



Unitarian Universalist Church of Elgin

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UNICHORD

July - August 2006

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THESE GUYS ARE LOOPY

It's easy to think of faraway places when planning an adventure, but this year ten men from the UUCE chose to stay within northeastern Illinois for their annual summertime bicycling excursion. Their three-day loop officially started and ended at the Pioneer Memorial statue in Elgin. In between, they traveled through Chicago, Libertyville, and Crystal Lake, averaging about 50 miles per day. Each rider carried his own clothing and supplies on his bike so that the trip was fully self-supported.

On the first day, the group pedaled the Fox River Trail to the south side of Elgin and then headed southeast on the Illinois Prairie Path to Glen Ellyn, where they stopped for a delicious lunch. When the Prairie Path ended in Maywood, they spotted an unusual sign on a building that requested "No Pissing." Happy to comply, they worked their way up to Augusta Blvd. in Oak Park for a trip through some amazing neighborhoods.

Augusta is a designated bikeway into Chicago and, except for choice words from a few west-side residents who didn't appreciate the grandeur of their journey, it was safe. They arrived at the Best Western River North in plenty of time for a swim before dinner. The hotel was gracious enough to allow bikes up in the rooms for the night so there were no worries about security. The slow parade of bikes individually going up the two-person elevator drew more than a few stares.

A delicious dinner was devoured that night at Mike Ditka's Restaurant. The men even saw "Da Coach" in person eating with friends at an upstairs table.

The next morning was Chicago's Annual Bike to Work Rally at the Daley Center. Six early risers in

the group took advantage of their downtown location to ride over and gather a free breakfast, t-shirt and some inspiring words from Mayor Daley. A quick stop to admire Millennium Park's Cloud Gate sculpture (the bean) and they were northbound on the Lakefront Trail.

They then connected parallel trails with short jaunts on streets while taking time to tour the spectacular B'Hai Temple in Wilmette and have lunch at a great Winnetka deli. When they

reached Lake Bluff, the North Shore Bike Path took them inland to the Des Plaines River Trail, and they took that north to the Holiday Inn Express in Libertyville.

Joe Masonick's suggestion of an early morning loop ride around the lake at Independence Grove Forest Preserve was a

brilliant kick-off for the final day of the trip. They then rode westbound through Mundelein, the breathtaking (in more ways than one) Lakewood Forest Preserve trails, Wauconda and Oakwood Hills on their way to the McHenry County Prairie Path in Crystal Lake.

Another highlight of the trip was the lunch stop at 85 Brink Street Bar & Grille in Crystal Lake. Located less than a block from the trail, the refreshing air conditioning was counter-balanced by the warm charm of the friendly server. A charismatic cook brought out the meals, complete with this bit of sage advice, "You only become old when you stop being young." Trips like this one can go a long way towards turning back the clock. - UUCE member Todd Underwood is biking columnist for the Daily Herald



Tim, Mike, Joe, Andy, Bob, Dan, Doug, Paul, Todd, Eric



Lydia Larrabee
Board President

President's Report

Summer is a great time for savoring the outdoors, relaxation, new locations, the weather, and innumerable things to do. Even though we do not meet every Sunday in the summer, there is still much continuing activity at UUCE with summer services, on-going groups, Wednesday adult RE, work parties keeping the gardens, grounds and building in order, etc. The Board will continue to meet over the summer to create our plan for Board activities for the upcoming year. Summer feels like a gift of time to get organized for the busy year ahead.

By the time you read this I will have returned from the UU Annual General Assembly in St. Louis. I did attend in the early 90's when GA was held in Indianapolis and I must say I look forward again to the great energy and discussion that comes with a gathering of 4,000 to 5,000 Unitarian Universalists! I am on the lookout for interesting ideas and approaches to the concerns and events of church life and hope to share what I learn with you.

