



## Noteworthy

### Morning Song to Begin January 10

We are excited to announce Morning Song, an intergenerational music, rhythm, and movement experience! All ages are invited to join us in Atherton Hall at 9:15 a.m. on the second, third, and fourth Sundays of every month starting Jan. 10 and participate in facilitated music activities, including sing-alongs, drumming, and whatever else our creative spirit leads us to explore!

We hope that Morning Song will provide new opportunities for us to enrich our spiritual lives through music. All are welcome! Sponsored by the children's music task force: Jeff Hamrick, Colleen Vahey, Meredith Boulet, Robin Dodds, and Melanie Schikore.

### Share the Warmth on December 18

Warm your spirit with song!  
Warm your soul in community!  
Warm your tummy with goodies!  
Warm your heart by giving!

Join in a fun evening of holiday caroling and cookies on Friday, December 18 from 7-9 pm in Atherton Hall. Bring your favorite holiday cookies to share. Coffee, tea and hot chocolate will be provided.

If you are able, we are asking for donations of nonperishable food items for the Palatine Township Food Pantry. Any nonperishable food item is welcome, but to see an up-to-date list of food items in particular need go to their website: [www.palatinetownship.com/foodpantry](http://www.palatinetownship.com/foodpantry). The Palatine Township Food Pantry is a source of nutrition that serves senior citizens, the disabled and low-income families and individuals, who reside in the Township, with non-perishable food on a monthly basis. Presently, the Pantry is assisting approximately 250 families a month.

### YHOP Bake Sale This Sunday

During coffee hour on December 20, there will be a bake sale to benefit the Palatine Township Food Pantry, through Youth Hunger Opposition in Palatine (YHOP). To learn more about this impressive group, please visit their website -- <http://www.yhop.org>.

## Message from the President

May you all find this season to be a meaningful time, with friends and family close by. I am especially grateful for my Countryside Church family this year and am looking forward to a bright new year with you. ...Judy

## Call for Electronics, Small Appliances

We are considering a sale of electronics, small appliances and similar items in the spring. If you are replacing a television set, computer, espresso maker or upgrading to the latest version of a game system over the holidays, consider holding on to your current model for a couple of months and donating it to a spring fundraising sale to benefit Countryside.

Items should be of a recent vintage and in good working condition. To let us know that you have items for the sale or for questions, please contact Siri Laurin or Karen Epps.

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## Upcoming Focus Deadlines

January 4 and February 1

Submit articles by 9 am to [ccuu@ccuu.org](mailto:ccuu@ccuu.org)

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## The Minister's Muse

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*A religion old or new, that stressed the magnificence of the universe as revealed by modern science, might be able to draw forth reserves of reverence and awe hardly tapped by the conventional faiths. Sooner or later, such a religion will emerge. ~Carl Sagan*

It's the season of awe and hope - the season of gifts and bounty. But when Mark emailed this quotation of Carl Sagan, I was reminded of what I really find myself celebrating at this time of year. On Sunday, in the sermon, I spoke of my secret (well - I guess not so secret at this point) wish that I could be more of a sort of Martha Stewart around the holidays and said that the best I usually do is to feel grateful when a good snowfall does my decorating for me. I was sort of kidding - but not really so much. For one thing, it does make the holiday look properly attired. For another, it is truly beautiful.

