



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."

January 30, 2011 -
February 20, 2011

Calendar

Sunday, January 30

- 9:00 Worship Service
- 10:00 Women's Spirituality Group
- 10:00 6th Grade. Soup Fundraiser
- 10:15 Q & A about Transitions
- 10:30 Healing Meditation
- 11:00 Worship Service
- 12:30 UU World Discussion
- 12:30 Q & A about Transitions
- 12:45 Rachel's Work Hours
- 6:00 New UU Class

Monday, January 31

***** Zen (Call office for time.)

Tuesday, February 1

- 10:30 Library Committee Meeting
- 12:00 Staff Lunch

Wednesday, February 2

- 9:30 Staff Meeting
- 5:30 Social Action Committee
- 6:30 Religious Ed. Committee
- 7:00 Journey Through Grief
- 7:00 Exec. Committee of the Board
- 7:00 Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, February 3

Friday, February 4

- 10:30 Women's Alliance
- 5:00 UU Dungeons & Dragons
- 6:30 AA Men's Group

Saturday, February 5

Sunday, February 6

- 9:00 Worship Service
- 10:15 Transition Time Q & A
- 10:30 Healing Meditation
- 11:00 Worship Service
- 12:30 Transition Time Q & A
- 12:45 Rachel's Work Hours
- 1:00 Coming of Age
- 3:00 REC Talent Show Cabaret

Monday, February 7

***** Zen (Call office for time)

Tuesday, February 8

- 9:00 Newsletter Deadline
- 12:00 Staff Lunch
- 5:30 Property Committee
- 7:00 Book Discussion Group

Wednesday, February 9

- 9:30 Staff Meeting
- 6:00 Music Committee
- 7:00 Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, February 10

- 9:00 Newsletter Crew

Friday, February 11

- 6:30 AA Men's Group

Saturday, February 12

- 6:00 2nd Saturday Potluck

Sunday, February 13

- 9:00 Worship Service
- 10:00 Women's Spirituality Group
- 10:30 Healing Meditation
- 11:00 Worship Service
- 12:30 UU Burlington Animal Ministry
- 12:45 Rachel's Work Hours
- 5:00 Yuuth Evening Meeting
- 6:00 New UU Dinner

Monday, February 14

***** Zen (Call office for time)

Tuesday, February 15

- 12:00 Staff Lunch
- 1:00 Afternoon Book Discussion
- 7:00 Board Meeting

Wednesday, February 16

- 9:30 Staff Meeting
- 7:00 Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, February 17

Friday, February 18

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

Saturday, February 19

Sunday, February 20

- 9:00 Worship Service
- 10:00 Women's Spirituality Group
- 10:15 Transition Time Q & A
- 10:30 Healing Meditation
- 11:00 Worship Service
- 12:30 Social Action Forum
- 12:30 Transition Time Q & A
- 12:45 Rachel's Work Hours

Minister's Musings

Dear Friends:

I was enjoying dinner with a couple of neighbors when the conversation turned to the tragic and sometimes endless toll war takes on the men and women who have to fight, those who get caught up in the fighting as innocent citizens, and the families who lose them, either to death or to the debilitating effects of post-traumatic stress disorders.

One neighbor mentioned a trip two of her aunts who survived the Holocaust took to visit Terezin, the concentration camp they had been sent to during World War II. Terezin was a collecting place of some 55,000 Jews (and some 15,000 children) from many countries. They were writers, artists, and musicians...enough for two full orchestras. There were no gas chambers there, but many died of malnutrition and disease, or were shipped on to a death camp.

My neighbor said that her two aunts visited Terezin just a few years ago, filled with trepidation yet somehow needing to go. There is a slogan over the gate to Terezin: Arbeit Macht Frei. Work makes you free. The two aunts stood a long time inside the gates of Terezin. Then one quietly said to the other, "It looks a lot different with the gates open."

On Sunday afternoon Rev. Al Sharpton stood in the FUUSB pulpit to celebrate the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and he said, "You cannot open the door of freedom and shut it after you walk through."

My colleague, Rev. Emily Melcher, told a story in her MLK service of a 3-year old boy who told a playmate recently, "your right to hit stops 1 inch from my nose." The child didn't demonize his playmate; Emily said, he simply asserted his own right not to be hit. The child, she said, was asserting his right not to be diminished by his friend's action, and his right not to participate in his friend's diminishment."