I wish for you a summer that gives you pleasure, time to relax, and time to be with those you love. I hope you enjoy the beauty of nature in all its lushness this year. And while it is good to vacation and take a break, it is also very good to come back together as a whole in the fall to reconnect and commence a new year of community, support, social action, and spiritual exploration. I look forward to our reunion at the end of the summer.

Lydia

All Church Potluck

Mark your calendars now! The Annual Return to Church Potluck will be held after church on September 10. Look for details in the September Unichord.

Who Am I?

In the U.U. tradition this Ph.D. researches, writes and thinks in many different ways. He challenges each of us to be smarter than we think we are and think we can be.

(answer will appear in the next Unichord)

June's Who Am I - Alexander Graham Bell



KEEP 'EM COMING

UUCE's expenses don't take a vacation during the summer. Utilities still must be paid and staff members count on regular paychecks. So please keep those pledge payments coming. Bring them to a summer service, or mail them to UUCE, Box 1032, Elgin, IL 60121. Alice Macy

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL SUMMER PROGRAM

Speaking Peace continues to be the topic of discussion for the Adult Sunday School Group, who invite you to join them for this summer series of meetings. July 12th & 26th, August 2nd & 16th. 7 p.m. class.- FH

ORGANIC PRODUCE

Angelic Organics is offering 12 week shares from August to October. Weekly deliveries of fresh, organic produce are made throughout the Chicago area including Elgin, Bartlett, and Geneva. Several UU members and friends have enjoyed AO produce for years. www.AngelicOrganics.com

YOUTH MINISTRY TEAM FORMED

The team, formed to offer a project-based Youth Ministry Program, will decide on one or two major service projects to undertake as a group each year. The youth will prepare for projects by raising money, group building, acquiring required skills, etc. Similar programs are very successful in other UU churches. A September camp retreat is planned to work on the first service project. Contact Youth Ministry Team members for more information: **Andrea Schmidlin, Bob & Anne Bedard, Kim Cecil, Noreen & Ayla Halberstadt, Ron Gole, Doug Pratt, Elizabeth Olson, Kathy Underwood, and Dan Brosier.**

BOOK GROUP

You are warmly invited to join the members of the Book Group at any of their upcoming meetings, which begin at 7:00 p.m. | June 30 - "Collapse" by Jared Diamond, parts 1 and 2 at the home of **Alice Macy.** | July 28 - "Collapse", parts 3 and 4 at the home of **Shirley Wolin.** | August 25 - "Saturday" by Ian McEwan at the home of **Henny DuBois.**

ComUUnity Garden Update

THANKS to everyone who donated books, supplies, and newspapers to the garden this spring. As of mid-June, the gardeners have harvested broccoli, lettuce and spinach, distributing a total of eleven shares in all. **APPLE** (Alliance for a Post-Petroleum Local Economy) and the commUUnity garden will soon be featured on CBS radio's Osgood Report nationwide. The project was made possible by the caring support of about 45 members and friends of the UUCE. Give yourselves a pat on the back! - **Donna Askins**

All Church Clean-Up is August 26

Our annual All-Church Clean-up will be on August 26. We will be starting at 9 am and working until around 2 pm. Lunch and environmentally friendly cleaning supplies will be provided. Come when you can and stay as long as you can. First come, first choice of cleaning opportunities. The more help we have, the faster it will go. The Executive Team

LOOKING FOR A FEW RINGERS

The bell choirs at church are short six ringing positions. We are enrolling interested persons who would like to join us in providing beautiful music for one Sunday service a month this coming year.

"Absolute" requirements to join — a commitment to attend rehearsals regularly and \$4.50 for a pair of white gloves. Rehearsals are 9AM to 10:30AM Sunday mornings (Unichords) and 8:15 to 9 PM Wednesday nights (Barn Bells). (Bells Ctd.) "Nice to have" requirements — ability to tell your left hand from your right, ability to count to eight; knowing how to read music helps a lot, but you can learn that as you go.

