

Outer Circle



February 2012 Vol. 58, Issue 2
www.uuclr.org



1818 Reservoir Rd., Little Rock, AR 72227

MISSION STATEMENT

We are a welcoming congregation that is a beacon for spiritual freedom and respect.

We offer opportunities for lifespan education emphasizing the Seven UU Principles, for personal and intellectual growth, for worship, and for service to the church and community.

Thereby, we work to transform ourselves and our world.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Minister

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Music Director

John Perez 501-225-1503 jwperez1@yahoo.com

President

Edith Bradberry edithb9155@sbcglobal.net

February Sundays

The theme for this month is "Evolution"...

What but the wolf's tooth whittled so fine
The fleet limbs of the antelope?
What but fear winged the birds, and hunger
Jewelled with such eyes the great goshawk's head?
- Robinson Jeffers

February 5

11:00am Covenant Group Sunday
Linda Van Blaricom and Covenant
Group Leaders

February 12

11:00 am Darwin Day: Celebrating Darwin
and Evolution
Rev. Bob Klein / Youth Assisting

February 19

11:00 am Social Evolution for UUs Part 1:
Black and Rainbow History
Rev. Bob Klein

February 26

11:00 pm Social Evolution for UUs Part 2:
The Spirit of Anti-Racist, Anti-
Oppression Work in the UUA
Rev. Bob Klein



Big Bad Gina Returns 3rd Annual UUCLR Valentine's Day Dance February 11, 2012

Jori Costello, singer/songbird; Renee Janski of UU choir fame; Melodie Griffis of U of A Jazz Combo....

Add a slew of instruments, some kickin' original tunes and select scintillating covers and you have Big Bad Gina, an all-womyn's band based out of Fayetteville, Arkansas.

They are ready to rock Little Rock with their award winning "Amazon Warrior Princess" Goddess Groove.

Doors open at 7:00pm, concert/dance begins at 7:30, \$10 at the door. Wine, beer, soda will be available for donation, along with snacks. All are welcome, bring your friends for an evening of fine entertainment and fun... the more the merrier!

Put this date in your calendar and be sure not to miss these talented artists! See you there!



Sponsored by 

GREETINGS FROM OUR CHURCH LEADERS



From the Minister...

This month's program theme is "Evolution"

Change happens. Change happens to the world. Change happens to species. Change happens to the nation. Change happens to the state. Change happens to the city. Change happens to the family. Change happens to me. Oh *&%\$@!

This month's theme is evolution. If one were to take a vote "fer" or "agin" it by counting up the letters to the editor in the Dem-Gazette, it would fail. If one were instead to poll biologists, it would win hands down. Most, if not all, Unitarian Universalists recognize the broad evidence of evolutionary change in the world. For most progressive practitioners of religion,

evolution, change and some manner of progress are pretty much foregone conclusions. What is not nearly so obvious is where evolution may be leading the earth and what role pollution and environmental degradation may play in evolutionary change. There is ample evidence that any number of chemical compounds have an impact on cells and genes and DNA, for good or ill, but extrapolating those minute changes to the planetary level may take more computing power than is currently available. This all leads to the question of what is a UU to do—with one's life, with one's beliefs, with one's actions in the world?

Whatever individual decisions we make about our lives will affect our involvement in UUCLR as a Beloved Liberal Religious Community. We bring ourselves everywhere we go, so when we get to UUCLR there we are! What decisions have impacted our lives and behavior this week, this month, this year? How are those decisions affecting the way we interact with others? Do we come with hope, curiosity, courage, or with fear, or anger? Do we come ready to share our blessings or to inflict our woundedness?

Evolution, change happens, but it can be mindless or mindful. Let us choose life!

So may it be! Rev. Bob



From the President...

By the time this letter comes out, we will have passed our Vision and Mission and Statement of Conscience. We will have had a second Congregational Meeting for the church year, all of which are items addressed in our Strategic Plan.

