderful day with "the family I chose." And like all families, there will be challenges ahead, but also times to celebrate.

At the December board meeting, we selected the members of the Facilities Task Force -- Karen Kehr, T.J. Shaum, Carolee Searles, Vern Thomas and Dwight Fish -- as our Volunteers of the Month. Already their work has yielded a beautiful library/reading area, and we'll soon have an improved coat storage area in the hallway.

As board members, we hope to come up with a way to pay for the task force's recommendation to install a permanent audio-visual system in The Gathering Place.

In terms of challenges, fundraising and staying on budget is a recurring theme for every church board, but I know we'll meet that hurdle with love in our hearts thanks to the fellowship we share every time we come together.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

Tuesday, January 7th at 7 PM: Science and Society Group at UUFE

We will continue the series on Leonardo DaVinci from Great Courses with two half hour lectures entitled *Threats to The Italian Renaissance* and *Leonardo The Inventor and Engineer*.

Tuesday, January 21st at 7 PM: Science and Society Group at UUFE

We will continue the series on Leonardo DaVinci from Great Courses with two half hour lectures entitled *Vitruvian Man, Perfection and Architecture* and *Leonardo The Military Scientist*.

Please join us. Contact Ken Clayborn (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) to reserve your spot.

Wednesday January 22nd at 6:30pm

Columbo's Italian Restaurant
2425 S. Main St. Elkhart, IN
Cozy locally owned family Italian restaurant features pizza, pasta, and chicken dishes. This one came recommended to us by Joan Clayborn.

Wednesday February 26th at 6:30pm

Eddies Steak Shed
12685 Adams Rd, Granger, IN
You can look them up on Facebook. This locally owned steak house has been around forever and is probably best known for their 32oz Sirloin for Two dinner.

Wednesday March 26th at 6:30pm

Tippecanoe Place
620 W. Washington St. South Bend, IN
www.tippe.com
That's right, we're goin' up town. Bring your table manners. (Just kidding.) Fine dining with American cuisine in the lovely historic Studebaker Mansion. After dinner make sure you tour the building.

The next Music Listening night will be at the Hostetler's (574-293-2924) at **5pm on January 19th**. The February gathering will be hosted by Vern Thomas at Dale Kern's house at **5pm on February 2nd**. There is an open invitation to all who read this to attend. Bring up to 10 minutes of recorded (CD, cassette, LP) music to share. If you have not attended regularly, please call the host so that seating and the light supper can be properly planned.

Phyllis reports the following about the December event: At Music Listening on December 22nd at Susan's, we listened to Christmas music both Traditional and Jazzy, including 2 versions of *Christmas Time is Here* from Charlie Brown's Christmas. Several non-Christmas pieces were played as well, including Percy Granger's *In a Country Garden*, R. Strauss' *Also Sprach Zarathustra*, selections by Manheim Steamroller, and a wonderful brass ensemble.

There's still time to sign up to help with the **Bob Milne Concert** on **Saturday, January 25th**. If you'd like to help and be a part of the upcoming event at UUFE put your name on the signup sheet under the name tags, or contact David Stokely. Openings include hall setup, ticket sales, poster distribution, refreshments, sound system, and door keeper. Tickets for advance sale will be available. This is a fund raising event, and it's fun, too.

January 2014



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

			1	2	3 John Dolezal	4 Doris Stickel
5 9a Service 10a Forum 10:45 Service/RE	6 Mike Puro Andrew George 6p Buddhist Society of Elkhart	7 Gloria Salavarría Bob Weiland 6-9p Phone Bank 7p Science and Society	8	9 Brittany Gableman 7p Adult Discussion	10	11 Linda Arbogast Phyllis Hostetler
12 9a Service 10a Forum 10:45 Service/RE	13 Keira Wilson 6p Buddhist Society of Elkhart	14 Barb Kindel Al Zunkel 6-9p Phone Bank	15 Sarah Hunsberger 6:30p Board	16 7p Adult Discussion	17 Catherine McLaughlin	18
19 9a Service 10a Forum 10:45 Service/RE 12p Potluck (hosted by W&A) 5p Music Listening	20 6p Buddhist Society of Elkhart	21 Phil Campagnoli 6-9p Phone Bank 7p Science and Society	22 6:30p Feasters at Columbo's	23 7p Adult Discussion	24	25 7p BOB MILNE CONCERT
26 9a Service 10a Forum 10:45 Service/RE 2p Cardboard Carnival & Chili @Bendix Woods	27 6p Buddhist Society of Elkhart	28 Ryan Cass Kierstan Lane 6-9p Phone Bank	29 Amber Ferrebee	30 Ken Clayborn Diane Larimer Lynne Schmidt 7p Adult Discussion	31	



Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Elkhart

P.O. Box 584

Elkhart, IN 46515-0584

with love to:



FROM THE ARCHIVES

By Kevin DeBeck

I'm a fan of traditions. Since arriving here in Indiana five years ago, our church has held the Cardboard Carnival, where a person can build and exhibit a sled using cardboard, duct tape and paint. For those who are uninitiated, I brought the idea with me from Maine. In my hometown, a Cardboard Carnival is held every year to help raise money for youth organizations, such as PAL (Parents Alternative to Latchkey) which provides a safe place for kids after school. In thinking about fun stuff to do outside in the winter time, it just seemed like a good idea. We left Maine for Virginia in 2004. Winters in Virginia are hit or miss, so there wasn't much of an opportunity to try it out there. When we came to Indiana in 2008, I knew that it was my big chance! The first few years we went to Ox Bow Park and that worked pretty well. For the last three years, we've traveled out to Bendix Woods County Park, just west of South Bend. We've also added a Chili cook-off for those who like the heated shelter and being warm! So, keep your eyes peeled for announcements of the date and time. Let's keep the tradition alive!