There is a starkness in winter, but it is fitting, proportional - beautiful. For all the beauty of the winter holidays - and I do really enjoy them, particularly the Christmas Eve service. The darkness that is so deep - particularly when you are a kid - on Christmas Eve, and the candlelight that is passed from person to person that gradually fills the sanctuary with soft light. And still, there is no beauty greater or more awe inspiring than the dark night outdoors and the stars that fill it. I have been in awe of that all my life. I remember the first time I looked through a telescope - it was in Dr. Schroeder's Astronomy class in college. We looked at the moon. It was amazing. It kindled in me a complete enchantment with the stars, planets, and the infinite expanse of the cosmos - and our improbable evolution on this most generous of planets. I knew that the Big Bang - or the Great Radiance - was a story of sacred proportion - mythic, huge, dramatic, and elegant. It inspired complete awe in me. When I became involved in Unitarian Universalism, it was because I knew that in this faith there would be room for someone who saw our universe history as a sacred story and wanted to celebrate it. It was not until I got to see Connie Barlow and Michael Dowd speak that I realized that this celebration could be a signature message of our faith. Some of you got to see Rev. Michael Dowd when he came here for a visit last year. We had planned on bringing him back this October, but he was diagnosed with lymphoma and has been staying in the Seattle area to get treatment. I keep up with him, in part, through his Facebook page where he updates folks and also makes it clear that his sense of passionate commitment to the story of evolution and the cosmos is far from dimmed. When I first heard Connie and Michael speak, I recognized that they had found a way to celebrate and honor our journey from stardust to consciousness - a religious way. They had brought it to our churches - like a gift. A gift that could give us a birth narrative of cosmic proportion - a creation story of beauty and drama. If Carl Sagan could have heard Michael and Connie speak, he would have realized that in their itinerant preaching, in their evangelical celebration of the cosmos, and in our churches, there is just that religion he hoped would emerge.

Often at Christmastime we return to Reading #621 by Margaret Gooding -

*They told me that when Jesus was born a star appeared in the heavens above the place where the young child lay.*

*When I was very young I had no trouble believing wondrous things; I believed in the star.*

*It was a wonderful miracle, part of a long ago story, foretelling an uncommon life.*

*They told me a super nova appeared in the heavens in its dying burst of fire.*

*When I was older and believed in science and reason I believed the story of the star explained.*

*But I found I was unwilling to give up the star, fitting symbol for the birth of one whose uncommon life has been long remembered.*

*The star explained became the star understood, for Jesus, for Buddha, for Zarathustra.*

*Why not a star? Some bright star shines somewhere in the heavens each time a child is born.*

*Who knows what it may foretell?*

*Who knows what uncommon life may yet again unfold, if we but give it a chance?"*

For me, the magic of Christmas is in just the way that the miracle of starshine and stardust and the birth of a child come together - uniting the miracle of creation and the wonder and challenge of human existence. This has been, so far, a blessed holiday season - Hanukkah, Chalica, Advent, Yule, Christmas... we know how to celebrate together. I wish Carl Sagan were alive and I could invite him to a holiday season in our churches, where we revere both human life and the wonder of the cosmos. Why not a star - marking the birth place of an amazing human life - why not a human life - as a sign that the first flash of light from a star was, in fact, a herald of all the human life - all the life on all the planets where it may be? Why not a star - why not awe at that star at every star? Why not a child?

## Introducing Our Sexton

Countryside Church now has a sexton! Jim Gulledge started December 1 and is replacing the cleaning service we have had. In addition, he will manage the building and handle minor repairs. He is working 20 hours per week but will also be available for special events. Jim has retired as a technical writer and at one time, owned a handyman business. If you or your committee has maintenance needs, you may put a note in his mailbox in the church office (there's a small notebook in which you may write your concerns) or speak directly with Jim if you see him or speak with Laurie in the church office. Welcome, Jim!

## Honoring Bob Spielman

On Sunday, January 17, 2010, please plan to attend a celebration after the church service, honoring Bob Spielman. Bob is retiring from the volunteer position he has held for more than 15 years, that of Care Ministry Coordinator. As Care Ministry Coordinator, Bob would contact members that had previously agreed to provide services to members in need of transportation, meals, visits, check-in phone calls, shopping, or help at memorial services. Bob would then make sure these services were provided in a timely manner. His contribution to Countryside Church in coordinating these activities has been outstanding! Come and help us celebrate! Cake and coffee will be served.

## GoodSearch for Church

When you use GoodSearch and GoodShop and identify Countryside Church UU as the non-profit you want to support, the church earns a penny every time you search the Internet and a percentage of every purchase you make online! This is an on-going fundraiser for the church, so go to [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com) or [www.goodshop.com](http://www.goodshop.com) and try it out!



*Caring for the present, building for the future*

In your holiday giving, please remember the 'Building Countryside' campaign, as we raise the necessary funds to upgrade our building and make Countryside a warm, engaging, and vital church.