Emily said that "As UUs we are committed to accepting one another, but what began as a safeguard of the right of individuals to think for ourselves theologically rather than dogmatically can become a laissez faire approach not only to the spiritual quest but also to how we behave in community. We can be so intent on accepting one another that we fail to draw boundaries around behaviors that diminish us or others."

The anxiety that almost inevitably arises in times of transition can lead us to make demands of others without asking whether we've made the same demands of ourselves. Am I presenting my

concern without diminishing either myself or another? Am I presenting my concern in a way that affirms the inherent worth and dignity of all who have come through these open gates?

Work makes us free. Sometimes the hardest work we do is learning how to move through our disagreements, our diverse perceptions, how to share our different visions, and through those conversations build a common sense of behaviors that exemplify our deep commitment to one another's worth and dignity; our deep commitment to being affirming of our interdependence. How much we need one another.

In faith,

Olivia

Upcoming Sundays

Sunday, January 30, 9am & 11am

"What We Hold Dear" This Sunday service honors the passage of FUUSB from its first 200 years on to its next 200 years. Rev. Holmes will uplift the many accomplishments of this congregation through the years of the past and the present, and will reflect on the hopes for the future the congregation and its leaders are articulating in this time of transition.

Sunday, February 6, 9am & 11am

"Mystery" What do P.D. James, Dietrich Bonhoeffer and Albert Einstein have in common? It's a Mystery! Rev. Elaine ponders the nature of mystery in human experience, guitarist Keith Penniman joins Elaine for a song. We welcome New Members into our congregation as well.

Sunday, February 13, 9am & 11am

"You taught. I was moved." We live, we wonder, we learn, we stretch, we change, we grow, and we die. This morning, Martha Dallas, Director of Religious Education, will reflect on some of her own teachers, human and otherwise, and she'll consider what she has learned so far about life's meaning. Sharing personal stories, she'll also explore the role of emotion in one's theological development. The choir will sing.

Sunday, February 20, 9am & 11am

"Faith of the Founding Fathers" In both multigenerational services today we will meet Presidents Adams, Washington, Jefferson, and Madison, and some of their First Ladies. Rev. Olivia was inspired to write this play for all ages based on Rev. Gary Kowalski's book. (No RE classes today.)



Message from Martha



My parents' names are Sally and George. When I was little, I thought that pair of names fit together perfectly: Sally and George. Saying those names together rolled easily off my tongue. I remember playing at a friend's house one day in first grade, and somehow the names of her parents came up in our conversation. *How strange*, I thought – to have parents with *those* names. They just didn't work, didn't flow, didn't fit together like mine did.

My primary, immediate world was built and maintained by the duo of George and Sally. Together their names implied rightness and comfort, for I'd heard them uttered together countless times. They were the keepers of the family cosmos. Who'd have thought there were other mini pantheons, like the one my friend had?

If we are developing notions of some kind of deity as children, our parents come closer than anyone else to serving as god-in-human-form. For most children, they exist in our lives as Primary Caretaker, Creator, Rule Maker (and Rule Enforcer). Our parents giveth and our parents taketh away. When we are teeny, to us, they have ultimate power. And compared to all we know, they know Everything. That's why we ask them again and again: *Why??*

Parents also give us our primary identity: they name us. Mine told me: *You are Martha*. And they tell us a lot more about who we are, and when we're growing up, we take on these dimensions of self-understanding. It's not until our teen years that we itch to wriggle free of those parent-defined identities and try out the sense of unique self that's bubbling forth from within.

But in the beginning of our lives, our parents are for us like gods and goddesses. They have powers we can but dream of. They can tie their shoes in a neat bow – and really quick, while they're talking! They can drive a car really fast on the highway without crashing into other cars! They can put a little plastic card in a machine and make a bunch of money come out! They can do many things which appear to children as powerful and magical.

On the off chance that reading this makes you feel inadequate as a god-like parent, consider a couple thoughts... First, in stories about gods and goddesses from around the world, they are a lot like us! Second, many people believe that *love* is a manifestation of divinity. So, be yourself and be loving. Even when you blunder big-time, you'll wow your children again and again.

