



The UU News

The First Unitarian Universalist Society of Burlington, Vermont

"We gather to inspire spiritual growth, care for each other and our community, seek truth, and act for justice."

April 3, 2011 -
April 17, 2011

Calendar

Sunday, April 3

9:00 Worship Service
9:15 Nominating Committee
10:30 Healing Meditation
11:00 Worship Service
1:00 Coming of Age
5:00 Alanon
6:0 New UU Class

Monday, April 4

***** Zen (Call office for time.)
9:00 Newsletter Deadline
7:00 Music Director Search Com.

Tuesday, April 5

10:00 Seekers SGM
10:30 Library Committee
12:00 Staff Lunch

Wednesday, April 6

9:30 Staff Meeting
5:30 Social Action Committee
6:30 RE Committee
7:00 Choir Rehearsal
7:00 Exec. Committee of the Board

Thursday, April 7

9:00 Newsletter Crew
3:45 Creative Spirit SGM
6:00 Stewardship Dinner

Friday, April 8

6:00 6th Grade Sleepover
6:30 AA Men's Group

Saturday, April 9

9:00 6th Grade Sleepover ends
9:00 Wise Together SGM
10:00 Stewardship Brunch
6:00 Second Saturday Potluck

Sunday, April 10

9:30 UU Burlington Animal Ministry
10:00 Women's Spirituality Group
11:00 Worship Service
5:00 Alanon
6:00 Yuuth Group
6:00 New UU Class

Monday, April 11

***** Zen (Call office for time)
9:00 Mondays at Martha's SGM
5:30 Stewardship Committee
7:00 Music Director Search Com.

Tuesday, April 12

9:00 Joyful Parenting SGM
10:00 Sprouts SGM
12:00 Staff Lunch
12:30 JUMP Staff
5:30 Property Committee
7:00 Book Discussion Group

Wednesday, April 13

9:30 Staff Meeting
6:00 Sapere Aude SGM
6:00 Music Committee
7:00 Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, April 14

10:00 SGM Steering
6:00 Finding Our Truth SGM

Friday, April 15

5:00 UU Dungeons & Dragons
6:00 Mysteries SGM
6:30 AA Men's Group

Saturday, April 16

Sunday, April 17

9:00 Worship Service
10:00 Women's Spirituality Group
10:30 Healing Meditation
11:00 Worship Service
12:30 Social Action Forum
5:00 Alanon

Minister's Musings

Dear Friends;

Years ago I decided that an important part of my commitment to living my faith would be tithing 10% of my net salary...that is after taxes, pension contributions and any other critical costs to my long-term survival. Of that 10%, I give half to the congregation I serve. This year at FUUSB that is about \$2,500. I consider it a testament to how important you are to me and to my faith development, not just as a minister, but as a human being as well, not just when you agree with me or like the sermon, but when you don't as well.

The rest of that 10% I give primarily to other UU causes...the UU United Nations Office, the UUA, the UU Service Committee, the UU Refugee and Immigration Service, the Partner Church Council and International Council of UUs. Why...because there is no one but us to support these extraordinary statements of our faith. And then there is VPR and a host of local charities to consider. Because I know, in advance, how much money I am going to give away, it's fun to think about how best to allocate it so that it works hard in the world in the name of my faith.

When she visited us in January, Denny Davidoff shared Annie Dillard's words: "There is no one but us. There is no one to send, nor a clean hand, nor a pure heart on the face of the earth, nor in the earth, but only us, a generation comforting ourselves with the notion that we have come at an awkward time, that our innocent fathers are all dead - as if innocence had ever been - and our children busy and troubled, and we ourselves unfit, not yet ready, having each of us chosen wrongly, made a false start, failed, yielded to impulse and the tangled comfort of pleasures, and grown exhausted, unable to seek the thread, weak and involved. But there is no one but us. There never has been."

This first interim year at FUUSB has challenged our faith in our community, in our guiding UU principles, and in our commitment to stay the course, to learn to listen to one another, and to grow together. You can do this, and for this Society to thrive, every single one of you counts. It matters whether you give, and it matters what you give. There is no one but you. Read these words of Denny's late husband, Jerry, and then plan to bring yourself and your pledge to support the future of your religious home on Commitment Sunday, April 10th.