Now it is time each of us to take a look at the Strategic Plan and see what we can each do to make it real. The Strategic Planning committee looked at needed people power and estimated that if each person in the congregation gave eight hours a month for the next three years, we would be able to accomplish our goals.

Eight hours a month: What can you do for eight hours a month to make this real?? I took a look at the categories and have some suggestions. Maybe you could be on a team that does a Worship Service, maybe you have ideas about some sound or audio-visual enhancements. What about using your creativity to help design a spiritual space either in the sanctuary or elsewhere??

There are opportunities to work with the children, develop adult religious education offerings, become a leader, welcome and help visitors to see why we love UUCLR. There are some exciting ideas about researching and developing another congregation, and/or becoming a Teaching Congregation.

Social Action is a big part of the Strategic Plan. There are many opportunities to live our faith in the community, either through some of the programs in which we are already are involved (such as Our House, Prison Literacy and Lucie's House) or right here in our own neighborhood.

I challenge each of you to get your copy of the Strategic Plan out and decide which part you have the talents to address or which parts interest you. This is a great opportunity to learn new things, meet new people and practice new skills. Once you have decided what you want to do, contact me or the Liaison for the area that your interest falls in.

The goal of the Strategic Plan is 80% Congregational participation. Typically, organizations only get 20% consistent

(continued on Page 3)

CHURCH MINISTRY



Children's Sculpture of "Beloved Community"

Building the Beloved Community

Now that it is 2012, the time for the Annual Budget Drive is coming closer. The Fellowship Celebration will be on March 31, and the drive itself will run through the month of April. This month, an introduction to the 2012 logo and "yardstick" sign is in order.

Adjacent to this article, you can see our theme logo. The core of the design, the heart, represents "beloved," while the drawing of our church building refers to "building" in the theme. The string of cut-out and brightly decorated children demonstrates the concept of "community."

What is most exciting to me is that the children in our Religious Education program came up with this design during one of their Sunday morning gatherings in early January. I went into service at 11am, came out at noon, and the design that you see was sitting on the stage in Thomson Hall! Many thanks to Rachel Finley for working with the children.

We will use this logo on all printed materials prepared for the Budget Drive. The youth of the church will be working on the "yardstick" sign, so I'm sure we'll be equally pleased with their creativity. More next month...

Jan Bowen, member of Annual Budget Drive 2012 Leadership Team

Annual Church Survey Coming

A link to the annual church survey will be on the UUCLR web site until the end of February.

Please take some time to complete the survey. The results are a valuable tool that has been giving good statistical data concerning our church for the past ten years .

Focus Group Event

The Committee on Ministry will sponsor the annual Focus Group event on Sunday, February 26th from 12:30 until 2:30 in Thomson Hall. A luncheon will be provided by the COM. The three topics will be "The New Governance Structure and Process," "Worship" and "Staffing: Volunteer and Paid." Please join us!

President's Message (continued from Page 2)

participation. It is up to each of us to take this seriously and make this happen, to "Build the Beloved Community." When I reviewed the Strategic Plan, I realized that these are things within our capacity to do. We have to decide to take action. It begins with me, it begins with you!

Edith Bradberry, President

On Stewardship

As we prepare for our annual budget drive, let me share a few thoughts on stewardship with you. From the Rev. C. K. Robertson, Transforming Stewardship:

"Stewardship does indeed deal with money, but it must be far bigger, far more holistic than that. For money is the symbol, the powerful symbol, of our ongoing need for control. But as we begin to think of life in terms of what we have instead of what we lack, then we can dare to let go of the things that hold us back and strategize together as faithful stewards instead of fearful owners."

From an anonymous writer: "A culture of ownership gives us stuff. A culture of stewardship gives us a future."

And finally, from Rich Fritzon, Main Line Unitarian Church, Devon, PA: "Before you write an amount, please ask yourself, what is the most generous pledge you believe you can make. Then add something to that. Find out what might happen if you turn out to be even more generous than you think you are."