## In Sympathy

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to

- \* Judy Ball for the death of her brother on November 25
- \* Tim Klepaczyk for the death of his mother on November 25.
- \* Jeff Hamrick for the death of his stepfather on November 27.
- \* Carol Javens for the death of her father.

## Rev. Hilary on Vacation

Rev. Hilary will be on vacation and on study leave from Christmas until January 12. In case of emergency, please contact Ken Bobbe or Trudy Kleckner on Lay Ministry, Chris Smith on Committee on Ministry, Board President Judy Ball, or the Church Office.

## Meet the Minister

Once a month, visitors and new folks with questions about Countryside Church and Unitarian Universalism are welcome to meet with Rev. Hilary. Join her in the sanctuary after the greeting line has finished and you have gotten a cup of coffee or tea. She looks forward to meeting you, having a chance to connect and to answer questions. Upcoming Meet the Minister: Jan 17, Feb 21.

## focus

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Church Office Hours *Mon-Thurs: 9am-3pm*  
*Fri: 9am-Noon*

Minister *Hilary Landau Krivchenia*  
[RevHilaryK@ccuu.org](mailto:RevHilaryK@ccuu.org)

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[RE@ccuu.org](mailto:RE@ccuu.org)

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[Music@ccuu.org](mailto:Music@ccuu.org)

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.

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## Upcoming Worship Services

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*Unless otherwise noted, childcare and religious education classes are provided for all children and youth during Sunday morning services, which begin at 10:30 am.*

**December 20**

**Gifts of the Season**

**Colleen Vahey**

*All-Church Service:* Children and Youth will attend the service with their families. Childcare will be available in Rm.7 for infants and younger children.

*Share-the-Plate:* Half of the cash collected in the offering will be donated to Women In Need Growing Stronger (WINGS), a local charitable organization that helps homeless and abused women and children by offering shelter, education, guidance and support. They provide safe, secure living environments, through transitional housing and emergency shelter, that allow women to go to school, work, and care for themselves and their children.

**December 20 at 6:45pm**

**Winter Solstice Service**

**Leslie Peet**

The longest night of the year and the “rebirth” of the Sun is a time for celebration with readings, music, and song, and this year, we will be doing something very special - a spiral labyrinth of pine boughs. Bring a dish or drink to share for a feast after the service. Gather in the narthex at 6:45 pm.

**Thursday, December 24 at 8pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service**

Special music, candlelight, and the message will bring alive the sense of hope and home that is at the heart of the winter holiday season. Come to Countryside on Christmas Eve -- Come Home to Countryside.

*Beginning at approximately 7:45, we will enjoy a preservice sing of Christmas Hymns and Carols led by members of the congregation.*

Our Christmas Eve offering will be for the Minister’s Discretionary Fund, which is used by the minister to assist those in need, both in the congregation and in the larger community.

*No childcare will be available; children are welcome in the service.*

**December 27**

**Guest Worship Leader: Matt Meyer**

We welcome the return of Matt Meyer, who led us in worship the past two Decembers. He is a native of the Chicago suburbs, is a graduate of the Berklee College of Music and has studied abroad in Cuba, Ghana, and Central America. Matt has led worship for dozens of UU congregations including General Assembly. Matt is active with the UU Young Adult movement and is always seeking new and better ways to combine music, spirituality and social justice work.

*All-Church Service:* Children and Youth will attend the service with their families. Childcare will be available in Rm.7 for infants and younger children.

**January 3**

**Lessons in Love**

**Janeane Weprin**

**January 10**

**Pulpit Guest TBA**

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### Sharing the Light

You may have noticed a table in the sanctuary with tealights on it. We use it for our 3rd and 4th Tuesday evening worship services. Those services are short worships that allow us to pause in the week for a time of reflection before heading into meetings or back into our busy lives. They remind us that we are here not just to do volunteer work but because we believe together in this faith and this community and therefore we volunteer. We use the candles so that people can silently light them for their joys and sorrows. The tealights are also available on Sundays for those who would like to kindle a flame to honor something that weighs heavy on your heart or something in which you are rejoicing.

