

**Upcoming Worship Services**  
**Sunday Worship begins at 10:30 am**

*Unless otherwise stated below, childcare and religious education classes are provided for all children and youth during Sunday morning services.*

**January 25**                      **Reconstruction and Renewal: Long Delayed Celebration**                      **Rev. Hilary**

**February 1**                      **Palestine/Israel: Problem and Promise**                      **Rev. Hilary**  
*Potluck lunch will follow the service.*

**February 8**                      **Of Bits and Bytes: The Ups and Downs of Elevator Speeches**                      **Rev. Hilary**  
*Family Service:* Children and youth will be in the Sanctuary for the beginning of the service.  
*Meet the Minister:* Visitors and newcomers are invited to remain in the Sanctuary following the service for a brief visit with Rev.Hilary.

**February 15**                      **Nodes and Natures: Spiritual Intelligence**                      **Rev. Hilary**  
*Affirmation:* Larry Barr  
*Share the Plate:* Half of the plate cash collected will be donated to Home of the Sparrow.  
Be sure to stay after service for our *2nd annual Chocolate Fest!* See details below.

**Rev. Hilary's Installation**

On Saturday and Sunday, April 18 and 19, there will be a party and formal installation for Reverend Hilary. Please plan to attend. If you are interested in helping to plan or participate in the events that weekend, contact Lois Phillips or Carol Bobbe.

**Food and Fellowship on February 1**

Please mark your calendars for another first-Sunday-of-the-month potluck, February 1, following worship, sponsored by the RE Council. You're also invited to stay after lunch for the Universal Dances of Peace beginning at 1 pm (see Adult Faith Development news for more details). All ages are welcome! If you have children interested in learning the Universal Dances of Peace, please let Colleen know: cvaheyuu@gmail.com. Thank you!

**Inside This Issue...**

- p.2 Minister's Muse... Child Dedications... Radical Hospitality at Work...
- p.3 Build the Budget... FUNdraising... In Sympathy... Agnostic, Humanism, Atheism Discussion... *Focus* newsletter deadlines...
- p.4 Green Corner... Book Discussions... Adult Faith Development Offerings... Parenting through Adoption...
- p.5 District Assembly workshop proposals wanted... Winter WomanSpirit... Westward Ho Colorado... CLF on-line courses...Job Ministry... EQUUAL Access...
- p.6 Upcoming Meetings & Events...

**2nd Annual Chocolate Fest**

The Membership Committee invites all chocolate lovers to be sure to save Sunday, February 15 for our very popular, second annual ChocolateFest. This will take place right after the worship service. We request that any and all of you bring your favorite chocolate dish (finger food only, please!) -- cookies, cookie bars, brownies, candy, and anything else you can think of -- and either take them to the kitchen or place them on the buffet tables before the service.

---

---

## The Minister's Muse

---

There is no way to write this newsletter column without recognizing that this week is a truly historical week. I find myself excited in a new way - not because I expect that the world is going to turn around because the United States has elected an African American President. It really is a historic time. I wrote about defining moments - this surely is one. But, I'll have time to talk about this inauguration this coming Sunday. In the meantime, a lot of other history is unfolding right now - around the world. My mind has been very much on the unrest in Sri Lanka, where Lea, our oldest, is working on her Fulbright for the year. I feel concerned for India's uneasy relationship with Pakistan. We have some time line for leaving Iraq. Things are tense with Iran. And I have been heartbroken at the War on Gaza. These global issues concern us as Americans and as religious persons - for most issues have both a political and a religious aspect. Our religious views - our principles plant us squarely in the world and pull us into current events. I am not one who likes to foment controversy - neither do I want to avoid the sensitive issues of our times. Thus it is important to speak from the pulpit to these issues - as well as to the search for meaning, the hunger for connection, the longing to explore the depths of our dreams and the breadth of human spiritual life. What all of this requires is mutual trust - something that builds over time as we explore things together. Yes - there will be times that we disagree - but that is not the point - the point is to respectfully engage in the world of ideas and to be stretched by one another. For me the point is to remember at all times that I am minister to the full congregation and not simply to those who agree with me - particularly since I've learned over time that a good dialogue can change my mind as well as touch my heart. I look forward to our conversations in the future - to the many challenging things we will explore together as well as the many new ideas we will encounter.

I am still aware of beginning here, myself - this still feels very new. I'm still trying to remember the names of every person here and to connect children to families. It's still the beginning for me. I feel grateful that I only need to learn 300 plus names - and not three hundred million plus.

