



# 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."

March 6, 2011 -  
March 20, 2011

## Calendar

### Sunday, March 6

- 9:00 Worship Service
- 10:00 6th Gr. Fundraiser Lunch
- 10:30 Healing Meditation
- 11:00 Worship Service
- 12:30 OWL Parent Session
- 1:00 Coming of Age
- 5:00 Alanon

### Monday, March 7

- \*\*\*\*\* Zen (Call office for time.)
- 9:00 Newsletter Deadline

### Tuesday, March 8

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

### Wednesday, March 9

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

### Thursday, March 10

- 9:00 Newsletter Crew
- 10:00 SGM Steering Committee
- 6:00 Finding Our Truth SGM

### Friday, March 11

- 6:30 AA Men's Group
- 6:30 Glebe Land Coffee House

### Saturday, March 12

- 9:00 Wise Together SGM
- 4:45 RE Brainstorm
- 6:00 2nd Saturday Potluck

### Sunday, March 13

- 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 Transition Time Q & A
- 12:30 UU Burlington Animal Ministry
- 5:00 Alanon
- 6:00 Youth Group Meeting
- 6:30 Second Sunday South End UU Group
- 7:00 PSI Symposium Film

### Monday, March 14

- \*\*\*\*\* Zen (Call office for time)
- 9:00 Mondays at Martha's SGM
- 4:00 Creative Spirit SGM

### Tuesday, March 15

- 10:00 Seekers SGM
- 12:00 Staff Lunch
- 1:00 Afternoon Book Discussion
- 7:00 Board Meeting

### Wednesday, March 16

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

### Thursday, March 17

### Friday, March 18

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

### Saturday, March 19

### Sunday, March 20

- 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,

A high school classmate and I went to see the film, *Rise*, last week. It was commissioned by the US Figure Skating Association to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the tragic plane crash that killed the entire US World Cup Figure Skating Team back in February, 1961. One member of the team alone was on the manifest but not on the flight: our classmate, Lorraine Hanlon. Our very strict headmistress told her, the day before the flight, that she would be expelled if she got on the plane.

After the film, US figure skating champions Scott Hamilton, Peggy Fleming, and others of the next generation of champions talked about the hard, hard work of becoming a champion. The two key ideas they shared:

When you fall down, get up and try again.

On the days you don't want to get out there on the ice, get out there anyway.

They added these thoughts: perseverance, courage, and patience. We all need these, not just to be champions, but to build strong and affirming communities that embrace our extraordinary diversity.

In faith,

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## Board of Trustees

The next Board of Trustees meeting will be held on March 15th 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 another page of this newsletter.

Cheryl Haller, Secretary of the Board

## Upcoming Sundays

### Sunday, March 6, 9am & 11am

Reverend Elaine brings us a contemporary UU vision from California and the UU Ministers Conference at Asilomar. The seminar she attended with authors John Buehrens and Rebecca Ann Parker and their book "A House for Hope: The Promise of Progressive Religion for the Twenty-first Century" provide the topic.

### Sunday, March 13, 9am & 11am

**"From Pain through Passion to Power"** The women of Sonagachi, the oldest red light district in Calcutta, India, are working their way to decent lives for themselves and their children, supported for many years by our Unitarian Universalist Service Committee. In this service Rev. Olivia will share their story and their hope. The Adult choir sings.

Rev. Olivia will offer answers to any questions you may have about the transition process, after each service today. You can find them at 10:15 in the Henry Bergh room (downstairs), and at 12:30 in the Sanctuary.

### Sunday, March 20, 9am & 11am

Maureen Fiedler, SL, author of *Breaking Through the Stained Glass Ceiling: Women Religious Leaders in Their Own Words* will speak about her interviews with female Islamic religious leaders. Maureen's visit is co-sponsored by the Social Action and Anti-Racism Action Committees.

## Book Discussion Group

You are cordially invited to join us at the UU on Tuesday, March 8 at 7pm or Tuesday, March 15 at 1pm as we discuss *Little Bee*, by Chris Cleave. The book includes a brutal scene, but to quote a review from Library Journal, "Book Clubs in search of the next Kite Runner need look no further than this astonishing, flawless novel....tension filled....moral dilemmas....adding up to a satisfying, emotional read."

Gerry Quinlan

## "Almost 85"

Come to a special poetry reading by Vermont author Jeanette Andrew on Sunday, March 13th, 4:00 pm at the Flying Pig Bookstore in Shelburne. No charge. Contact Lucy Gluck with any questions: 652-9058.