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### No Spirit Circle for All Ages or Great Choir on January 3

We encourage you to try the new Morning Song musical experience for all ages beginning January 10 at 9:30 am, and we look forward to seeing you again at Spirit Circle or in the Great Choir on the first Sunday in February!

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### Transmission Meditations

The Journey Inward group will be having Transmission Meditations on the 1st, 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month from 7 to 8:30 pm starting January 6, 2010.

We will begin with a brief introduction to how do the Transmission Meditation. We will then sit in meditation for 1 hour in silence. This is a powerful spiritual experience.

For more information, contact Erv Toth or Rose Schulz or visit <http://www.meetup.com/Journey-Inward-Meetup-Group>.

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## New Members

Please welcome the following new members who were recognized during the worship service on December 6 and one couple who signed the book on December 13. They have colored dots on their nametags so it is easy to recognize them and welcome them; they will remove the dots when they feel acclimated to church membership.

Note: Because this will be posted on the church website, we have omitted addresses, phone #s, and email addresses. If you need this info, please contact the church office.

**John Evans**

**Christine Gralewski**

**Karen and Alan Greenland**

**Jessica Iry**  
Jordan

**Shaun Tennant & Dori Lewis**

**Julie Norman**  
Emma

**Tracy Odena**  
Maggie, Thomas

**Janet (Jim) Ogle**

**Christine & Matthew Organ**  
Jackson

**Pamela and John Stanley**  
Keira

**Margaret (Glenn) Taylor**  
Reece, Thomas

**George Venetis**

**Margaret Zangrilli**

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## Book Discussions

### Last Mondays Book Group

Instead of reading and discussing a book in December, we will hold our annual POETRY PARTY at 6 pm on Monday, December 28 in Atherton Hall. ALL are welcome to join us! This year, we are trying to focus on light-hearted, upbeat, and/or funny poems. Bring one or more poems to read aloud, a dish to share (appetizer, dessert, or whatever you like), and bring a friend (it's a party!).

On Monday, January 25, we will discuss [The House on Fortune Street](#) by Margot Livesy.

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## Toiletries Collection for Food Pantry

Rid yourself of unopened shampoo, conditioner, body lotion, moisturizer, shower gels and other beauty items you don't use and help struggling women feel better about themselves. Full-sized, samples and hotel freebies are welcome. No make-up or used products please. Deposit your items in the blue bin in the coat closet for delivery to the Wheeling Township food pantry for distribution to needy women. This is an ongoing program, not just for the holidays. But what a great time to clean out your closet and make a difference in another person's life!

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## Religious Education (RE) News

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### “Gifts of the Season” Worship Service - Dec. 20

We invite you to help us celebrate the many gifts of the season with this intergenerational worship service! The Christmas story will be narrated, with a few spoken lines by youth. All young people in RE classes (grades 1-7) are invited to dress in costume and participate in the service. We will have costumes available. Here’s how the groups will be arranged:

- \* Grades 1-2 — Angels and Shepherds
- \* Grades 3-4 — Santa Lucia celebration
- \* Grades 5-7 — Lead Angels; Lead Shepherds; Wise Ones; Innkeepers; Mary & Joseph

**What to Wear:** If your child has a white shirt and dark pants or skirt to wear, please do so; otherwise, wear what you’d usually wear to church.

**Please Plan to Arrive Early:** If your child would like to participate, please plan to arrive at church by 10:00am and check-in to your RE classroom. Snacks and beverages will be available, and we will help the children with their costumes. Classes will sit together near the front of the Sanctuary. If you prefer to sit together as a family, please let us know so we can cue your child to join their class at the appropriate time. At this time we are planning for full attendance. If you know you will be away Dec. 20, please let Colleen Vahey or Linda Berry know to help with planning.

Thanks so much! We look forward to celebrating the very best of this holiday season together ~

### Guest-at-Your Table

Please remember to bring your “Guest-at-Your-Table” donations to the Dec. 20 worship service to benefit the work of the UU Service Committee. We will collect the boxes and envelopes during the service. Thank you!

