

SERMON
TOPICS:

- May 5 —
Remembering
WWII
- May 12 — M
is for the
Million Things
She Gave Me
- May 19 —
Homelessness
- May 26 —
Memorial Day

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The Compass

MAY 2013

A Memorable Earth Day Celebration

What better way to observe Earth Day and Arbor Day than to plant trees?

And what better way to celebrate the “lifetime achievements” of two of our senior members than to honor them by planting those trees on the grounds of the Chalice House? So it was that a small group at UUCE achieved both purposes during April.

The five individual donors/members prefer to remain anonymous.

The first tree, a special variety of redbud, called Pansy Forest, was planted on the

front lawn of the Chalice House. It was dedicated to Isabel Lavens, who, in 1951, was among a handful of Unitarians to re-establish a church in Evansville after a seventy-year hiatus, and who served in various capacities on the Board and standing committees in the ensuing years.

Then, two weeks later, they chose to plant a special variety of black gum tree, called Wildfire, in the back yard of the Chalice House. Their honoree was Mary Jane Steele, who, as a member and a pianist when

we were the Unitarian Fellowship meeting at 856 S. Kentucky Avenue, provided live music over a period of several years. She has since continued to serve the Church in many other ways.

We rejoice with Isabel and Mary Jane as we thank their fellow church members for these two generous gifts which will enhance the beauty of the grounds of the Church and be constant reminders of how much we owe those who labored long and hard to keep UUCE a vibrant society.

Highlights of April Board Meeting

The Board met on the first Monday evening in April - April Fool's Day, in spite of superstitions we may have held. In attendance were Ed Howard, Bev Tonso, Marla Minton, Chris Norrington, and Joan DeVillez.

Linda Sue Cates was absent with notice. Hardin Rathgeber was a guest.

President Ed announced the appointment of an annual fund raising committee, with John Schaeffer as the chair, assisted by Chris Norrington and David Fentress.

David will prepare a tentative budget, based in part on the total pledges received, for

presentation to the full membership at our annual Congregational Meeting.

Joan announced that Jack Carden has chosen to relinquish the Chair of RE to Ashley Perkins, whose baby boy, Jude, gives her a vested interest in the continuing success of our RE program.

She then reported a successful Easter egg hunt at the Chalice House with eight children in attendance. The group plans an outing at the Zoo on May 26. Joan is inviting adults in the congregation to underwrite the cost to the children, and to attend as well.

As a follow-up to a recent

inspection of the Chalice House which resulted in several recommendations, Hardin, who is Chair of House & Grounds, presented a bid from Mike Woodall to install doorbells, fill in dirt around the foundation, and add motion detection lights. After discussion, the Board voted to accept the bid, but set a cap of \$350 on the undertaking.

The next meeting of the Board was set for Monday, May 6th. A reminder that every member is free to attend meetings of the Board with or without an item for the agenda.



Sermon Topics

May 5 — **Remembering World War II.** Members will share memories of what it was like to live through the war. Ed Howard worship leader.

May 12 — Rev. Doddie Stone will preach on Mother's Day, "**M is for the Million Things She Gave Me.**" Tom Moor worship leader.

May 19 — We will have a representative from AURORA speak about **Homelessness.**

May 26 — In honor of **Memorial Day**, we will involve members of the local Veterans for Peace.

The Contraceptive Clash

Whenever I engage strangers in the debate between Pro-Life and Pro-Choice positions, I quickly discover their opposition to any form of contraception.

It is a basic Roman Catholic tenet which is "non-negotiable" and which actually foments the need for abortions.

In the March issue of CHURCH AND STATE, the Editor points out that the Church leaders are calling for "religious freedom" as justification for opposing contraceptives.

It is an insidious, purposely misleading mis-interpretation of the First Amendment, a distortion of what our nation's founders meant by that term. I'm quoting C&S.

"The ongoing debate took a new twist in February when President Barack Obama announced yet another attempt

to meet the concerns of conservative religious groups. Under current law all employers with more than 50 employees must provide their workers with health insurance. A federal regulation stipulates that contraception be included as part of the coverage. The Catholic hierarchy and its Religious Right allies don't want employers to have to include birth control in these plans. The President has tried to meet these concerns in several ways....That's still not good enough for the culture warriors of the far right. Although they loudly trumpet "religious freedom", they have yet to explain how a worker's private decision to use birth control reduces her employer's ability to worship as he/she sees fit. .

In 1965, the Supreme Court struck down a Connecticut law that barred the use of

birth control by married couples. That law had the support of the state's Catholic hierarchy.