## Message from Martha



For some words, I have a vivid memory of the first time I ever heard them uttered. In one such case, I was in second grade, and my mother and I were battling around ideas of themes and activities for my upcoming birthday party. We had several possibilities, but none had really wowed me. And then, my mother looked at me with wide eyes, all a-twinkle with excitement. "I've just had a Brainstorm!" she said, and then revealed it: "How about a *Slumber Party*?"

I now understand that one amazing, fresh idea is not actually a brainstorm, but I still associate the word with the excitement I felt when I first heard it. I literally imagined rumbling drama and lightning zapping around in Mom's brain, causing the resulting idea which I instantly loved: my very first slumber party!

**On Saturday, March 12<sup>th</sup> from 5-7 PM the RE Committee and I invite everyone to join us in a collective BRAINSTORM about dreams and ideas for the future of our RE Program.**

Now, I *know* that about half of you, as soon as you read that last sentence, reflexively ruled out coming. Automatically, you read "RE" and understood it to apply only to people with school-aged children. The thing is, *that very fact* (and I do believe it's a fact) is a core part of why we're doing a brainstorm session. We want to explore ideas for what it would take for *everyone* – people of all ages, and adults of all stages of parenting and post-parenting – to eagerly come here, excited and inspired by the worship offerings and the learning opportunities that this faith community offers. Because currently, this is not true for everyone. Some come here feeling guilty, burnt out, and resigned to, yet again, give more than they get. *So how can we change that?!*

That evening we'll feed you a nice meal, and we'll have childcare for those who need it. And afterwards, you might want to go join the Second Saturday Supper crowd!

We want a true brainstorm: lots and lots of inspired, out-of-the-box thinking of what First UU would look like if, every Sunday kids and youth and all ages of adults: young ones, middle-aged ones, and seniors -- couldn't wait to come here! If we have the will, and we can imagine the possibilities, we can find a way.

More information about the brainstorm session will be displayed in the RE Committee section of the upstairs bulletin boards. Check it out!

... and then please join us! Bring your friends, bring your brain and jump in the storm and get zapped with the excitement of possibilities!

Martha Dallas,  
Director of Religious Education

## Speaker on Female Islamic Religious Leaders

As part of Women's History Month and FUUSB's "Exploring Islam" efforts, Maureen Fiedler, SL, author of *Breaking Through the Stained Glass Ceiling: Women Religious Leaders in Their Own Words* will speak about her interviews with female Islamic religious leaders. Maureen is the host of *Interfaith Voices*, an hour-long, award-winning public radio show heard on 76 public and community radio stations in the U.S. and Canada. She is active in coalitions working for social justice, racial and gender equality, and peace. Maureen's visit is co-sponsored by the Social Action and Anti-Racism Action Committees. Maureen will speak at both services on Sunday, March 20, and will sell and sign copies of her book after each service. Contact Rosanne Greco at 497-0711 or [rosanne499@aol.com](mailto:rosanne499@aol.com) for more information.

## Youth Programs Coordinator News

Most of you will recall that last summer, we had the good fortune to hire Rachel Dempsey to fill our new position of Youth Programs Coordinator. Rachel has been alongside the youth on several new and exciting activities this year, and the high school programming in particular has benefitted from her gifted leadership. Unfortunately, Rachel decided recently to inform me of her resignation from this position, effective the end of February. She does, however, intend to remain involved as a volunteer youth advisor. We will be working in March and April to search for a new person to fill this position. I wish to publicly thank Rachel for her camaraderie and collegiality, and especially for her commitment to our youth. - *Martha Dallas*

## A Note From Our Youth Programs Coordinator

I've made the very difficult decision to transition out of my role as the Youth Programs Coordinator. Please know I am grateful to have had the opportunity to meet many of you and to have collaborated with your amazing Youth. This is not goodbye as you will still see me around occasionally. Thank you for all of the kindness and support you've extended to me. I hope to remain in touch! Warmly, *Rachel Dempsey*

## Come to a Brainstorming Dinner!

**Bring only your thoughts & ideas - we'll supply the rest!**

Dear FUUSB Congregation, we would love to pick your brain! We know our society is full to the brim of smart, talented, progressive thinking individuals of all ages and we need your help.

Come nibble local cheese, enjoy a little wine, then have a seat and let us serve you a delicious dinner and a sumptuous dessert. In the midst of this feast we will have a brainstorm session to gather your ideas and insights to help us solve the ongoing RE teacher shortage. Are you saying to yourself, "Oh, an RE thing, I don't have kids in RE so this isn't for me"? Not true! You are exactly who we need to help us in addition to the current parents and teachers of RE classes.