### We are Growing!

It is great to see our Religious Education program growing in depth and numbers! We’ve seen a real surge in the number of visiting families and new members with children ages 3-5, and our Spirit Play class is growing beyond capacity! So, beginning January 3rd, young children will participate in one of the following classes determined by their age as of September 1, 2009:

- \* Nursery for children birth to age 2, staffed by our hired childcare provider, Aida - This class will meet in the Nursery (half-way down the long hallway; across from Atherton Hall).
- \* Chalice Children for children ages 2 and 3 — This class will meet in Room #7 (2nd room to the Right at the end of the long hallway) and include a routine of opening ritual, songs, stories, and activities similar to Spirit Play, but specifically designed for younger children.
- \* Spirit Play for children ages 4 - K — This class will meet in Rooms#9/10; the traditional Spirit Play classroom.

If you have any questions about the new classes, please don’t hesitate to contact Colleen Vahey, Director of Religious Education: 847.359.8440 x4. If you have a child in one of these classes, you should have received an e-mail update last week. If not, please contact the church office to confirm your e-mail address. Thank you!

### RE Registration Online

It’s vital for us to know all the young people in our building, and how best to contact parents/guardians! If you haven’t already completed a hard copy registration, please take a minute to complete the online registration form now, by following this link: <http://www.ccuu.org>. From the Our Church menu on the left, select RE Registration Form to easily submit your form online. Many thanks to Andy Khan and Cherita Axel for making online registration possible!

### No Spirit Circle for All Ages in January

Please note that there will be no Spirit Circle for all ages on January 3. We encourage you to try the new Morning Song musical experience for all ages beginning January 10 at 9:30 am, and we look forward to seeing you again at Spirit Circle on February 7!

### Recycling the UU World

The RE Council invites you to recycle your UU World magazine at church! We’d like to pull out the new 4-page UU Families insert to use in our RE Visitor Welcome packets! Please drop off your latest issue of the UU World in the basket at the RE Welcome table! Thank you!

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## Green Corner

Do you find “eco-labels” confusing? Check out the information sheet on the Green Sanctuary bulletin board next to the office. It explains why “all natural, cruelty free, and biodegradable” are meaningless. Look instead for certifications such as USDA Organic, Certified Humane Raised and Handled, the Leaping Bunny, Marine Stewardship Council, Forest Stewardship Council, Fair Trade Certified, and Energy Star.

### Recycle your holiday lights!

Arlington Heights Public Works, Elk Grove Village Health & Community Services, Hoffman Estates Village Hall Lobby, and the city of Rolling Meadows are all places to recycle your holiday lights and extension cords. All colors and lengths will be accepted. Call ahead for details. And don't forget to recycle your tree through your local town. You may also visit [Earth911.com](http://Earth911.com) for a location.

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## Pancakes and Fellowship

Tired of washing your own pots and pans after cooking a hearty Saturday morning breakfast? Well put those utensils away! Rainbow Friends want to cook you breakfast. That's right! On Saturday, January 9, Rainbow Friends will be hosting a pancake breakfast for the whole congregation and their guests in Atherton Hall from 9:00 am through 12:00 noon. Mark this date on your calendar: Saturday, January 9. Everyone is invited to attend. Please use the breakfast as a way to introduce your friends, family and neighbors to Countryside Church. Interested in helping? Rainbow Friends are looking for more friends to help with the event. Please visit the Rainbow Friends Table in Atherton during coffee hour today or contact Sue DeLuca or Ron Polomchak for more information on helping. Rainbow Friends will graciously accept donations to help off-set the cost of the breakfast supplies.

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## Living the Welcoming Congregation

We have started a new program called Living the Welcoming Congregation. Designed by UUA as a followup to the Welcoming Congregation Program, it will continue the work that culminated in our vote in May of 2007 to become a Welcoming Congregation. This was our Official Resolution:

“We, the congregation of Countryside Church UU, Palatine, Illinois, having engaged in a process of self-examination and education in accordance with the Welcoming Congregation Guidelines of the Unitarian Universalist Association, do hereby declare ourselves to affirm bisexual, gay, lesbian, and transgender persons, to be responsive to their concerns, and to celebrate and be inclusive of bisexual, gay, lesbian, and transgender persons as members of our church community and our community at large; and we hereby request that the Unitarian Universalist Association designate Countryside Church UU as a Unitarian Universalist Welcoming Congregation.”