Finally, I have had time to make time to plan to do some things I really love. The first is to offer a monthly Meet the Minister session after the service. It will be a way to welcome newcomers and connect with them as the minister. It will also be a way to support the busy and dedicated Membership Committee, as they lead us toward becoming a more and more hospitable church - a growing church.

The next is to offer some adult education in the form of Scripture Study. This is less like Bible study and more like Torah Study - it will be an opportunity to encounter Biblical stories and wrestle out the meanings for and among ourselves. We will begin with some reading together and also watching a little of the Bill Moyers' classic Genesis series. There will only be 6 sessions - as time is limited this year. But these will be preparatory classes making the way for deeper study in the fall. There will be ample time for conversation and getting to know one another through the study of Scripture. In my thinking these Scriptures are not sacred because they are from the hand of God - but because they reflect human dilemmas, dreams, failures, and our moral struggles in the world. If you are interested in registering for these classes they will take place 1st & 3rd Thursday in March, April, and May - you can check your Focus and Sunday Times for more information. To register, sign up on the bulletin board across from the church office or call the office.

---

---

### Child Dedications

On February 8, we will be offering a Child Dedication for children who have more recently joined our congregation or who have not yet been dedicated. The children will be given the blessing and support of the congregation and receive a special gift. If your child and you are interested please contact Colleen Vahey, our Director of Religious Education by February 1. You will also be asked to share in writing something brief (approximately 40 words) about your child's special qualities to be printed in the order of service on that day.

---

---

### Radical Hospitality At Work

We are asking all of you who are able-bodied to begin parking in either the park district lot south of the church or the school district lot across the street on Sunday mornings, even if there are empty spots in the church's main parking lot. We want to save as many empty spots as possible in the main lot for visitors. We believe this will be more welcoming and friendly to those who visit for the first time, since we have no signs noting the additional parking — and we don't want anyone to give up and drive home for lack of a parking place!

...The Membership Committee

## Building Our Budget

### First meeting Jan 25 after the service

Now that we've turned the page to 2009, it's time to look ahead to the next church year which starts July 1. Our budget process is as transparent and open as you can get - the congregation does the work in four easy(?) steps.

Step One: On Sunday, Jan. 25 post-service, we will meet to discuss new budget items for the coming church year. This is NOT the place for committees or programs to present their budget requests - this is strictly for NEW items. Anyone proposing a new idea will be responsible to research and present funding proposals for THREE different levels (think Good, Better, Best) at the next meeting. This meeting usually runs 30-45 minutes.

Step Two: We will all meet again on Sunday, February 22, after the service again, to Build a Proposed Budget. This replaces the Potluck Dinner meeting as a way to make it accessible for more members. At this meeting the Board, programs and committees will present their budget requests and the congregation will decide what gets funded and at what level. New items will also be considered and at the end of this meeting, we will have a Proposed Budget that will reflect our goals for the coming year. This meeting usually runs 2-2 1/2 hours (yes, we'll have food and childcare).

Step Three: The Annual Budget Drive run by the Stewardship Team will collect member pledges for next year. Your generous support of Countryside will allow us to accomplish the goals set forth in the Proposed Budget.

Step Four: At the May Congregational Meeting, we will reconcile our Proposed Budget with the proceeds of the Annual Budget Drive. Again - the congregation will make the decisions that will let us approve a balanced budget for the 2009-10 fiscal year.

This is Church Democracy in Action, so please save these dates and plan to attend. Questions? Call or email Treasurer Greg Blus.

## Agnosticism, Humanism, Atheism Group

The AHA discussion group will meet next on Tuesday, February 3 at 7 pm in Room 6. At our last meeting we came very close to answering the Meaning of Life Questions so if you come in February you may be lucky enough to finally get that answer you've been looking for or at least get to know someone who does have that answer.

## In Sympathy

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to Amanda and Andy Richards on the death of Amanda's mother on January 16.

## FUNdraising News

We have begun a fundraising program of selling quality gourmet desserts for the Spring Holidays. Please take an order form and sign up your friends, neighbors and co-workers!

### Souper Sundays

Starting soon ... if you love to make soup, please take a few quart containers and fill them with your home-made soup. Then bring them to church Sunday and let your fellow church family members buy your creations and enjoy a warm bowl after church. A great way to share, and raise money for our house!

