

SERMON
TOPICS:

- January 6-Fire Communion
- January 13-Remarkable Cloud Formations
- January 20-No More Taking Sides: Arab vs. Jew
- January 27-Small is Beautiful

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The Compass

JANUARY 2013

A Regular Visitor Speaks His Mind

For the past several Sundays, we have been blessed with the attendance of Kenneth G. Combs, among other visitors.

In conversation before and after the services, we have been impressed by his comments.

It appears he has found a compatible group of religious liberals, and we have spotted a prospective member.

Like Hardin Rathgeber, it seems Ken is also a writer of letters to the editor.

Recently he shared one that he had written the Editor of USA Today, and which was subsequently published in that national newspaper. It addressed the misconceptions held by a previous contributor regarding character. By coincidence, that was the

subject Ben Sizemore chose for his talk at UUCE on December 16th. We feel it's worth re-printing in this issue of THE COMPASS. Here it is.

"I was repulsed by the sheer arrogance of commentary writer Michael Medved's portrayal of people who live in poverty as having arrived there through "irresponsible" behavior ('Punishing the rich; impractical, unethical' THE FORUM Tuesday.) As he espouses the virtues of trickle-down economics, Medved contends that the wealthy invariably have gained their station in life through a sounder work ethic, ignoring that privilege or circumstances might have played a role. As a physician whose father grew up in a housing project, I know well the role of committed toil in bettering

one's station in life. But that does not give me license to deride those who still live in poverty as having somehow deserved their state through sloth. Medved touts the extremely wealthy as pillars of society, whose actions and morals we should all emulate. If that is so, then perhaps disgraced financier Bernie Madoff is Medved's personal hero. But far more disturbing is his reference to the Talmud as somehow condoning the concept of justifiable cruelty, especially when the targets of Medved's cruelty are the poor. If Medved had grown up among the impoverished whom he chastises, perhaps then he might learn where the true strength of character lives."

-Ed Howard

Two Books For January

The UUCE Brown Bag Book Club did not meet in December due to the busyness of the holidays.

With no meeting in December, the club decided to choose two books to read for its next meeting on Thursday, January 31st from 11:30am to 1:00pm.

Life of Pi by Yann Martel tells the story of an Indian boy who survives 227 days after a shipwreck while stranded on a boat in the Pacific Ocean with a Bengal tiger. The book explores Pi's issues of spirituality and practicality from an early age.

The Yellow Birds, written by



a veteran of the war in Iraq, Kevin Powers, is the story of two young soldiers trying to stay alive. This novel provides profound emotional insight into the effects of war.



Sermon Topics

January 6– **Fire Communion**, led by John Schaeffer, Ed Howard worship associate

January 13– **Remarkable Cloud Formations**, Rev. Julie Denny-Hughes will preach, Karim Shelton worship associate

January 20– **No More Taking Sides: Arab vs. Jew**, led by Tom Moor with cast of readers

January 27– **Small is Beautiful**, Rev. Doddie Stone will preach, Ed Howard worship associate

Something To Be Proud Of

“Members who helped make EVPL a highly rated public institution and who have served our church equally well.”

In November and December, The Courier & Press gave extensive coverage to an award the Evansville Vanderburgh Public Library system received from the Library Journal.

The editors of this prominent professional magazine placed EVPL in the top ten percent in competition with 7,570 other public library systems. WOW!

Those of us who use the System are aware of the high quality of services, modern facilities, the extensive collection, and ease of use offered by the staff EVPL. But it's nice to hear a national rating agency recognize these qualities and then publish their findings.

What is also good to know is that several members of UUCE, both past and present, were instrumental in helping the Library receive this recognition. Off hand, I can recall the names of ten members who helped make EVPL a highly rated public institu-

tion and who have served our church equally well.

They are, in alphabetical order: Dennis Brandewie, Beth Heil, Nancy Higgs, Ed Howard, Fran Klinger, Margaret Kyle, Chris Norrington, Mollie Pharo, Jan Steinmark, and Ellen Sullivan. All, except Chris, were or are employed as librarians at EVPL. I hope I haven't overlooked anyone.

First let us recognize those who have passed on. Margaret Kyle was EVPL's Assistant Director for twelve years. She put up the down payment on our building in 1993. Fran Klinger, who as head of East Branch Library in 1970, integrated and upgraded that inner-city branch. She served on the Board of UUCE. Then, Ellen Sullivan, a reference librarian, who left UUCE a handsome bequest in her last will and testament.

