Wishing You a Happy New Year!

Bidding “so long” to 2012 and welcoming in 2013, in the face of the looming “Fiscal Cliff,” which I just learned yesterday is in the top 3 of the most popular phrases used during the past year. As I write this, the anticipation is great as the president prepares to meet today with congressional leaders in what seems to be another “last ditch” attempt to strike a deal and avoid a painful opening to the new year.

But here at UUCC, it’s hard for me to let go of 2012 without thinking of the loss of Dick Humbert, who along with wife Pat, played such a huge role in helping define UUCC throughout our first 60 years. The memorial to Dick was a fitting tribute to the contributions that both of them made. I had the opportunity to visit with Dick a couple times before he passed, and always left impressed with the sharpness and clarity of his mental capacity. My hope is that we will always be able to generate within ourselves the passion and commitment to UUCC (and to life!) that Dick and Pat always seemed to have.

Looking back on the first six months of my term as president, I think much of the efforts of our Board of Trustees was spent addressing the needs of the building and grounds and the mechanical/electrical systems within the church. Thankfully, we have an organizational structure that was put into place by my predecessors that is functioning beautifully and effectively, addressing the ministerial, spiritual, and social needs of the church. Our paid administrative staff is top notch and key personnel are energetic, creative and hardworking. So all these factors combined have allowed me to transition into my role with minimal disruption or hardship.

During 2013, my hope is that the board will spend more time refining the vision of UUCC and maybe defining some goals for UUCC to pursue over the near and longer terms. It seems necessary that we should periodically check and recheck the course that we are on and make the corrections necessary to accurately reflect our values.

Finally, I have to express my deep gratitude to the volunteers who always seem to be there when things need to be done. You know who you are. I am grateful that you sense what UUCC represents, not only to yourself but to the community at large, and that when you see a need you are willing and able to address it.

To all of you, a most joyous and healthy 2013!

~Bruce
So there are two greeting cards I have hanging in my home: One is a picture of a Lady and her cat cuddling up next to her and a window behind her....Says SURE, MY HOME IS MY SANCTUARY, SORT OF LIKE A CHURCH ... you then open the card and it says, ... IN THE MIDDLE OF A HUMONGOUS RUMMAGE SALE! I laugh because this is sooo true of my style of decorating!

The other card interestingly enough is a man sitting at a desk. He is surrounded by books on the floor and a shelf in the background with more books all disheveled and that card says "ONE OF THE ADVANTAGES OF BEING DISORDERLY IS THAT ONE IS CONSTANTLY MAKING EXCITING DISCOVERIES." A.A.Milne 1882-1956 WOW! I was born the year this guy died!!!!

So I could expound on just these two cards in relation to the church and my custodial cleaning and care taking of the building and congregation. I find the term fellowship more comfortable than church because the word church has a different meaning and connotation than fellowship. It’s kind of like what Nancy talked about during her Sunday service... “You say potato and I hear Apple”.... Communication and understanding between people is subject to sooo many variables! It continually amazes me that we survive at all!!! By the way, here is another thought I had about UU--- my last name is "W" but when u say that letter is sounds like UU..... I gotta go!—Kandye Winterfeldt

“Member’s Musings” is a monthly feature for UUCC members and friends to express themselves. Contact Bruce Swiecicki at swicengineer@sbcglobal.net and put “Member’s Musings” in the subject line for more information.

Report on December 3rd
Board of Trustees Meeting

The following are some of the highlights from the Board of Trustees meeting December 3rd:

- The Board passed a motion to have M&M Roofing do an inspection and repair of any worn areas on the roof. M&M installed the new roof in or about 1995.

- The Board voted to increase the stipend for Sunday speakers based on their qualifications.
January 6: No Forum, Community Sunday.

January 13: UU Regional Speaker to be announced, on the plan to Merge UU Regions.

January 20: The Meaning(s) of Life?!: William Schranz and Scott Senne, organizers of South Suburban Freethought Community, will present. They will share information on finding meaning(s) in life, developing secular communities, the importance of humor and navigating in a world where every Hollywood movie featuring an atheist either has that character committing suicide, having a deathbed conversion or undergoing a leap of faith by the end of the film.

January 27: "Rowing Songs for the Night Sea Journey." UUCC member Oye' Scott was one of the 108 women and 2 men who participated in an intensive five day retreat in the foothills of the Rocky Mountains. Dr. Clarissa Pinkola Estes led the deep exploration and instruction in “Original Voice,” which was a transforming journey for Oye. She will share her experience and lead an exercise offered by Dr. Estes.