Dave Rickard, Co-chair, 2012 Annual Budget Drive

IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH



Birthdays in February



Paul Clifford	2/1	Philip Peters	2/19
Rebecca Stover	2/1	Claire Frueauff	2/20
David McCullough..	2/8	John Perez	2/21
Selma Blackburn....	2/8	Sarah Bemis	2/22
Steve Hodge	2/10	Dawn Harris	2/23
Lilly McPherson....	2/12	Elaine Barton	2/24
Horace Morgan	2/14	Boah Taunton	2/28
Jerry Blackburn	2/16		

Contact the church office at 225-1503 with corrections or additions or log into the Church database on the UUCLR web site and make your changes.

FORUM

Sundays @ 10:00 am ~ Thomson Hall

- Feb 5** "A Family History of Leslie Klett Pomeroy"
Kay Danielson and Shirley Herndon
(Leslie Pomeroy was Shirley's father)
- Feb 12** Share the Plate Sunday
Christine Henderson, Pulaski County
Humane Society
- Feb 19** THEME Sunday - "Evolution"
Allan Ward
- Feb 26** "Emergency Preparedness"
Chad Stover, Arkansas Department
of Emergency Management



Young at Heart

Expand Your Mind...
Read a Book!

Between the
Lines Book Club



February 6:

"Zeitown" by Dave Eggers

March 5:

"Mockingbird: Portrait of Harper Lee"
by Charles J. Shields

Open to all who would like to attend, Young At Heart invites church members, friends, guests and associates to attend on the second Tuesday of the month. Our varied meals and programs have provided stimulation and lots of social interaction for participants, as well as opportunities to learn more about subjects we may have only casually considered. The essential value for many of us is getting to know and appreciate the wonderful talents, personalities, experiences and interests of people right here in our UU community.

Our next Young At Heart luncheon (\$5) and program are scheduled for 11:30am on Tuesday, February 14, 2012! Katy Towbin promises to bring us some insights on death, dying, and..... HUMOR! Jeanne Brown will be in charge of the kitchen and several helpers will assist in setting up and cleaning up.

On this day that celebrates love and kindness, let's reach out to those who can't drive, to those we haven't seen in awhile, to friends and associates who would enjoy our company and who might share something of themselves with us. Can you help someone join us?

We offer many thanks to Jo Stewart for her excellent program in January on living in Mexico!

Drumming Circle Returns

Wanda Weaver would like everyone to know that the Drumming Circle will begin meeting again at 9:30am in the Sanctuary on the Sundays when the Choir will be singing.



Dates are planned for Feb 5th and Feb 26th, March 11th, April 8th and 22nd, May 3rd and June 3rd.



Religious Education Corner

CAYRE Schedule

- Feb 5** Class
- Feb 12** YoUUtH assist in worship; Children will have Time All Together in the sanctuary before going to class.
- Feb 19 and 26** Class

Newly Redesigned Lifespan RE Bulletin Board!

Be sure to check out the new bulletin board at the bottom of the ramp in Thomson Hall.

Thank you to the yoUUtH, Greg and Monica Robinson, and James Thomson. It looks wonderful!

RE-Questors

Sunday Mornings 10:00 am ~ Pehrson Room

Topic: A Discussion of Humans, Robotics and Electronics

Reference Book:

Alone Together: Why We Expect More from Technology and Less from Others
By Sherry Turkle

Re-Questors is a group that discusses a wide variety of topics. These topics are sometimes informed by a book, but you need not buy or read the book to participate.

STAFF HOURS

Rev. Bob Klein - Walk-In Hours 2-4 pm T-W-Th
Additional hours vary Tuesday-Saturday
Rev. Bob's day off is Monday.