I am going to give a few lessons in How To Ring during the summer for anyone who would like to join. **Margot Cusimano**, BellDiva

RENEWABLE ENERGY FAIR 8/12 & 13

Each year, folks from UUCE attend the Illinois Renewable Energy and Sustainable Living Fair.

A Brighter Future | August 12 and 13, 2006. | Ogle County Fairgrounds | 1440 Limekiln Rd., north of Hwy. 64 between Oregon and Mt. Morris | (two hours west of Chicago's Loop)

IREA supports sustainable energy development in Illinois and provides hands-on opportunities for the Illinois public to learn about the benefits, potentials, and uses of renewable energy and energy-efficiency for our homes and businesses. Contact **Bob or Sonia Vogl**.

Carpool to the Fair? Contact **Joe and Mary Alice Masonick** if you want to share the ride. - The Green Sanctuary Committee

Prairie Fest Volunteers Needed

Beginning in mid-August, volunteer sign-up sheets will be available in the church entry hall. We need volunteers to assist with set-up, parking, information distribution, church booths, children's activities, baked goods, food sales, and clean-up. Please consider signing up to help make Prairie Fest 2006 a great success.

July - August Birthdays

July	August
4 Jake Prebys	1 Edythe Nagler
5 Jessica Kotlinski	8 Stacey Reynolds
12 Kevin Webster	9 Alice Macy
16 Kathy Hislip	11 Deborah Webster
17 Ethan Colburn	11 Allison Navadomskis
18 Steve Talaga	12 Samuel Brosier
21 Austin Kremer	18 Rui Dean
22 Dan Riordan	19 Steve Askins
23 Patty Schug	21 Day Waterman
24 Tim Davis	22 Sandy Russel
24 Katherine Brosier	22 Marjorie Askins
26 Rich Ridley	23 Jazlyn Halberstadt
27 Delaney Underwood	24 Annika Spayne
27 Taliesin Olesch-Williams	25 Kathy Underwood
29 Elizabeth King	

FROM YOUR CHURCH

ADMINISTRATOR

Summer at UUCE

Office Hours: Schedules are more flexible in the summer due to vacations, heat and fewer Sunday services. For the most part the church office will be open mornings between 9:30 am and noon. Voice mail is checked often. The deadline for order of service announcements continues to be Thursday afternoon unless vacations interfere. Changes of this deadline will be announced via e-mail. Please send announcements to office@uuce.org and administrator@uuce.org.

Keeping Sunday Mornings Friendly: Things are much more casual on summer Sundays than during the regular church year, but we still work to welcome visitors and provide conversation time after church. This means we continue to need help with greeters, snacks, and clean-up. We already have a full contingent of greeters. **Cheren Waller**, Hospitality Team leader, is welcoming volunteers to prepare juice, light snacks (no coffee) and to clean up. Contact Cheren if you can help out.

Keeping the Building Secure: If you are in and out of the building during the summer, please make certain that all windows and doors are secured and that the building is locked. The alarm should be activated by the last person to leave the building. Directions for activating the alarm are beside the alarm in the front entryway. If you are the last to leave the sanctuary on Sunday morning, please close all windows and the doors to the sanctuary.

Keeping the Grounds Growing: The church gardens need extra care during summer months. Volunteers are needed to assist with weeding and watering. If you can volunteer a few times this summer, please let me know.

Keeping in Touch: During the summer, as in the rest of the church year, announcements are made in at least three ways: the Unichord, the church order of service, and the church e-list. The most immediate way to keep in touch is via the church e-list, uus@uuce.org. Special announcements regarding members and friends of the church are also made via this list. Membership in this list is open to all members and friends of UUCE. If you do not yet belong to uus@uuce.org and would like to join, contact me at administrator@uuce.org. Have a great summer!