WhaleCoast Alaska 2013

Have you always dreamed of visiting Alaska? If so, WhaleCoast Alaska 2013 is for you! Four Alaskan UU fellowships invite you to experience our eco-cultural and spiritual program this summer! See Alaska through the eyes of local UUs in Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau, and Sitka with friendly homestays and unique tour activities. See wildlife, including moose, bear, whales, bald eagles, seals, and caribou. Visit Denali National Park. Experience Native Alaskan culture. Enjoy all that our beautiful state has to offer. Programs led by Dave Frey, a member of the Fairbanks, Alaska UU congregation, an expert in Alaska travel. To find out more about your Alaskan trip of a lifetime,

1) visit www.WhaleCoastAK.org,  
2) email dfrey@whalecoastak.org, or  
3) call 907-322-4966.

We would love to share our Alaska with you!

Soup Kitchen Fundraiser for PADS and Respond Now
Sunday, January 6th at 11:30 a.m.

Volunteers are needed to bring soup and brunch foods to our annual Soup Kitchen Fundraiser. Helpers are needed for set-up and clean-up. Please sign up in advance of the date.

The money collected at the fundraiser will be used by our church PADS Team members to buy the groceries needed when they cook and serve meals to the homeless. Checks should be made out to UUCC with PADS in the memo line. Checks made out to UUCC with Respond Now in the memo line will be used to make a contribution to Respond Now, our local agency serving persons in need.

Please be generous. Questions? See Darlene Obejda.
Congratulations to all the RE children who participated in this year’s holiday program. You all did a great job!! I know that the congregation appreciates your sharing your talents with them. Thank you for helping to pull it all together. Thanks also to the RE staff for keeping everything on track. And thanks to our Simon-like judges and to Chris Ussery, who added the final performance touches. Terrific collaboration!!!

RE is off to a great start this year. Next on the calendar is a visit to Sts. Peter and Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church, 8410 W. 131st Street, Palos Park, IL 60464 on January 6th. If any member of the congregation would like to join us, let me know. Their service start at 9:30 a.m.

I wish everyone the very best for 2013. ~Dan
Rainbow Cafe is a social event that provides a safe and welcoming environment for single or partnered gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender adults and their allies, by creating a space where they are able to socialize outside of the usual bars.

The Cafe is open every 3rd Saturday of the month from 6:30-10:30 pm. More info: Dave Matteson 708-672-8837 or 708-408-1421.

This month Rainbow Café will meet on January 19 at 6:30pm

A Moment in Balance

Yoga Classes by Karen Nielsen
Monday and Thurs
9:30am – 11am
Wednesday evenings
7:30pm – 9pm

No reservations needed. Drop in fee is $10 per class and the 6th one is FREE. Call (708) 755-3577 for information

Drum Circle

3rd Friday of each month: 7-9pm

Come enjoy the soothing therapeutic effect of our open drum circle.

Drumming is fun and good for you. The circle is "zero level," requiring no experience. Please bring a drum if you have one. We will have a small selection of community drums just in case.

A $10 love offering is requested. For more information email Andy at: DrumUUCC@yahoo.com

UUCCPF Social Issues

Free Movie & Discussion
“Dr. Fuhrman’s Immunity Solution!”
January 26 7pm

Come learn how you can improve your health and longevity with nutrition that boosts your immune system to protect your body against disease.

Dr. Joel Fuhrman, M.D., specialist in the prevention and reversal of disease, talks, educates, and inspires us to take charge of our health, diet, and well being.

Free coffee, tea, and popcorn. Join in the lively discussion following the film. Invite friends! Optional donations welcome. Optional: Bring a snack or non-alcoholic drink to share.

Dances of Universal Peace...

...are Circle, Meditative, Prayerful dances to the mantras from all World Religions. They originated with Murshid Samuel Lewis, a Sufi teacher, in San Francisco in the late 1960’s. We meet from 1pm-3pm at UUCC. Nancy Pfalscraft, a certified D.U.P. teacher, is our primary leader.

For more info call: Pat Segner 748-2217

Next Dances of UP: January 13 1-3pm

Community/Potluck Sunday

Community/Potluck Sunday is the first Sunday of each month. Join your friends after church for a light lunch. We especially need main dishes.”

For more information, contact Diane between 10am & 4pm at 708-481-5339 on Mon, Tues, Thurs or Friday.
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"Member Musings" (Share Your Thoughts!)

This is your opportunity to get on the soapbox and share your thoughts with UUCC members and friends. We will run an article of 250-300 words every month written by a member or friend of our congregation. The article could be a personal statement and it should be in good taste and related to one of our seven principles. If you are interested, send your name to Bruce at swicengineer@sbcglobal.net. We will randomly pick a name at the beginning of each month. Articles should be received by the 15th of each month and will be reviewed for appropriateness of content and edited where necessary.
It is very serene here at my sister's home in Thornton, Colorado. There is a cover of snow and most days you can see the foothills and some mountains. Without the humidity and almost constant sunshine, I don't feel that bone chilling, wet cold that is often present in Chicago, even at 40 degrees.