Please call Rev. Bob's cell to make an appointment or for emergencies: 501-240-2957

Office Hours

Tues. - Fri. 10:00am - 2:00 pm

Phone 225-1503, e-mail uuclr@aristotle.net

- 1 February, Wednesday**
6:30pm-8:00pm
Choir Practice (Sanctuary)
- 2 February, Thursday**
6:30pm-8:30pm
7:00pm-8:30pm
Teens and Tweens Youth Group (Pehrson)
Strategic Planning Committee (Emerson)
Prison Literacy (Offsite)
- 3 February, Friday**
- 4 February, Saturday**
12:00pm-1:00pm
Hindi/Hindu class (Barnum)
- 5 February, Sunday**
9:00am-12:00pm
9:45am-11:00am
10:30am-1:00pm
11:00am-12:00pm
12:15pm
Recycle Sunday/Book Exchange
Children and Adult Programming
Fair Trade Coffee Store (Thomson)
Worship
Vegetarian Potluck (Thomson)
- 6 February, Monday**
7:00pm-9:00pm
Between the Lines Book Club (Pehrson)
- 7 February, Tuesday**
7:00pm-9:00pm
Choctaw Crawdads - All Invited! (Thomson)
- 8 February, Wednesday**
6:30pm-8:00pm
Choir Practice (Sanctuary)
- 9 February, Thursday**
6:30pm-8:30pm
Teens and Tweens Youth Group (Pehrson)
- 10 February, Friday**
11:00am-1:00pm
Rhubarb Club
Prison Literacy (Offsite)
- 11 February, Saturday**
12:00pm-1:00pm
1:00pm-6:00pm
7:00pm-10:00pm
Small Group Dinners (Offsite)
Hindi/Hindu class (Barnum)
Yoga Instructors Class (Alcott)
Valentine's Dance w/Big Bad Gina (Public)
- 12 February, Sunday**
9:45am-11:00am
11:00am-12:00pm
1:00pm-6:00pm
1:00pm-5:00pm
Children and Adult Programming
Worship (Sanctuary)
Yoga Instructors Class
Free Thinkers - Darwin's Birthday
- 14 February, Tuesday**
11:30am-1:00pm
1:30pm-2:30pm
5:30pm-7:00pm
7:00pm-8:00pm
Young at Heart Luncheon (Thomson)
Daytime Covenant Group (Emerson)
Program Council (Pehrson Library)
Stewardship / Finance Meeting (Library)
- 15 February, Wednesday**
5:00pm
6:30pm-8:00pm
OUTER CIRCLE DEADLINE
Choir Practice (Sanctuary)
- 16 February, Thursday**
6:30pm-8:30pm
Teens and Tweens Youth Group (Pehrson)
- 17 February, Friday**
- 18 February, Saturday**
12:00pm-1:00pm
Hindi/Hindu class (Barnum)
- 19 February, Sunday**
9:45am-11:00am
11:00am-12:00pm
10:30am-1:00pm
Children and Adult Programming
Worship (Sanctuary)
Fair Trade Coffee Store (Thomson)
- 21 February, Tuesday**
4:00pm
5:00pm-6:30pm
6:00pm-8:00pm
7:00pm-9:00pm
Our House Meal Day (Offsite)
Worship Arts Team (Emerson)
Committee on Ministry (Emerson)
Choctaw Crawdads - All Invited! (Thomson)
- 22 February, Wednesday**
6:30pm-8:00pm
Choir Practice (Sanctuary)
- 23 February, Thursday**
6:30pm-8:30pm
Teens and Tweens Youth Group (Pehrson)
Prison Literacy (Offsite)
- 24 February, Friday**
- 25 February, Saturday**
12:00pm-1:00pm
Hindi/Hindu class (Barnum)
- 26 February, Sunday**
9:30am-10:00am
9:45am-11:00am
11:00am-12:00pm
12:30pm
Drumming Circle
Children and Adult Programming
Worship (Sanctuary)
Focus Group Event with Lunch
- 28 February, Tuesday**
7:00pm-9:00pm
Board Meeting (Thomson)
- 29 February, Wednesday**
6:30pm-8:00pm
Choir Practice (Sanctuary)

FAITH IN ACTION

Share the Plate Schedule



Collections taken during the service on the upcoming Second Sundays will go to:

February: Pulaski County Humane Society

March: Our House

April: Sierra Club

Suggestions for Share the Plate? Please contact Elaine Henderson.

Faith in Action News

KROGER CARDS BENEFIT THE CHURCH!