We have come to realize that the 1950's model of "Moms teaching Sunday school" is painfully out-of-sync with our 2011 working parents, full schedules, little down-time lives. In 2011 we truly need our whole "village" to embrace tending to the spiritual growth of our children. So, come to dinner, lend your brain and help us think new thoughts to solve this challenge!

Saturday, March 12, 5-7pm, Community Room. Childcare available.

*Sarah Forbes,*  
*Religious Education Committee Chair*

## Last Chance for Food Shelf Supper Contributions

...for a while. Volunteers from FUUSB will be serving suppers at the Chittenden Emergency Food Shelf on March 6th and 13th. This will be the last opportunity until May or June for our Society to provide homemade casseroles to feed the hungry in our neighborhood. We have enough people signed up to help prepare, serve and clean up. But we need donated prepared food. If you have it in your heart (and kitchen) to cook a casserole or stew or any other hot food, please call or email Rosanne Greco at 497-0711 or [rosanne499@aol.com](mailto:rosanne499@aol.com).

## Next 2nd Saturday Potluck Supper

On March 12<sup>th</sup>, come at 6:00 for conversation, singing, friendship, and a good dinner. Please call Mark or Shanna Moyer at 316-4775 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.

**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](mailto:wayne.schneider@uvm.edu)*

*Christina Fulton,  
Society Administrator*

*Kathleen Kemp,  
Administrative Assistant*

*Email: [office@uusociety.org](mailto:office@uusociety.org)*

## Do dogs and other animals have ESP?

We know that our animal companions have many endearing qualities, and that they have souls, but do these animals actually have ESP, as do some humans? Some of us may know of or have heard stories about dogs who have found their way home, traveling across great distances. In this fascinating video, "Unexplained Powers of Dogs and Other Animals," British biochemist and writer Rupert Sheldrake explores more about the animal-human connection and the extraordinary power of the mind. Sheldrake's most recent book is titled "Dogs That Know When Their Owners Are Coming Home, And Other Unexplained Powers of Animals." You are invited to join the Psi Symposium folks on Sunday, March 13, at 7:00pm here at the Society, to see the video and take part in a mind-expanding discussion. Snacks provided.

*Rebecca Anderson*

## Claim Your Pans, etc.

Please check the downstairs kitchen for any dishes, bowls and especially casserole (lasagna) pans that you may have left behind and take them home! There is too much down there and we can no longer store it. All extra items will be cleared out on March 11. Thank you. *Myra Timmins, Caretaker*

## Splinters from the Board - February 2011

The FUUSB Board of Trustees held its monthly meeting on February 15, 2011 in the Parlors at 7pm. All Board members were in attendance with the exception of David Bardaglio (Treasurer) who was out of town on business. There was one guest in attendance. The Consent Agenda was presented and approved consisting of minutes from the January Board meeting, Treasurer's Report and Staff Reports.

The Board briefly discussed the January 23<sup>rd</sup> Congregational meeting. All members are encouraged to review the materials from both congregational meetings, including the State of the Society report presented by President Linda Gross. All materials are available in the Parlors.

The Board heard a brief summary of the two open forums held on Sunday, February 13 in the Interim Ministry. Both forums were well-attended and the information was compiled into a summary report which will be shared with the Board as part of the deliberative process which will take place in March. The Board thanks both Gary DeCarolis and Lynn Clauer Foster for facilitating these discussions as well as the participants for continuing to remain engaged in the process.

In the Treasurer's absence Christina provided the Board with a summary of work being done to draft next year's budget. The committee will continue to refine the numbers over the next several months.

It was reported that the members of the Music Director Search Committee have been named. They are Andrew Mack, Anya Byam, Jane Packard Bryant, Margaret Smith and Mark Kuprych. The committee will meet for the first time in early March and hopes to have a successful search concluded by June.

The Board was updated on the progress being made by the sub-committee charged with preparing a recommendation for the Board on the future roles of the Committee on Ministry and/or the Relations Committees. The sub-committee is working on their charge as recommended by Rev. Child in her report. They plan to have a recommendation by May in preparation for the coming year.

There was an update on the policy related to the process for sharing announcements at Sunday services. The Board made a few recommendations and returned it to the committee. Of particular concern is the need to balance the Congregation's need to share information with the desire not to overwhelm the Services with multiple announcements.