Martha Dallas,
Director of Religious Education

SGM Upcoming Meetings

- Monday, January 31**
9:00 Mondays at Martha's
- Tuesday, February 1**
10:00 Seekers
- Tuesday, February 8**
9:00 Joyful Parenting
10:00 Sprouts
- Wednesday, February 9**
6:00 Sapere Aude
- Thursday, February 10**
10:00 Steering Committee
6:00 Finding Our Truth
- Saturday, February 12**
9:00 Wise Together
- Sunday, February 13**
Monday, February 14
9:00 Monday at Martha's
4:00 Creative Spirit
- Tuesday, February 15**
10:00 Seekers

New UU Class

Want to know more about Unitarian Universalism? If you are a newcomer or someone with lots of questions - we have such a deal for you! Come to the New UU class, in two parts, on Sunday, January 23 and Sunday, January 30 from 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM, and we will strive to fill you up with information about the UU movement and First UU Society of Burlington in particular. 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 Ken Swearingen at 419-0813 or swearingenkenneth@gmail.com.

Book Discussion Group

You are cordially invited to join us at the First UU on February 8 at 7:00 p.m. or on February 15 at 1:00 p.m. as we discuss *Zeitoun*, by Dave Eggers. In *Zeitoun*, Eggers chronicles the true story of Abdulrahman Zeitoun, a Syrian-American who chose to stay in New Orleans throughout Katrina to protect his house and contracting business. *Zeitoun* paddled through the city attempting to save lives and to provide food and water to others. He was arrested and endured unjust and unaccountable tortures at the hands of police and the military. *Gerry Quinlan*

Potluck Supper

You are invited to the 2nd Saturday Potluck Supper on February 12. Come at 6:00 for conversation, singing, friendship, and a good dinner. Please call Jan Abbott at 878-4873 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. I hope to see you there.

Endowing Our Legacy

"Let us be stirred by our conscience and the voice of prophecy within ourselves... to make our world a better, more beautiful, more honest, more caring place." Bob Senghas' words inspired my late husband and me to think about our legacy in a three-fold way. First, we leave our four children and seven grandchildren who we remember in our wills. Second, we leave who we were and what we have done in our lives. A third part of our legacy is a Planned Gift to the First UU Society of Burlington to help maintain its historic meeting house and to carry the liberal mission of our church through its third century. In that spirit, we decided to leave stocks to the church to be transferred on our deaths. We also decided to give a portion of my UVM retirement account, the interest from which would yield an income roughly equivalent to our annual Fair Share pledge. Such was Ed's and my way of endowing our legacy.

Martha Fitzgerald

Continuing Conversations on the Transitions Process

On Sundays January 30 and February 6, Rev. Olivia, a member of the Board and a member of the Transition Team will be available after each service to answer questions about the transitions process. See the order of service calendar each Sunday for location.

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

Discuss UU World

Do you enjoy reading our denomination's superb magazine, *UU World*? Would you like to discuss some of the ideas and issues raised in *UU World* articles? Would you like to hear other people's opinions as well as express your own?

If your answer is "yes" to any of these questions, please join Rev. Elaine in a lively discussion of the latest issue of our denomination's first-rate quarterly publication. If you don't have the current issue, you can find it online at: <http://www.uuworld.org/currentissue.shtml>.

In the Winter issue you will find provocative articles like "Reclaiming Krypton" and "Dinner with Monsanto," as well as commentaries like "The Task of Humanism" and "Our Connections are Sacred" by UUA president Peter Morales.

Enjoy reading this issue of *UU World*, and bring your comments, questions, and insights to our discussion. We're sure to have a stimulating conversation with Rev. Elaine! Childcare is available.

Please put January 30 at 12:30 PM on your calendar!

David Conrad,
Denominational Affairs

Seeking the Sacred in Scripture and Poetry: An Experience with *Lectio Divina*

Lectio Divina, or "sacred reading," is an ancient method of reading scripture which lets it sink deeply into us for its meaning in our own lives. We will use it with scriptures from different traditions as well as secular poetry, which so often touches the spiritual.

Saturday, March 19, 2011 9:30-3:30 (home-cooked lunch included) \$50.00.

Living Water is about 1½ hour north of Portland.

To register: 207-872-2370 or info@retreatinmaine.com
Registration required by March 5.

Please note: Living Water's required registration date is very firm. Living water cancels events that are not sufficiently subscribed two weeks in advance. People have waited to register until a few days before only to find their choice already canceled!

Karen Lewis Foley, a Unitarian Universalist minister, has been teaching *lectio divina* since 2000. A graduate of the Shalem Institute's Spiritual Guidance and Retreat/Group Leadership programs, she offers spiritual direction, retreats, and pastoral care consultation for congregations.

New Literary Club Forming at RU12? Community Center!

Would you like to have a space to read and discuss LGBTQ literature? or perhaps a place to produce your own written works? The new literary club may be that place! If you would be interested in helping to form this group and plan out what exactly it would entail, or if you have any questions or comments, please contact Sarah at sekulig@gmail.com.