Cards are great for gas, gift cards, and groceries. 5% of all card re-loads come back to UUCLR, and that adds up! See Kay Danielson at Coffee Hour to get yours! The church is averaging around **\$300 a month** from Kroger card use! Thank you, Kay!

RECYCLE SUNDAY & BOOK EXCHANGE ~ February 5th

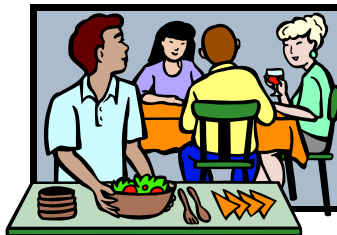
Bring your empty ink cartridges, rechargeable batteries and old electronic devices and the Recycle Team will responsibly dispose of these items for you. There is a problem with Radio Shack and single-use batteries, so for the time being, please do not bring those batteries to church for recycling. Radio Shack stores will take rechargeable batteries, but some of the stores are reluctant to take the single-use ones. Instead, take your own household quantities of single-use batteries to your local Radio Shack for recycling. If the store will not take your small quantity, you'll have to dispose of them in the trash. Jan is working on finding Radio Shack stores that are willing to accept single-use batteries for recycling. Bring only CFL and fluorescent tube light bulbs. Leave bulky items by the curb near the arbor for pickup **ONLY ON SUNDAY**. Bring your used books to swap and share. Also, bring your items for the TerraCycle team.

ALUMINUM CANS AND METAL RECYCLING...

Please bring your aluminum cans to church every Sunday and the cans will be carried by trailer to ABC's Recycle Center. **Please put bags of cans in back by the dumpster** so the front of the church will remain uncluttered. Lance Scott will bring the trailer each Sunday and pick up the cans. Please call Lance to schedule pickups of larger items with his trailer; don't leave scrap metal at the church, just cans. All money will come back to the church! Lance's phone number is 766-4172. Thank you, Lance, for your Faith in Action!

CHURCH ACTIVITIES

New Vegetarian Potluck Starts



Linda Van Blaricom's covenant group has decided to launch a vegetarian potluck on the first Sunday of each month immediately following the worship

service. The first potluck will be on **February 5**.

Linda says her group will help with set-up and clean-up and they will bring dishes to share. She invites others to do the same! Recipes will be provided if folks request them. In that way, she says we can begin to encourage better care of our planet, bodies and families.

Please plan to attend a potluck and share your favorite vegetarian dish!

RE Discussion after the Potluck

Please plan to attend the RE Discussion following the Vegetarian Potluck on February 5th. Come share your ideas and needs for children/youth and adult RE. I hope to see many of you there!

T-Shirts Still Available!

We have another chance to buy a Standing on the Side of Love t-shirt. The very enticing bright color draws attention to our message and when we go as a group, we make a very loud loving presence.



Please have your check to James Thompson no later than February 28. At the time this is being written, there are limited large and X-L available and can be found at the Fair Trade Booth at coffee hour.

The regular T-shirts are \$20 and other styles and clothing can be seen at www.standingonthesideoflove.org site. Please make it clear to James which shirt and size that you want (small to XXXXXL) and put on your check's notation line: Standing on the Side of Love T-shirt.

FAITH IN ACTION



First Sunday TerraCycle Collection

We are collecting specific non-recyclable packaging as a way to raise money and become better stewards of the earth. This free collection program educates children about reusing, provides a much needed boost in funding for us, and most importantly, saves tons of garbage from ending up in a landfill. You can help by bringing in packaging from items you use everyday to Recycle Sunday. We will send them to TerraCycle and, in return, UUCLR receives payment.

Items we are collecting include: **Drink pouches, energy/granola bar wrappers, chip bags, Kashi brand packaging, cereal bags, cookie packaging, cheese packaging, yogurt containers, personal care and beauty packaging, spreads containers, candy wrappers, and coffee bags.**

TerraCycle will upcycle the materials we collect into cool new eco-friendly and affordable products. The TerraCycle Brigade programs are a fun and easy way for us to empower ourselves and our children to make a difference locally and globally. Thank you in advance for helping us reduce the amount of waste going to landfills. If you have any questions, please email rfinley5@yahoo.com. For more information on TerraCycle, visit www.terracycle.net.