However, today there is a red mist on the horizon and the mountains are not visible. The inversion layer, it is warmer in the mountains than on the flatlands. One weather guy said "we are keeping the pollution that we usually send up". I experienced the same affect on the west coast when the Santa Ana's blew from east to west. The air at the beach was heavy and polluted and we were breathing what we made instead of sending it east with the off shore breezes.

Most people, here, use some sort of filtered water as of this summer. The water table was so low that tap water had an algae type odor. The area, as most of the southwest, does have more water conservation regulations than the midwest.

The Earth Prayers Book lists some interesting environmentally significant dates. January 17, whales migrate from the Pacific Northwest. They swim down to Baja, have their babies and then come back up. Following their journey is a popular trip for surfers and counting the whales that return is done at several points in Southern California. Palos Verdes is a particularly beautiful spot to spot them. Taking a whale watch cruise is quite exciting when one of those gigantic flukes sprays your face with salt water. January 4 is Earth Perihelion, the day the earth is closest to the sun. Iroquois Midwinter Ceremony is a movable day, set aside to invoke healing for the tribe.

This month's full moon is The Wolf Moon, a time to remember hungry and homeless.

Happy New Year! May our resolves include all of life.

Namaste
Illinois Unites for Marriage

For almost 20 years, we have advocated for marriage equality for all people, because of our faith in the worth of all people. In Illinois, we have a chance to gain a huge victory. **Now is the time!**

A vote is likely at the end of this week or the beginning of the next. Only a few legislators can still be persuaded, and **we need Unitarian Universalists to make the call.** Illinois Unites for Marriage is asking congregation members to call on Wednesday, January 2nd.

Try to speak to the legislator directly. Leave a message with a staff member if you cannot reach the legislator. **If you have a personal or business connection, use it!** We believe in putting our faith in action. Your calls can make a difference for thousands of Illinois families.

**When you call, remember:**
- be polite
- use personal stories
- identify yourself as a person of faith
- tell him it is OK to change his mind on this

**PARK FOREST UU’S: Please call Rep. Anthony DeLuca**  
District office: 708-672-0200  
Ask him to support the “Religious Freedom and Marriage Fairness Act” when it comes up for a vote.  
For more information, including a list of supporting organizations, answers to myths, and calling scripts, see www.illinoisunites.org.

Unity Party

Saturday, January 19*, 2013  5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.  
at First Unitarian Church of Chicago  
5650 S. Woodlawn Ave., Chicago 60637  
*in case of major snowstorm, the snow/reschedule date is one week later

**The goal of the Unity Party is to build/enhance Unity:**  
Multiracial, multicultural, multigenerational and among U.U.s in the Chicago area

There is no admission charge, but free-will donations to help with the costs are encouraged

- 5:30—Activities for children and socializing
- 6:00—Opening, followed by ice-breaker activities
- 6:30—Dinner—organizers will provide the major dishes, while participants are asked to bring an ethnic or favorite food to share.
- 7:15—Dancing begins, with folk and/or line dancing at the start (game and card tables will be set up from 7:15-9:30 for those who don’t wish to dance or perform/listen to poetry)
- 8-8:30 Break for a poetry slam *(those wishing to present their poetry should contact Finley Campbell [see below] ASAP)*
- 8:30-9:30 Free style dancing, to music provided by DJ

For further information contact:
Finley C. Campbell at finleycampbell5222@comcast.net or 773-752-4019 Or Alexandra (Alex) Hay at hay.alexandra@district205.net
Edgar’s Place Coffee House Proudly Presents

Dave Rudolph

You’ve probably heard him on Dr. Demento, or his original music in the Spencer’s Magic Show, or on HBO Comedy Channel Shorts, or on Kid’s Radio, or Seen him on countless cable TV shows.

Now see him in person and find out if he’s really as crazy, musical, and funny as you thought!

Music, Comedy, and General Mayhem!

WHEN: Saturday, January 12th at 8pm

WHERE: Edgar’s Place Coffeehouse
Which is located at The Unitarian Universalist Community Church
70 Sycamore Drive, Park Forest, IL

Adults: $15
Kids: $10

Dave will be accompanied by Jim Frels and Steve Wing (also known as “The Three Wise Guys”) and other guest players. This will be an unusually exciting evening because they will be recording a LIVE CD!
So come and be a part of an exciting and fun event!!
Church Information
70 Sycamore Drive
Park Forest, IL 60466
PHONE: 708-481-5339
E-Mail: diane@uuccpf.org
Web: www.uuccpf.org

Office Administrator
Diane O’Connor
Office Hours:
M, T, Th, F: 10am - 4pm
Wednesdays: Closed

(Please note from time to time some office hours vary)

Newsletter deadline is always the 20th of every month

*You can help save a tree and a stamp by simply picking up your newsletter or receiving it electronically via email.