Bread bakers? You can bring in a loaf to go along with the soup! (hint, hint)

Calling all helpers! If you would like to help in FUNdraising, please contact Deeya Pavelle.

## Upcoming *Focus* Deadlines February 2 and 16 @ 9 am

Submissions can be submitted to the church office  
or e-mailed to [ccuu@ccuu.org](mailto:ccuu@ccuu.org).

## focus

### Published by Countryside Church

1025 N. Smith Road • Palatine, IL • 60067 • (847) 359-8440

Website: [www.ccuu.org](http://www.ccuu.org) • Fax: (847) 359-4728

e-mail: [ccuu@ccuu.org](mailto:ccuu@ccuu.org)

Church Office Hours *Mon, Tues, Thurs: 9am-2pm  
Weds: 2-8 pm; Fri:9am-Noon*

Minister *Hilary Landau Krivchenia*  
Director of Religious Education *Colleen Vahey*  
Music Director & Pianist *Jeffrey Hamrick*  
Minister Emeritus *Dr. Ruppert L. Lovely*  
Community-Based Minister *Dr. C. Scot Giles*  
Music Director Emeritus *John Denny*  
Congregational Administrator *Laurie Lantz*

### Lay Ministers

Ken Bobbe and Trudy Kleckner, Coordinators  
Richard Chay                      Joyce Swedlund  
Larry Frank                        Kimberly Tilford  
Jane Matthews                    Dan Yokas

For assistance from our Lay or Care Ministries,  
please call Ken or Trudy.

---

---

## Green Corner

Check out the Green Sanctuary bulletin board (next to the office door) for information on the following topics:

**FOOD:** You can visit a Farmer's Market even in winter! Purchase cheese, meat and poultry, soap, syrup, honey, wool, yogurt, vinegars, dried fruit, milled flours, sauces and salsas, preserves, cider, and fresh produce as available. Several UU churches are market sites. Visit [www.localharvest.org/farmers-markets](http://www.localharvest.org/farmers-markets) for more information.

**REMODELING:** Read about green guidelines, sources for green products, payback from improvements, "greenwashing." You can also visit [regreenprogram.org](http://regreenprogram.org), [greenseal.org](http://greenseal.org), [ecologo.org](http://ecologo.org), [epa-gov/WaterSense](http://epa-gov/WaterSense), [greenguard.org](http://greenguard.org), [fscus.org](http://fscus.org), [energystar.gov](http://energystar.gov) and [rehabadvisor.pathnet.org](http://rehabadvisor.pathnet.org).

**RESTORE:** Purchase or donate home repair and building materials or volunteer at the Habitat Restore in Elgin. Visit [www.ReStoreElgin.org](http://www.ReStoreElgin.org) for more information.

---

## Book Discussions

### Book Circle

All are warmly welcome to join the Book Circle discussions. Our next selection is *A People's History of the United States* by Howard Zinn. We will cover the first 12 chapters on Sunday, March 1, and the remainder on Sunday, March 29. Both meetings will be held at 6:30 pm in room 6. Zinn's book "tells America's story from the point of view of - and in the words of - America's women, factory workers, African Americans, Native Americans, working poor, and immigrant laborers." It spans the years from 1492 - 2000.

### Last Mondays Book Discussion

Please join us at 7 pm in the Stokes Room on the last Monday of the month. Our upcoming discussions are:

- January 26: *The Three Musketeers* by Alexandre Dumas
- February 23: *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao* by Junot Diaz. *Winner of the 2008 Pulitzer Prize.* From The Washington Post: "...weirdly wonderful ...Oscar clearly is not intended to function as a hero in the classical sense. Is he meant primarily to symbolize the tangled significance of desire, exile and homecoming? Or is he a 307-lb. warning that only slim guys get the girls? Are we to wring from his ample flesh more of that anguished diaspora stuff? Could be, but I find sufficient meaning in the sheer joy of absorbing Diaz's sentences, each rolled out with all the nerdy, wordy flair of an audacious imagination and a vocabulary to match."

---

---

## Adult Faith Development News

### Dances of Universal Peace

Sunday, Feb. 1, 1:00-3:00. We are pleased to welcome, Marcia Heeter, who has been studying the Dances of Universal Peace since 1994, to lead us in this powerful experience. We will use simple music, lyrics and movements to touch the spiritual essence within ourselves and others. No musical or dance experience is needed; participation, not presentation, is the focus. All are welcome.