UU Children's Choir Schedule

Winter/Spring 2011

January 23	Rehearsal
January 30	Rehearsal
February 6	Rehearsal
February 13	Rehearsal
February 20	Sing @ 1st Service (meet at 8:30)
March 6	Rehearsal
March 13	Rehearsal
March 20	Rehearsal
March 27	Rehearsal
April 3	Rehearsal
April 10	Rehearsal
April 24	Sing @ Easter Service TBA
May 1	Rehearsal
May 8 Day	Sing @ Mother's Service TBA
May 22	Rehearsal

Next NL Deadline:

Monday, February 7, 2011 covering events and activities occurring from February 20, 2011 through March 6, 2011.

Winter Weekend in Vermont!

The members of the Mount Mansfield Unitarian Universalist Fellowship cordially invite you to spend a weekend nestled in the beautiful foothills of Vermont. Located in the northeastern town of Jericho, your weekend here might include alpine or cross-country skiing, snowboarding, snowshoeing, fine dining and great shopping. We will match you with a host family who will graciously open their home and provide you with sleeping accommodations and breakfast (please, no pets and no smoking).

Weekends Available:

Friday, February 11 and/or
Saturday, February 12, 2011;

Friday, February 18 and/or
Saturday, February 19, 2011

Cost: \$50 per person per night,
\$75 per couple per night,
\$100 per family per night

For more information, or to reserve a night or weekend, please email Mindy Deibler at admin@mmuuf.org or call (802) 899-2558.



First Unitarian Universalist Society
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Glebe Land Coffee House for January: “Tell Me a Story”

Our next coffee house will occur on **Friday, January 28th, 2011** in the Parlors at the First UU Society of Burlington Meeting House (at the top of Church Street). The Glebe Land Coffeehouse presents a wide variety of acoustic performances by people from our larger community and is consistently enjoyable and satisfying. Our theme for January will be “Tell Me a Story” and performers will present pieces that tell a story or have an interesting story behind the music. If you want to reserve some microphone time yourself, contact Brian Haas at bhaas@viscc.com or at 658-4747. The proceeds from donations will benefit a local non-profit organization in our community. Come enjoy the warm experience of good friends, good music, and good things to eat. Doors open at 6pm and music will run from 6:30pm to 9:00pm. **I’LL SEE YOU AT THE GLEBE LAND!**

Hot Soup and Bread Luncheon

Help our 6th graders raise money for their Boston trip by joining them for lunch on Sunday, January 30! Homemade soup and fresh bread will be available "to go" after the first service, and a sit down luncheon will be held after the second service. As an added bonus, soup recipe booklets will be available for sale, including nutrition information. See you on the 30th! *Susan Rutherford*

How to get your item on a Board Meeting Agenda

The Board of Trustees of FUUSB provides vision and governance for the FUUSB. It supports the Society by working at a policy level and does not generally offer counsel on issues related to programming (this is the purview of the Council), or on issues related to staff supervision outside of its role as the supervisor for the Senior Minister. Monthly Board meeting agendas are set by the Executive Committee on the first Wednesday of each month and therefore all requests for consideration on a Board meeting agenda must be received by the Board President no later than the last day of the preceding month. Those who have an item they wish to be considered should submit a request to the Board President in writing to the Society office and should fully describe the item/issue; state what action is being requested and if there is a timing need for the board to consider the item.

2010 - 2011 Newsletter Schedule

Items are now due in the office by 9am Monday morning **every 1st and 3rd Monday** of the month. Articles may be emailed to Kathleen at office@uusociety.org.

Deadline Date	Period Covered	Volunteer Crew Meets
February 7, 2011	February 20, 2011 - March 6, 2011	Thursday, February 10, 2011
February 21, 2011	March 6, 2011 - March 20, 2011	Thursday, February 24, 2011
March 7, 2011	March 20, 2011 - April 3, 2011	Thursday, March 10, 2011
March 21, 2011	April 3, 2011 - April 17, 2011	Thursday, March 24, 2011
April 4, 2011	April 17, 2011 - May 1, 2011	Thursday, April 7, 2011
April 18, 2011	May 1, 2011 - May 15, 2011	Thursday, April 21, 2011
May 2, 2011	May 15, 2011 - June 5, 2011	Thursday, May 5, 2011
May 16, 2011	June 5, 2011 - Entire Summer	Thursday, May 19, 2011