Jerry said, "I give because this is my religious home. Sometimes the sermon doesn't inspire me the way I think it should; I give anyway. Sometimes the choir is flat. I give anyway. Sometimes

the coffee is cold. I give anyway. Sometimes I disagree with a big decision the Board has to make. I give anyway. I give and I give because this is the only place in the world where I can find, over and over again, food for my soul - in the eyes of the people I meet here, in the promise we build together of how we live our UU principles, in the hopes for the difference we can make in the world together, in the community of support we offer to one another in our times of terrible trial and great joy. I give far more to this church than any other cause I support because this is my spiritual home and you are my spiritual community; I couldn't live without either. The future is in our hands."

In profound faith in you,

Upcoming Sundays

Sunday, April 3, 9am & 11am

"Taking Care" Reverend Elaine and Care Network Chair Linda Ayer reflect upon the responsibility, honor and power of pastoral care. As participants in this congregation, we join in a "network of mutuality," a reciprocal foundation of caring for one another.

Sunday, April 10, 11am

"Celebration Sunday" The Board, Stewardship Committee and Rev. Holmes invite us all to join our hearts and hard-earned financial resources to the future we want this Society to become. Come and be part of this celebration of the future we build. The adult choir will sing. **Music will begin at 10:30; Worship at 11:00; One service only.**

Sunday, April 17, 9am & 11am

"Universalist Wisdom" The grass roots, heartfelt, all-embracing faith that is Universalism serves as the focus for this service with Rev. Elaine.

Member Anniversary Dates

Clarification concerning 2011 FUUSB membership anniversary dates as listed in our newsletter and Order of Service: the 5-year increment anniversaries listed were based on dates that members actually signed our society's Member Book. Sorry for any confusion!

Kristin Kany
and the Membership Committee

Next NL Deadline:

Monday, April 4, 2011 covering April 17, 2011 through May 1, 2011.



Message from Martha



At the conference for large UU congregations that I attended recently with Christina, I participated in a workshop with Sally Patton, a leading advocate for those whom she refers to as "children with labels," or "atypical children." We might refer to them as children with disabilities or differences.

In her workshop, we did an exercise to help us know what it is like to be identified with a label. On the top of a piece of paper, she directed us to write the word, "Deficits." And on the other side of the paper, to write the heading, "Gifts." On the Deficits side, we listed three things we consider to be personal deficits. And on the Gifts side, we wrote down five things with which we've been gifted. Then, she told us to hold the piece of paper, Deficit side out, against our chest. "Imagine," she said, "if whenever you met someone, these deficits were displayed across your heart and those were the first things someone knew about who you were." And then she told us to turn the sheet over so the five gifts faced out from our heart. It made me smile just to turn the paper over. I got it. Tears welled in my eyes.

We did another exercise of first listing negative words to describe some children's challenging behavior. Then we had to think of positive words to capture the essence of that same behavior. The point is that there is always a positive interpretation of challenging behavior. We *can* see every apparent deficit as, in actuality, a gift. Too, if a child's behavior frustrates us, we would be wise to think about our own judgments, assumptions, and interactions with her/him and how we might change these in ourselves so as to reveal the positive.

Furthermore, when we choose to see first and foremost the gifts that every child has, and when we therefore make positive assumptions about them, the way we interact with these children actually has the power to change their behavior for the good simply because they will feel liked by us.

The perspective I gained from Sally's workshop is a new gift of mine, and I want to learn more from her work. She has a website: www.embracechildspirit.org. It includes blogs, book resources, info about her workshops, and more. Please let me know if you'd like to join me on a journey of widening our welcome towards ALL children!

Forward in faith,

Martha Dallas,
Director of Religious Education

Next UU Class

If you are interested in finding out more about Unitarian Universalism and more about our Burlington UU Society, come join us for our April New UU class. There will be lots of information and all questions will be welcome. Meet some people from our board, committees and ministry and find out first hand what our Society is about.

Come to the New UU class on Sunday, April 3 and Sunday, April 10 from 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM, and we will do our best to enlighten you. Child care will be available and dessert will be served. Please be sure you can attend both sessions. To sign up, or for questions, call or email Jeanne Lynch at 658-0006 or jbl05403@yahoo.com.

Breaking Through the Stained Glass Ceiling

On March 20th Maureen Fiedler preached on female Islamic religious leaders at the FUUSB. Her sermon was based on interviews with them on her radio show, "Interfaith Voices." After both services, Maureen sold her book *Breaking Through the Stained Glass Ceiling – Women Religious Leaders in Their Own Words* which contains interviews with women from many faith traditions. We have a few copies left of this book, in case you were unable to attend that day. If you would like a copy (\$20), call or email Rosanne Greco at 497-0711 or rosanne499@aol.com.