The Board made preparations for Rev. Priscilla Richter's visit on February 20.

*Splinters contd.*

At the recommendation of the Executive Committee the Board requested the Personnel Committee begin work on a policy for staff salary increases to ensure that all staff are treated fairly and equitably with respect to salary increases. The first step will be to assess what other UU churches of our size are doing.

The Board went into Executive Session to discuss personnel issues.

*Submitted by Mary Peabody, Chairperson of the Personnel Committee*

## 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.

## UU Policy #7

On January 15, 2011 the Board at its meeting approved minor modifications (bold) to Policy #7 and reinforced the need to adhere to it as a policy.

"1. Announcements will be written and will either be posted on two announcement boards or included in the order of service. Announcements must be in the church office by **12 noon Wednesdays**. Exceptions will be made occasionally for certain announcements such as **stewardship** and teacher recruitment at the discretion of the Worship Committee."

*Adam Bortz, Council Chair*

## Next NL Deadline:

Monday, March 7, 2011 covering events and activities occurring from March 20, 2011 through April 3, 2011.



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**(802)862-5630**  
**www.uusociety.org**

## **RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

## **In the Interim**

Dear Friends,

Rev. Priscilla Richter, Minister of the UU church in Schenectady, NY, serves as FUUSB'S Ministerial Settlement Representative, or "MSR." She receives specific training from the UUA to help congregations in search for a new settled minister through the steps in the process.

After both services this past Sunday she presented her sense of where FUUSB is in the process now, and what best practice might be in moving forward. First, she underscored her commitment to standing by FUUSB in whatever decisions you make on the best path to settling a new Senior Minister.

Then she said, in the straight forward way for which she is known, that best practice for FUUSB may well be committing to two more years of interim ministry, for a total of 3 years. In her presentation Priscilla carefully explained the reasons why she is recommending this path. Copies of her presentation will be available in the Parlors as soon as we receive it from her. I have been asked to summarize her points briefly here, and I hope to do her thoughts justice.

1. Finding members of the congregation to serve on the Ministerial Search Committee who are held in high regard and trust by the entire congregation is critical to the success of the search. Finding such folk in a time when a congregation is conflicted over a number of complex issues is much, much harder.
2. Members chosen for the Search Committee have to be able to set aside their own preconceived points of view on what type of minister they, personally, want, in order to listen wisely to and understand fully what type of minister would best meet the needs of the entire congregation. Conflicted times are not easy times to do this.
3. Prospective candidates for FUUSB's position of Senior Minister will not want to begin their service here if existing conflicts have not been resolved. It is far too often the case that the minister who arrives during unresolved conflict becomes what is called an "involuntary interim," his or her ministry lasting not more than a few short years.
4. If you do the work of identifying the qualities you seek in a new minister while you are still embroiled in conflict, you run a great risk of having the issues of conflict define the skills you think you need, rather than a wider view, created by the whole congregation in a peaceful, forward-looking conversation about the right match of skills in ministry for your future goals as a congregation. This, too, can lead to an involuntary interim.
5. As a result of #s 4 and 5 above, if you enter search before your conflicts have been resolved, you increase the chances of not finding the right match in a minister, which will increase in an involuntary and profoundly discouraging way the length, expense, and anxiety over your ministerial search.
6. Potential candidates for FUUSB's Senior Ministry will have enormous respect for your decision to take the extra year to resolve your conflicts, heal the wounds suffered by so many in such conflict, and develop, all together, a new vision of the congregation you want to become, leading to the best understanding of the skills you need in your new Senior Minister.

A question you need to understand, too, is whether I would stay for the 3rd year if you go that route. The answer is no, I would not; that would be against best practice for several reasons. A second question your Board and I will decide is whether best practice, for you and for me, would be for me to stay to complete the second year of the interim time you had originally planned.

Someone participating in the discussion asked how you could use the extra time constructively. Linda Gross fielded this excellent question beautifully. She said, I believe, you could use the time to articulate to one another your different points of view on the many issues that have become part of the conflict so that all could feel heard, so that you could get through these conflicts with mutual respect and understanding rather than sweeping them under the rug – which will not make them go away.

You could use the time, Linda suggested, to create together a covenant of how you want to be in community with one another, of how you want to treat one another and be treated by one another, all the time and most especially when conflict comes, as it inevitably will in any community.

I have written this only so all have a chance to know and consider the key points made Sunday by Rev Richter. Rest assured, no decisions were made!

In faith, Olivia

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