On June 11, 2007, we were granted the status of Welcoming Congregation by the UUA. The UUA Office of Bisexual, Gay, Lesbian and Transgender Concerns wrote:

“... the liberal religious tradition is affirmed every time another congregation commits itself to being a ...place that affirms, welcomes, and celebrates the presence of bisexual, gay, lesbian, and transgender persons. Though there remains a great deal of work to do in the Association before homophobia and transphobia become things of the past, it is congregations like yours that serve as an inspiration.... Congratulations, and thanks!”

Since June of 2007 much good work has been done—by Rainbow Friends, Rev. Hilary, various church committees, members active in promoting social justice, and by you, the generous and welcoming members of Countryside. This new program will build on what we've already accomplished and help us to continue to work toward equality and social justice.

We've had several planning meetings and recently adopted our mission statement:

“In accord with the covenant and principles of our church and UU faith, the mission of the Living the Welcoming Congregation program is to promote active congregational support for welcoming LGBT people and including them fully in church life, and to increase congregational awareness of issues of equality and justice for LGBT people, through communication, education and collaboration with other church programs and committees.”

As we move forward, we will provide information and opportunities for involvement. For more information, call Jane Matthews.

...Jane Matthews and Sue DeLuca, co-chairs; Jim Booth, Jeanie Michalec, Joy Simon, Tim Walsh, Greg Ward, Sue Wendt, Dan Yokas. Dan Wiseman, consultant. Rev. Hilary, ex-officio member.

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## Social Action Update

### Guest At Your Table (GAYT) Boxes Due Dec. 20

GAYT boxes are due this Sunday (12/20). The boxes will be collected during the service. Did not get a box? You can write a check to the "UUSC" (Unitarian Universalist Service Committee). A donation of \$40.00 (\$75.00 for a family of 2) will provide you with a year's membership and help our goal of 50% of the congregation becoming members of the UUSC.

### Chicago Area Mensa Group Donates to Making the Most of Our Money

The Chicago Area Mensa Group has donated \$623.83 to the MMOM program to purchase books for the children's program. Our goal is to give each child a book to keep each class for a total of 9 books per session. Thanks to Mensa's generous donation, we should be reach this goal. A special thank you to Damian Christianson, both a CCU member and Mensa member for his work in obtaining this donation for MMOM.

### Making the Most of Our Money for 2010 & 2011

MMOM sessions are scheduled to begin March 31, 2010; October 6, 2010 and March 30, 2011. Each session will meet on Wednesday nights and last for 9 weeks. Please consider being a mentor in the adult program or a teaching assistant in the children's program. No experience needed. We will provide all the training you need. The next mentor training class is scheduled for March 20, 2010 at 9:00 a.m.

### Palatine Township Holiday Gift Program

The Share-the-Plate recipient for the November 29 service was the Palatine Township Holiday Gift Program. Thanks to your donations, \$192 was raised to assist the Palatine Township Holiday Gift Program. This is in addition to the gifts that were provided by Countryside Church members and delivered on December 12 to thirty individuals from low-income families in our community whose financial situations did not allow them to experience a joy-filled holiday season. Thank you to all who donated funds and/or gifts. A special thank you to Bridget Smith for coordinating the program.

### Social Action Has New E-mail Address

Need to contact the social action committee or just have a social action question? Reach us at our new e-mail address [socialaction@ccuu.org](mailto:socialaction@ccuu.org).

### Why Shoud We Participate in Social Action?

"It's the action, not the fruit of the action, that's important. You have to do the right thing. It may not be in your power, may not be in your time, that there'll be any fruit. But that doesn't mean you stop doing the right thing. You may never know what results come from your action. But if you do nothing, there will be no result." Mahatma Gandhi, Spiritual Leader, Political Leader and Humanitarian

### Next Social Action Committee Meeting

Our next meeting is Tues, Jan. 19 at 7 pm in classroom # 1.