The ruling in that case, Griswold vs. Connecticut, laid the ground work for broad privacy rights that the high court also embraced in the 1973 Roe vs. Wade, which struck down many anti-abortion laws. Griswold isn't likely to be overturned. But the ruling can be undermined. And that is what the bishops and their Religious Right sidekicks are trying to do, i.e., deny employees access to contraception. Use of contraceptives is a sin to them, and everything possible must be done to block access.

The President has bent over backward to keep aggressive sectarian groups happy, yet they demand more. It's time to stop bending. "

—Ed

"Although they loudly trumpet 'religious freedom,' they have yet to explain how a worker's private decision to use birth control reduces her employer's ability to worship as he/she sees fit."



Zoo Trip : Sponsored by RE

When: Sunday, May 26 following potluck

Where: Mesker Park Zoo & Botanic Garden

RE is sponsoring a trip to the local zoo for UUCE family. Members and friends of all ages are invited to come along!

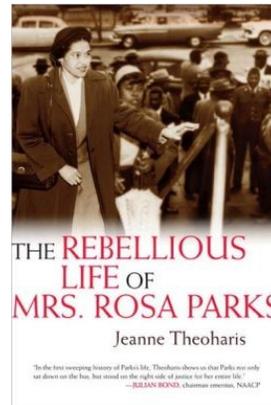
A minimum of 15 people must attend so we can get the group rate. Please sign-up early so we make sure to have enough tickets. Sign-up sheet is located in the church foyer.

UUCE Brown Bag Book Club

The next meeting is Thursday, May 30th from 11:30am until 1:00pm. Bring your lunch to eat while we discuss this month's book, *The Rebellious Life of Mrs. Rosa Parks* by Jeanne Theoharis. All members and friends are welcome!

Cannot make the meeting? We now have a blog: uuce-bookclub.wordpress.com

Contact Ashley in the Church office for the password.



Volunteers Needed...

- Enjoy outdoor exercise?...Lawn mowing opportunities @ UUCE
- Enjoy meeting new people?...Greeter opportunities @ UUCE
- Enjoy preparing dinner?...Kitchen opportunities @ UUCE
- Enjoy entertaining infants?...Child care opportunities @ UUCE
- Enjoy problem solving?...Many opportunities available @ UUCE

Inquiries to John Schaeffer @ 477-8225 or jschaeff@usi.edu

New Website Going Live!

UUCE has a new website coming soon. Be on the lookout! The domain name will remain the same: www.uuevansville.org

If anyone notices issues or has questions, please contact Ashley Perkins at aoa@uuevansville.org or (812) 474-1704.



**Unitarian Universalist
Church of Evansville**

2910 East Morgan Avenue
Evansville, IN 47711
812-474-1704

Service on Sundays at 10:00 AM
Youth RE on Sundays at 10:30 AM



Board of Directors:

President	Ed Howard
President Elect	
Secretary	Marla Minton
Secretary Elect	
Treasurer	Chris Norrington
Treasurer Elect	
Director	Linda Sue Cates
Director	Bev Tonso

Other Volunteers:

Religious Exploration	Joan DeVillez
Youth Leader	Mary Helen Weldy
Building and Grounds	Hardin Rathgeber
Stewardship	John Schaeffer
Communications	Chris Norrington
Social Justice	Pam Thoren
Congregational Life	Bev Tonso
Worship Associates	Tom Moor
Newsletter Editor	Ed Howard
	uceeditor@hotmail.com
Webmaster	Jack Carden
Website	www.uuevansville.org



Upcoming Events & Activities

Wednesday, May 1: 7pm RE Committee Meeting

Friday, May 3: 7pm Drum Circle

Saturday, May 4: 10am Nia Class

Sunday, May 5: 9am Discussion Group

10am Remembering World War II

Monday, May 6: 7pm Board Meeting

Saturday, May 11: 10am Nia Class

Sunday, May 12: 10am M is for the Million Things She Gave Me
Potluck following service

Friday, May 17: 3pm United Caring Shelter Dinner

6:30pm Annual Meeting

7pm Drum Circle

Saturday, May 18: 10am Nia Class

Sunday, May 19: 9am Discussion Group

10am Service—Homelessness

Thursday, May 23: 6:30pm Congregational Committee Meeting

Saturday, May 25: 10am Nia Class

Sunday, May 26: 10am Service—Memorial Day
Potluck following service

RE Sponsored Zoo Trip following potluck

Thursday, May 30: 11:30am-1pm Brown Bag Book Club