UUA/UUSC Japan Relief Fund

Following the devastating earthquake and resulting tsunamis in Japan, the UUA has been in contact with religious partners in Japan to express concern and willingness to partner with them in recovery efforts. UUA/UUSC partners, including Rissho Kosei-kai, Tsubaki Grand Shrine, the Konko Church of Izuo, the Tokyo Dojin Church, and the Japan Chapter of the International Association for Religious Freedom are all in discernment about the specific efforts they will be taking to support recovery work.

The UUA and UUSC will walk with them in the directions that are ultimately chosen, and will make all appropriate decisions about the distribution of the funds.

Please join with UUs throughout the United States by contributing to the UUA/UUSC Japan Relief Fund which will support the work that our Japanese partners pursue. Please go to: www.uua.org and look for UUA President Peter Morales' statement on Japan and how we can be helpful, or check out the UUSC web site at: www.uusc.org. Thank you.

David Conrad, Denominational Affairs

Memorial Spring Flowers

If you wish to remember someone on Sunday, April 17, the Sunday before Easter, by contributing to the Spring Flower Fund, please send a check made out to The Women's Alliance and mail it to Ann Livingston, 300 Lake Street, Apt. 301, Burlington, Vermont, 05401. Please include the name(s) of the person(s) you wish to remember and your name(s).

Gifts to the Memorial Garden are appreciated as well. The plants used at the April 17 and 24th services will be distributed to our homebound by members of the Care Network Ministry.

UU Library Day Update

Thanks to all volunteers who made Library Day a success! Our readers: Roseann Greco, Lucy Gluck, Jean Palmer, Peggy Sands, Chip Patullo, Harriet Long, Halle Sobel and Tiffany Tillman; library table coordinators: Anne and Nick Nixon; and Gwendolyn Sands who filled out library cards and made some terrific bookmarks to share! Rebecca, our intrepid librarian has cards and stamps for any RE child who didn't get one at library day. The cards are not needed to take out a book, but they are great reminders to stop by and check out our amazing library.

Lynn Douglas for the Library Committee

Second Saturday Potluck

You are invited to the 2nd Saturday Potluck Supper on April 9. Come at 6:00 for conversation, singing, friendship, and a good dinner. Please call Chip Patullo or Claire Graham-Smith at 660-8903 to let us know you are coming and whether you are bringing an appetizer, main dish, salad, or dessert. Also include how many people and if you need childcare (it's free, but we need a few days notice). We ask for a \$2 per person donation to cover the costs of wine, cider, soft drinks, and supplies. We hope to see you there.

JUMP Fundraising Challenge Reminder:

JUMP will receive matching funds based on monetary donations received from March 1 to April 30, 2011. The more you give the more matching funds JUMP will receive in the Chittenden/Feinstein Challenge Campaign.

Please help by making your tax-deductible donation to JUMP by April 30, 2011. Mark your donation "JUMP, Chittenden/Feinstein Challenge," and either drop in the collection plate or send to JUMP, 38 South Winooski Ave., Burlington, VT 05401.

Ginger Hobbs

**First Unitarian Universalist
Society**
862-5630

*Olivia Holmes,
Interim Senior Minister*

*Elaine Bomford,
Assistant Minister*

*Linda Gross,
Board President*

*Martha Dallas, Director
of Religious Education*

*David McFeeters,
Facilities Manager*

*Wayne Schneider,
Music Director*
wayne.schneider@uvm.edu

*Christina Fulton,
Society Administrator*

*Kathleen Kemp,
Administrative Assistant*

Email: office@uusociety.org

FUUSB Board Meeting

The next Board of Trustees meeting will be held on April 19th from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM. Members are welcome to attend board meetings. If you wish to bring an item before the board, the procedure for doing so can be found in the red Board Minute's Notebook located in the Parlors and on the bulletin board.

A Mighty Thanks from the 6th Grade!

Through Pie Sales, Soup Lunches, and Donations YOU helped our sixth grade meet its fundraising goals. And for that our sixth graders, their families and teachers would like to extend a sincere and heartfelt thank you. As most of you know, the main focus of our Religious Education's sixth grade curriculum is a trip to Boston to visit iconic sites and learn about some of the rich history of Unitarian Universalism in the United States. As a valuable lesson to our kids that nothing is free (save our love and support) and to meet the many expenses of the trip, the sixth graders raise 100% of the funds for the trip. Our sixth graders traditionally take their trip in May and stay for a long weekend outside of Boston at a UU managed retreat house. Thank you for making this trip possible through your generous support.