Still alive and contributing are Dennis Brandewie, a reference librarian at Oaklyn Branch who assists in our RE program; Beth Heil,

East Branch manager, who served as Editor of THE COMPASS for so many years; Nancy Higgs, Branch Manager at North Park, who teaches in our RE program and who served as treasurer; Mollie Pharo, who is head of collection development at EVPL, and who worked with Nancy to develop Religious Exploration; Jan Steinmark, Chair of the Library's annual book sale for many years and president of our Board at least twice. Finally, there is Chris Norrington, President, Vice President, and Secretary of The Public Library Friends, and recurring/present UUCE Treasurer.

During my 33 years as Director at EVPL, I too had a hand in laying the foundation for what is now a first-rate public agency. I am justly proud of the fact many of those who worked with me are, or were, contributing members of UUCE. We may be few in numbers, but we are the mighty few!

-Ed Howard

December Board Meeting Highlights

It appears we are solvent, judging from Chris Norrington's Treasurer's Report. The balance in our checking account as of November 30th was \$3,448.29.

Chris opined it was a welcome change from the past when he had to delay payment of bills and often borrow from other accounts to avoid overdrafts.

Chris also reported on church attendance during November: 44 on November 4th, 50 on November 11th, 37 on November 18th, and 41 on November 25th. Given our Membership (51), and even though some were visitors, that's a healthy average of 43.

He said he was pleased with the performance of our Office Administrator, Ashley Perkins.

Wearing his Worship Committee cap, Ed Howard reported the Committee continues to engage the services of visiting UU ministers, supplemented by "home-grown" speakers. During December,

there was the Rev. Julie Denny-Hughes (Dec. 9th) from Indianapolis who surprised everyone with her intriguing sermon title "Mary, Mother of Jesus" and the Rev. Doddie Stone (Dec. 30th) from Terre Haute who entitled her sermon "Should Auld Acquaintance be Forgot". The Committee feels the expenditure, averaging \$375 per visit, is a good investment.

Joan DeVillez, RE coordinator, was looking forward to the intergenerational service on Dec. 23rd. Father Christmas was there to read "A Visit from St. Nicholas".

Bev Tonso, Chair of Congregational Life, announced plans to hold orientation classes in January for prospective new members. A previous class last Summer netted six new members.

Ed Howard asked the Board to revisit his wish to place a new roof on the Chalice House. Bids received in July of 2012 were put on hold at that time until there appeared to be sufficient surplus funds in

the budget to do that. After discussion, Chris projected expenditures through December and offered the opinion re-roofing is now possible. Ed took this as permission to ask the House & Grounds Committee to solicit bids.

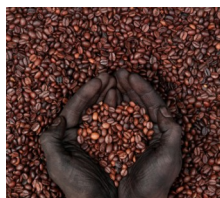
UUCE received notice from UUA in Boston that we must certify the number of UUCE members by February 1, 2013, so they can calculate the amount we will owe them in dues. The Board agreed to review our list of members at the January Board meeting in order to delete those who neither attend nor contribute financially.

Finally, the Board received a request from Sonia Waters, a NIA professional yoga trainer, who wants to rent our facility for her Saturday classes. Her request was supported by Joan DeVillez. The Board set her rental fee at twenty-five dollars per session. Anyone interested in low-impact yoga may contact Ms. Waters at smwaters@live.com.

United Caring Shelter

UUCE prepares a meal at the United Caring Shelter on the 3rd Friday of the month. We work from 3:00– 5:00. Helpers are needed!

Donations of spaghetti noodles and sauce are always needed too!



Coffee

Place your order for chocolate, cocoa and coffee by the 25th of the month. Contact Chris Norrington for details 471-9867.

Monthly Potluck

We will have two potlucks in January. Please plan to join us on Jan. 13th and 27th after the services for food and fellowship.





**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	David Fentress
Communications	Chris Norrington
Social Justice	Chris Norrington
Congregational Life	Bev Tonso
Worship Associates	Marla Minton
Newsletter Editor	Ed Howard
	uceeditor@hotmail.com
Webmaster	Jack Carden
Website	www.uuevansville.org



Upcoming Events & Activities

Friday, January 4:
7pm Drum Circle

Sunday, January 6:
9am Adult Discussion Group

10am Fire Communion

Monday, January 7:
7pm UUCE Board Meeting

Tuesday, January 8:
7pm Historical Jesus class resumes

Wednesday, January 9:
7pm RE Committee Meeting

Sunday, January 13:
10am Remarkable Cloud Formations
Pot luck

Friday, January 18:
3pm United Caring Shelter Spa
ghetti Dinner

7pm Drum Circle

Sunday, January 20:
9am Adult Discussion Group

10am No More Taking Sides

Compass submissions due

Thursday, January 24:
6:30pm Congregational Life Com-
mittee Meeting

Sunday, January 27:
10am Small is Beautiful
Pot luck

3-5pm Dances of Universal Peace

Thursday, January 31:
11:30am-1pm Brown Bag Book
Club