26th Annual SWUUV Conference

The 26th annual SWUUV (southwest UU women) conference is fast approaching.

All details and registration forms are on the SWUUV website: www.swuuv.org. The conference will be in Houston on Feb. 24-26, 2012. There is a special Maiden program for youth 13-18 years old: "The UUniversal Beauty of our Bodies." This includes workshops, projects, and social events designed by and for maidens that explore the concepts of beauty through health, wellness, fashion, media, and more. The maiden program is designed to be a safe, supportive space for young women of faith. Youth registered as maidens are not limited to maiden identified workshops and may attend all open offerings. Adult sponsors of our maidens are responsible for their youth throughout the conference. There is some scholarship money available.

I am attending this conference and would love to see a bunch of UUCLR women and maidens there! Please, please go to the swuuv website and check this conference out. The keynote speaker, the music and the workshops are really exciting.

Namaste, Linda Vanblaricom



Updates on City Household Recycling



Currently the City of Little Rock household recycling program takes most plastic bottles as well as glass, paper, and cardboard. The rule of thumb is the neck of the plastic container should be smaller than the base. Whole Foods has a recycling bin for #5 plastic. These are generally tub-like containers used for yogurt, cottage cheese, etc. That bin is on the plaza in front of the store on the right hand side as you face the store. The UUCLR Terracycle program also takes the plastic tubs (see article above).

Later in the year a new household recycling program will be implemented. At this point the target date for beginning the new program is April 1st. That program will considerably expand the range of plastic materials accepted including most plastic containers of whatever type. The new program will differ from the old in several other respects. A wheeled, lidded container (about 2/3 the size of the garbage containers) will be provided. Curbside pick up will be once every two weeks. Glass, more paper and cardboard products, and some metallic items will be accepted.

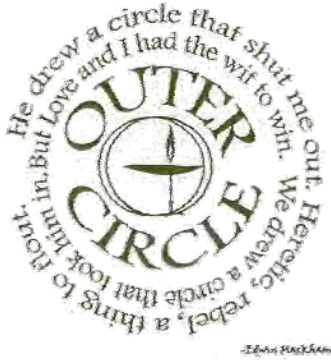
There will be a lot of publicity when the new program is implemented, including complete lists of items accepted. The list of items will also be permanently embossed on the lids of the new containers.

Most of us are probably aware of the yard waste pick-up in Little Rock but may not think of the recycling aspects. This organic material is converted into mulch and compost and is made available to the public at less cost than is charged for those kinds of things by the various retail outlets around town. The mulch and compost can be obtained in any quantity at the city facility at 10801 Ironton Cut-Off, and large amounts (truckloads) can be delivered. Be sure to call ahead to (501)888-5806 to find out the exact procedures for the amount you want.

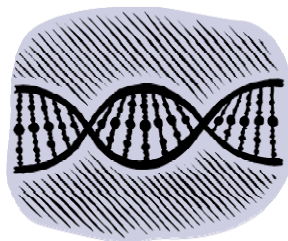
The UUCLR Recycling Committee encourages you to participate in all the recycling programs in Central Arkansas as well as our church program for electronics, batteries and ink cartridges on the first Sunday each month.



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Outer Circle Policy: The Church Office reserves the right to edit all Outer Circle articles for content and length. Deadline for publication usually falls on the **15th of the month** *unless holiday considerations apply*. No articles will be accepted by telephone or verbally. **Articles must be submitted in writing** in the church office by fax (423-6666) or via e-mail (uuclr@aristotle.net) by **5:00 pm** on the deadline date. Any articles received after the deadline may be omitted due to limitations of time and printable space.



Evolution

The tide of evolution carries everything before it, thoughts no less than bodies, and persons no less than nations.

George Santayana