George Rutherford

Large Print Orders of Service

Did you know that there are large print versions of Sunday bulletins available on Sunday mornings? Please ask an usher or greeter for a copy.

All Things Green

by Maeve McBride

Following Rev. Elaine's sermon, "A House for Hope on Eearth" (3/6/11), interest in green matters is bubbling (re-bubbling?) in our UU community. Perhaps it's that time of year - spring beckons and Earth Day approaches. I was moved by the story of the woman near the end of her life, yet demanding of her minister, "Why, why was there nothing at all [in the newsletter] about the most urgent issue of our time - global warming?" My hope is to foster a new regular feature in our UU News dedicated to all things green - eco-activism, green-themed book discussions, stories of hope and healing for the Earth, etc. Contributions welcome! (e-mail mmcbride@cems.uvm.edu)

To begin, I offer the parable of the hummingbird, retold by Wangari Maathai, environmentalist and Nobel Peace Laureate from Kenya:

"It is the story of a situation where animals in the forest suddenly discovered that there was a big forest fire and the animals gathered and they thought what they could do and they thought that they could do nothing. But there was a busy little hummingbird that decided that it would go to the river, take some water with its little beak, and go and try to put out the fire. And the other animals were laughing at it and telling it that it was wasting its time, that surely the fire was overwhelming, that surely there was nothing that it could do with the little water that it was picking. But the little hummingbird did not give up. It persisted, it was committed, it was patient. It kept going back. But it finally turned around and it told the other animals, 'For goodness sake, I do what I can'."

Maathai believes in tapping our spiritual traditions for the guidance and perseverance to care for our world. When discouraged by our global crises, remember - be the hummingbird. Watch her tell the story here: www.greenbeltmovement.org/blog/entry.php?id=162

Save the date! A book discussion of Bill McKibben's Eearth: Making Life on a Tough New Planet, Sunday May 1st, 6:30pm at the First UU, led by Rev. Elaine and David McFeeters.

Book Discussion Group

You are cordially invited to join us at the First UU on April 12 at 7p.m. or April 19 at 1p.m. as we discuss Nelson Mandela's autobiography, Long Walk to Freedom. Much of Mandela's autobiography was written secretly while he was imprisoned for 27 years on Robben Island. Somehow Mandela resists embitterment and finds decency even in callous Afrikaner jailers. Long Walk to Freedom details his commitment to public service and discloses a strong and generous spirit that refuses to be broken. Please note Mandela's other autobiographies qualify for discussion also.

Splinters Board Notes

The Board of Trustees met for its regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, March 15th. All were in attendance and five guests from the congregation also attended the public portion of the meeting. The Board accepted the Consent Agenda with a minor change to the minutes from the February meeting. Bill West gave the Board an update on the Stewardship Campaign. The Board then considered the question of a third year of transition. This item was tabled pending decisions regarding the Interim Ministry Evaluation, Report of the Hire-to-Call Ad Hoc Committee and Grievance. The Board then went into Executive Session to discuss these three issues. At 12:00 a.m. the Board determined that the Executive Session would be continued and the Board meeting completed on March 24 commencing at 7 p.m. at the Society.

Respectfully submitted:
Karen Tronsgard-Scott, Vice President

Spring 2011 UU World

Have you had a chance to begin the latest issue of UU World? You can read about UU minister Rev. Ron Robinson's unconventional church in Turley, Oklahoma that concentrates on community service. In another article, UUs share their personal immigration stories. In "A Faith for the Few?," Watertown, Mass. minister Rev. Mark Harris explores the tension Unitarian Universalists feel between our unique history and our aspirations to be a religion for all.

Read about Rochester, New York UU minister Rev. Kaaren Anderson and how her personal story inspired activists to launch an abortion hotline that offers support without judgment. You are sure to find the Families pages focusing in this issue on "Living in good faith...with technology" of interest. Then there's an article by Kate Braestrup, UU minister and chaplain to the Maine Warden Service, suggesting that grace before meals can remind us that every meal is holy.

In the Spring issue of UU World, you can also read about the latest news from the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations (UUA), activists working for social justice, churches focusing on transgender issues, ministers speaking out on bullying of gay youth, a Michigan church using wind power, and so much more.