### Belly-Dancing

Sunday afternoons. To learn more contact instructor and member, Caryann Wood.

### Dream Group Workshop

Saturday, Feb. 7, 1:00-3:00 p.m. Join us as we explore the basic elements of dreams and their place in our lives from a Jungian perspective. Workshop leaders are: Diane M. Miller, MPS, and Pat Cochran, Psy.D. Executive Director of the CG Jung Center in Evanston. Recommended reading: "Inner Work" by Robert A. Johnson; Suggested donation: \$10.

### Common Ground Lecture February 8

#### "Islam in Interesting Times"

Sunday, Feb. 8, 1:30-3:00 p.m. The world of Islam is living through a perfect storm — internal reforms to acclimate to the modern world, along with the internal challenges of Islamic extremism and the external pressures of phobia, hatred and racism. This presentation will reflect the promise as well as the challenge that Islamic reformers are creatively engaging in these complex times.

Dr. Ahmad Sadri is Professor of Sociology and Chair of Islamic World Studies at Lake Forest College. The author of numerous books, Sadri has also been a columnist for Lebanon's Daily Star newspaper and is a frequent commentator on NPR's "Worldview". Suggested donation: \$10.

---

## Parenting Through Adoption

Chicago Area Families for Adoption invites you to attend this amazing opportunity to collect information on adoption and parenting topics, network with other families, and meet key professionals in the adoption industry. It will be held Saturday, March 14, 7:45 am - 4 pm, at the Krasa Center of Benedictine University.

For details and registration information, please visit <http://www.caffa.org/2009conference.html>. Registration rates go up after February 21. You may also contact Shila Khan, Countryside Church member and CAFFA President, [president@caffa.org](mailto:president@caffa.org).

---

---

## Central Midwest District-UUA

### Workshop Proposals Wanted

The Central Midwest District of the Unitarian Universalist Assn. will be accepting workshop proposals for District Assembly (DA) until the last week of January. You can submit a proposal using the link on our district website: [www.cmwd-uua.org](http://www.cmwd-uua.org) and clicking on the hyperlink in the left-hand column called "DA workshop application."

The theme for this year's DA is "Leadership in Times of Profound Change," and our keynote speaker is Sharon Daloz Parks. DA will be held at the Marriott hotel in Waukesha, WI.

While we are interested in workshops related to the theme, we are also interested in having congregational leaders sharing projects, programs and resources that have been successful and beneficial in your religious community. So if something exciting is happening in your congregation, please submit an application!

### Winter WomanSpirit

#### Weaving Our Sacred Tapestry

The Central Midwest District Women and Religion Committee and the women of the Universalist Unitarian Church of Peoria invite you to "weave" your Inner Feminine Divine at the 21st annual Winter WomanSpirit on February 20-22 at the UU Church, 3000 W Richwoods Blvd, Peoria, IL. Take part in a variety of workshops and gatherings to celebrate both common and individual beliefs and practices.

Our keynote speaker will be Shelley Graff, feminist, teacher, healer and songwriter. Personal empowerment and transformation are the common themes of Shelley's as she shares her stories through song. To find out more about Shelley, visit [www.shelleyg.com](http://www.shelleyg.com).

Register online at [www.regonline.com/640335](http://www.regonline.com/640335). If you have questions, contact the Registrar at [wws@womenandreligion.org](mailto:wws@womenandreligion.org). Sponsored by the WWS2009 Committee of UUC Peoria and Women & Religion of the Central Midwest District-UUA.

### Church of the Larger Fellowship (CLF) Online Courses

CLF offers an ongoing self-study guide of [A Chosen Faith](#) by John Buehrens and Forrest Church.

Being offered Feb. 9-Mar. 16 is *The Soul of Nature: A Journey into the Poetry of Mary Oliver*. For information about these courses and others, visit CLF's website, [www.clfuu.org/learn](http://www.clfuu.org/learn), or contact them by phone, 617-948-6150, or email [re@clfuu.org](mailto:re@clfuu.org).

## Job Ministry

The St. Hubert Job and Networking Ministry sponsors programs twice monthly and has affiliations with 26 other area churches (including Countryside UU) to host events and seminars to assist the unemployed, under employed and the career changer. If you have questions regarding St. Hubert Job Ministry Events, call Bob Podgorski at 847-925-6005.