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## Program Council Headlines

As a reminder, Program Council is made up of the chairs of committees that involve programming for the church (such as Membership, Religious Education, Adult Faith Development, Social Action, and so forth.)

We opened our December Program Council meeting with smiles all around as we welcomed our new sexton, Jim Gulledge, to Countryside.

A quick review of the leadership retreat weekend led into a discussion about the strengths of Countryside which we can rely and build on as we move forward. Program chairs then spent a few minutes thinking about the strengths of their programs/committees. Some of those included:

- \* We provide support to individuals who want to contribute and participate

- \* We encourage a shift from a human-centric focus to the larger, "interdependent web of being"

- \* We provide lots of freedom

- \* We are passionate, creative, and caring individuals

- \* We enhance involvement

- \* We value and inspire diversity

An interesting theme or pattern that emerged from this discussion is that our programs are enablers of action. Truly, there can be no doubt about that when you stop to consider the extensive programming that goes on at Countryside each and every week. This discussion really made me appreciate the leadership in the room as well as the many committee members throughout our community who so generously give of their time to keep our programs strong and high-quality.

The programs are beginning their planning, goal-setting, and budgeting for the next fiscal year (July 2010 - June 2011). Plans are due in early January (January 13) so that the program budgets can be built into the broader churchwide budget before the annual stewardship campaign begins in March.

Have you noticed that on most Sundays, there is an 'Information Island' set up in the center of Atherton Hall during coffee hour? This is a place where you can find a friendly face as well as information about our programming. It's hosted by program and committee members. Please stop by!

Submitted by Laura Mandell  
Program Council Co-Chair

## Upcoming Meetings and Events

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

Wed 12/16	7pm	Board of Trustees Meeting	Sun 1/10	9am	Open Forum Discussion
	7pm	Journey Inward		9:15am	Morning Song
Thu 12/17	6pm	PrideYouth (LINKS 847-441-6191)		12pm	Green Sanctuary Committee Mtg
	7pm	Hatha Yoga		12pm	Movement for Fun Covenant Grp
	7:15pm	Church Choir Rehearsal		7pm	Zen Meditation, <a href="http://www.greatplainszen.org">www.greatplainszen.org</a>
Fri 12/18	12pm	Worklife Support Group	Tue 1/12	7pm	Tuesday Kinship Circle
	7pm	Carolling Party and Song Circle		7:30pm	Sr High Covenant Group
	7:30pm	Women's AA Mtg	Wed 1/13	7pm	Transition Meditation
Sun 12/20	9am	Buddhist Dharma Group		7pm	Program Council Meeting
	9am	Open Forum Discussion		7pm	Finance Ctte Mtg
	12pm	Movement for Fun Covenant Grp	Thu 1/14	6pm	PrideYouth (LINKS 847-441-6191)
	6:45pm	Winter Solstice Service		7pm	Hatha Yoga
	7pm	Zen Meditation, <a href="http://www.greatplainszen.org">www.greatplainszen.org</a>		7:15pm	Church Choir Rehearsal
Mon 12/21	7pm	PFLAG Palatine Meeting		7:30pm	Amnesty International Meeting
Tue 12/22	7pm	Membership Ctte Mtg	Fri 1/15	10am	Daytime Kinship Circle
	7pm	Personnel Ctte Mtg		12pm	Worklife Support Group
	7:15pm	Experiencing God Covenant Grp		7pm	Song Circle
Sun 12/27	9am	Open Forum Discussion		7:30pm	Fun and Games Night
	12pm	Rainbow Friends Meeting		7:30pm	Women's AA Mtg
	7pm	Zen Meditation, <a href="http://www.greatplainszen.org">www.greatplainszen.org</a>	Sun 1/17	8:30am	Artist's Way Covenant Group
Mon 12/28	7pm	Book Discussion Grp: PoetryParty		9am	Buddhist Dharma Group
Sun 1/3	9am	Buddhist Dharma Group		9am	Open Forum Discussion
	9am	Open Forum Discussion		9:15am	Morning Song
	7pm	Zen Meditation, <a href="http://www.greatplainszen.org">www.greatplainszen.org</a>		11:45am	Meet the Minister
Mon 1/4	9am	Focus newsletter deadline		12pm	Movement for Fun Covenant Grp
Tue 1/5	7pm	Agnosticism, Humanism, Atheism Grp		12pm	Nominating Ctte Mtg
Wed 1/6	7pm	Transition Meditation		12:30pm	Chalice Circle Facilitators Mtg
	7:30pm	Menzgroup Covenant Group		7pm	Zen Meditation, <a href="http://www.greatplainszen.org">www.greatplainszen.org</a>
Thu 1/7	6pm	PrideYouth (LINKS 847-441-6191)	Mon 1/18	7pm	PFLAG Palatine Meeting
	7pm	Hatha Yoga	Tue 1/19	7pm	RE Council Mtg
	7:15pm	Church Choir Rehearsal		7pm	Social Action Committee Meeting
Fri 1/8	7pm	AFD Movies with Meaning		7pm	Worship Council
	7:30pm	Women's AA Mtg	Wed 1/20	7pm	Board of Trustees Meeting
Sat 1/9	8:30am	Zen Workshop, <a href="http://www.greatplainszen.org">www.greatplainszen.org</a>		7pm	Journey Inward
	9am	Pancake Breakfast	Thu 1/21	6pm	PrideYouth (LINKS 847-441-6191)
	TBA	Circle Suppers		7pm	Hatha Yoga
				7:15pm	Church Choir Rehearsal