The Denominational Affairs committee hopes that you will come to a discussion of the Spring issue with Rev. Elaine at 12:30 PM on a Sunday in late April. Childcare will be provided and refreshments served. More information will come later, but now is a good time to enjoy the reading and plan to share your thoughts with others. If you didn't receive the latest issue, you can find it online at: www.uuworld.org.

UU Silver Bay

A weekend on Lake George, NY: It is an educational & fun time for your family. Set aside the days of October 14, 15, & 16, 2011. Contact Rita or Adam Bortz for info, AdamBortz@aol.com and RitaBortz@aol.com.



Non-Profit
Organization
US POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 119
Burlington, VT

First Unitarian Universalist Society
152 Pearl Street
Burlington, Vermont 05401
(802)862-5630
www.uusociety.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Upcoming Stewardship Events

A reminder that we will kick off our stewardship pledge drive during the first week of April with three community events, as follows:

1. Wednesday, 4/6 at 2:30 PM - Afternoon Tea at All Souls Church in Shelburne
2. Thursday, 4/7 at 5:30PM - Dinner at the UU Meeting House (child care provided)
3. Saturday, 4/9 at 10:00 AM - Brunch at the UU Meeting House (child care provided)

To RSVP, please return the RSVP card that was included in your invitation to the church office or follow the link on our website: www.uusociety.org

Then, on Sunday, April 10th at 11:00 AM, we will all come together for one service only – Commitment Sunday - a great celebration of our community, our faith and our future. Our program includes a special performance by the Chris Peterman Sextet starting at 10:30 am.

We are excited about our campaign this year and look forward to joining you in celebration, inspiration and fellowship!
Your UU Stewardship Committee

Become an Off-site Delegate to General Assembly!

UUs this year are celebrating the 50th anniversary of the consolidation of the Universalist Church of America and the American Unitarian Association into the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations, or UUA. The opening ceremony of General Assembly 2011 in Charlotte, N.C. on June 22 will start the celebration of this anniversary. Highlights include a hymn commissioned for the occasion, a lecture on the past and future of Unitarian Universalism, a panel discussion on UU social justice history, and lots of special music.

Perhaps you would like to attend the historic General Assembly 2011 from June 22-26 in person, or maybe you would like to participate as an off-site delegate in a trial effort this year. The off-site trial provides an alternative way for congregational delegates to participate in the business of the Association when they cannot physically attend GA. Off-site delegates will be able to watch live streaming video of Plenary Sessions, "virtually" queue up to speak, and vote with the "live" delegates.

The 2011 project will provide a full "dress rehearsal" of all aspects of off-site participation, in preparation for full operation in GA 2012. In 2011, off-site delegate votes will be tallied and reported but will not count in GA decisions; in 2012, the votes of off-site delegate will count (pending the 2011 General Assembly's approval of changes to the bylaws proposed by the Board of Trustees).

Although off-site participants' votes will not count in 2011, they will be required to submit a certified GA credential from their congregation. In order to participate in the off-site trial, you must apply by April 14. It is necessary to have access to computer technology adequate to view streaming video on www.uua.org and have access to a telephone line separate from the internet connection used (to speak in plenary, if necessary). You must be willing to download and use such voting software as is required. If selected (the maximum number of off-site delegates is 250), you would need to pay a \$50 registration fee. Scholarships are available from the First UU Society of Burlington. If selected, you would be expected to participate in training planned for early May and a "dry run" session in June.

We hope you will consider participating as an off-site delegate to General Assembly this year. If you are interested, please contact Dave Conrad, Chair of the Denominational Affairs committee, at dconrad@uvm.edu or 658-1047.

Visibility Day - April 12th

Join RU12? to meet fellow LGBTQ Vermonters, connect with LGBTQ organizations, and to connect with your legislators about important issues facing our community today! In spite of progress locally and nationally, our community continues to face discrimination and harassment including the bullying and harassment of our youth in schools and communities, challenges facing people living with HIV, and barriers facing transgender Vermonters including access to health care. We need your participation to ensure that our presence and the issues that are important to us are **VISIBLE!**

Visibility Day 2011 Schedule of Events: 8:00 AM LGBTQ Organizations Tabling in the Card Room, outside of the Cafeteria
9:30 AM Meeting with Governor Shumlin 10 AM Introduction on the House Floor 11:30– 1 PM Legislator Conversations over lunch
RSVP or Questions: Kara@ru12.org, 802.860.7812 Hosted by: RU12? Community Center, Outright VT, Vermont CARES, and Vermonters for Ending Transgender Oppression (VETO)