\* [The Purpose Driven Job Search](#). January 26, 7 - 9:15pm, St. Hubert Ministry Center, 729 Grand Canyon, Hoffman Estates. Our coordinator, Bob Podgorski will present a program directed to how clear purpose and direction can lead to maximizing networking help and moving your campaign to higher productivity. Formal Networking will follow the presentation.

\* [Confidence in Your Job Search](#). January 31, 9:30 am - Noon, Itasca Library, 500 W Irving Park Rd, Itasca. Employers tell us that one of the key characteristics they look for in a candidate is their confidence in their ability to perform their occupations. Join Bob Podgorski, Ministry coordinator for an insightful presentation on building your self-confidence and selling yourself to an employer. Informal Networking will follow the event.

---

### EQUAL Access has a new website

Visit [www.equalaccess.org](http://www.equalaccess.org)  
to learn more about  
promoting equality and access  
for UUs with disabilities  
through coalition building, education,  
creation of policies and empowerment.

---

### Westward Ho Colorado

The UU Church of Pueblo, Colorado invites you to spend September 22-28 on the front range of the Rocky Mountains. Experience the history, art, and geographical features of this southwestern community in the company of fellow Unitarian Universalists.

The excursion package includes: pick up and drop off at the Colorado Springs Airport, bed and breakfast with a UU host family, welcoming dinner, three restaurant dinners, and BarBQ on a working ranch, lunches on day trips and day of departure, air conditioned van for day trips with tour escort, all admission fees.

Excursion Cost is \$775 per person. For further info and registration forms, contact Pat Spahr, 719-543-5249, or Dan Stone, 719-542-4882 or [dhstone@aculink.net](mailto:dhstone@aculink.net).

## Upcoming Meetings and Events

A complete calendar of all events and meetings held in the building is on the website: [www.ccuu.org](http://www.ccuu.org). If your church meeting is not listed there, please fill out a room reservation form and submit it to the church office.

Wed 1/21	6:30pm	All My Money Ctte Mtg	Sun 2/1	1pm	Dances of Universal Peace
	7pm	Compassionate Comm. Support Group		1pm	Children's Dances of Universal Peace
	7pm	Northwest Suburban NOW Mtg		7pm	Great Plains Zen Center Meditation
Thu 1/22	6pm	Pride Youth		7pm	Compassionate Comm. Covenant Group
	7:15pm	Church Choir Rehearsal	Tue 2/3	6:15pm	Motherhood Kinship Circle
Sat 1/24	9am	Spiritual Guide Training		7pm	Agnosticism, Humanism, Atheism Grp
Sun 1/25	9am	OWL (4th-5th grades)		7pm	Program Council
	9:15am	Open Forum Discussion	Wed 2/4	7:30pm	Menzgroup Covenant Group
	11:30am	Build-the-Budget Meeting #1	Thu 2/5	6pm	Pride Youth
	12pm	Rainbow Friends Meeting		7:15pm	Church Choir Rehearsal
	12pm	Movement for Fun Group	Sat 2/7	9am	Spiritual Guide Training
	12pm	OWL (7-9)		1pm	Dream Workshop
	7pm	Great Plains Zen Center Meditation	Sun 2/8	8:30am	Conversations with God Covenant Grp
Mon 1/26	7pm	Book Discussion: <i>Three Musketeers</i>		9am	OWL (4th-5th grades)
Wed 1/28	7pm	Compassionate Comm. Covenant Grp		9:15am	Open Forum Discussion
	7pm	Worship Council Meeting		11:30am	Meet the Minister
	7pm	Wednesday Kinship Circle		12pm	RE Council Mtg
Thu 1/29	6pm	Pride Youth		12pm	Movement for Fun Group
	7:15pm	Church Choir Rehearsal		12:15pm	Green Sanctuary Meeting
Sun 2/1	9am	Buddhist Dharma Group		1:30pm	Common Ground Lecture
	9am	OWL (4th-5th grades)		7pm	Great Plains Zen Center Meditation
	9:15am	Open Forum Discussion	Tue 2/10	7:30pm	Tuesday Kinship Circle
	11:30am	Potluck Lunch	Wed 2/11	7pm	Finance Ctte Mtg
	12pm	OWL (7-9)			

Return Service Requested  
Time-dated Material - Prompt Delivery Requested

**COUNTRYSIDE CHURCH**  
Unitarian Universalist  
1025 Smith Road  
Palatine, Illinois 60067  
(847) 359-8440