### January Movie Night

Adult Faith Development (AFD) Movies with Meaning and the Journey Inward Group have joined forces to show spiritual movies every other month beginning January 8, 2010 at 7 pm with the movie "*The Secret*."

*The Secret* reveals the natural law that is governing all lives. By applying the knowledge of this law, you can change every aspect of your life. If you are new to this movie, it can change you and your life! If you have seen this movie, it will be a great refresher. For more information, contact Hal Snyder or Erv Toth.

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## Winter WomanSpirit 2010

### Nurturing Ourselves, Sustaining Our World

February 26-28 at First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee. World-renowned author and activist Starhawk will be the keynote speaker and one of the workshop presenters. She will also give the sermon at three Sunday services at the church. Joyful ceremonies, juicy workshops, jangle of vendors, and more!

Find details here: [www.womenandreligion.org](http://www.womenandreligion.org).

Register online at [www.regonline.com/WWS2010](http://www.regonline.com/WWS2010)

### Film to be Shown January 24

After the worship service on January 24, the film *Traces of the Trade* will be shown with a discussion to be led by the Rev. Elizabeth Harding, who will be presenting the sermon on that day. In the film, Producer/Director Katrina Browne tells the story of her forefathers, the largest slave-trading family in U.S. history. Given the myth that the South is solely responsible for slavery, viewers will be surprised to learn that Browne's ancestors were Northerners. The film follows Browne and nine fellow family members on a remarkable journey which brings them face-to-face with the history and legacy of New England's hidden enterprise.

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## UU Bed and Breakfast Directory

Do you dream of inexpensive vacation travel to interesting destinations where you can stay in the homes of friendly people who share your ideals and are happy to provide directions and advice for their area?

The UU bed and breakfast directory UU're Home can fulfill your dream. For 31 years, we've provided a network of hosts in the United States (and a few abroad) who enjoy meeting new friends and who are happy to open their home to like-minded people.

You can also become a host and be listed in the directory: See <http://www.UUreHome.com> for an application. If you have questions, email [info@uurehome.com](mailto:info@uurehome.com) or call 828-281-3253.

Host listings on the UU're Home website at [www.UUreHome.com](http://www.UUreHome.com) are updated whenever changes are made or new hosts are added. The paper edition is published once a year in April. For a copy of the 2010 directory and one year of access to the website listings, please click on "become a member" to pay by credit card, or send a check for \$25 and your e-mail address to UU're Home, 43 Vermont Court, Asheville, NC 28806.

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

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