Linda Porter, Church Administrator
administrator@uuce.org



Linda Porter

Ways to Get in Touch

Church Office	847.888.0668
Web site	www.uuce.org
PodCast	uuce.libsyn.com
Schedule an event	uuce.org/event-scheduling.html
Newsletter submissions	newsletter@uuce.org
Board President	
Lydia Larrabee	
Newsletter Editor	
Bob Sandidge	

Deadlines

Order of Service	Thursday PM
Unichord	August 20



The Unitarian Universalist Church of Elgin

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Elgin, IL 60121 (847) 888-0668

www.uuce.org

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Summer of Sundays

July 9 - Liberal Values, Conservative Tools - Reflections From A Conservative UU

As a conservative, I have sought out the company of a liberal congregation in part to pierce the stereotypes that would have obscured your humanity from my view. I'm not likely to convince anyone of my views, but I will seek to share some of the values of which my politics are one expression. I don't believe you will find them entirely alien. Stan Forrester.

July 23 - The Bible: The Good Book or Just A Good Book?

Dan Hislip will talk about how the Bible came into being and what that purports for UUs. Service led by Elise C. Wall.

August 6 - Being Good

This service is based on Dr. Tony Larson's theme of "Everyday Ethics" developed for the 2006 Lake Geneva Summer Assembly Unitarian Universalist in Williams Bay, WI. Members and friends will have the opportunity to share how this annual summer UU saturation experience has enriched their lives and stimulated the UUCE community. Service moderated by Elizabeth Olson.

August 20 - The Long Work of Turning Our Lives Into Celebration: Why We Do Ceremony

The remarks will center on the notions of why we do ceremony, what it is, who does it, where we do it, and how often. Dan Metzger. Service led by Paul Anderson.

August 27th - The Power of Music

UUCE prizes its music programs more than many congregations that are much larger and have greater resources. Inspired by the Reith Lecture series delivered by Daniel Barenboim, who is retiring as the Musical Director of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra after 17 years, our own musical maestros share the power of music to create common ground, channel overwhelming emotions, and provide discipline to everyday life. Service moderated by Elizabeth Olson.

September 10 - 10:45 a.m. - Water Communion

On the first Sunday after Labor Day, we traditionally hold an ingathering service to mark the beginning of a new church year. This year the center of that service will be a water communion. Everyone is invited to bring a small sample of water they have collected over the summer from some place of spiritual or emotional importance to them. (If obtaining such a sample is not possible, bring in some tap water that symbolizes a special place.) During the service these samples of water will be placed in communion and saved for various blessing rituals we have during the year. Many people save their water in an empty film canister, and often they freeze it to keep germs from developing if they will be storing it for an extended period of time.

UUCE SUMMER EVENTS CALENDAR JULY

6 - 7PM - GLBT Young Adult Group 301

9 - 9:45 AM - Summer Service

10 - 7PM - Youth Ministry Team

12 - 6:30 pm - Adult Sunday School - Speaking Peace

13 - 7PM - GLBT Young Adult Group 301

20 - 7PM - GLBT Young Adult Group 301

23 - 9:45 AM - Summer Service

26 - 6:30 PM - Adult Sunday School - Speaking Peace

27 - 7PM - Board Meeting - FH

27 - 7PM - GLBT Young Adult Group 301

28 - 7PM. - Book Group

AUGUST

2 - 6:30PM - Adult Sunday School - Speaking Peace

3 - 7PM - GLBT Young Adult Group 301

6 - 9:45AM - Summer Service

6 - 11AM - Green Sanctuary

10 - 7PM - GLBT Young Adult Group 301

16 - 6:30PM - Adult Sunday School - Speaking Peace

17 - 7PM - GLBT Young Adult Group - 301

20 - 9:45AM - Summer Service

10:30 AM - Prairie Fest Sign-Up

21 - 7PM - Youth Ministry Team

24 - 7PM - GLBT Young Adult Group 301

25 - 7PM - Book Group

26 - 9AM - All Church Clean-Up Party

27 - 9:45AM - Summer Service

10:30 AM - Prairie Fest Sign-Up

31 - 7PM - GLBT Young Adult Group 301