



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."

May 15, 2011 -
June 5, 2011

Calendar

Sunday, May 15

10:00 Women's Spirituality Group
11:00 Worship Service
12:30 Social Action Forum
1:00 Coming of Age
5:00 Alanon

Monday, May 16

***** Zen (Call office for time.)
9:00 Newsletter Deadline
6:30 Membership Committee

Tuesday, May 17

9:00 Finance Committee Meeting
10:00 Seekers SGM
12:30 Core Staff Meeting
1:00 Afternoon Book Discussion
7:00 Board Meeting

Wednesday, May 18

9:30 Staff Meeting
7:00 Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, May 19

9:00 Newsletter Crew
11:30 Volunteer Luncheon
3:45 Creative Spirit SGM

Friday, May 20

6:30 AA Men's Group

Saturday, May 21

9:00 Wise Together SGM

Sunday, May 22

9:00 Worship Service
10:00 Women's Spirituality Group
10:30 Meet the Budget
10:30 Healing Meditation
11:00 Worship Service
12:30 Meet the Budget
5:00 Alanon

Monday, May 23

***** Zen (Call office for time)
9:00 Mondays at Martha's SGM
1:15 Care Network
7:00 Council Meeting

Tuesday, May 24

9:00 Joyful Parenting SGM
9:00 Core Staff Meeting
10:00 Sprouts SGM
12:00 Staff Lunch

Wednesday, May 25

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

Thursday, May 26

6:00 Finding Our Truth SGM

Friday, May 27

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

Saturday, May 28

Sunday, May 29

10:00 Women's Spirituality Group
10:00 Worship Service

Monday, May 30

Office Closed

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

Tuesday, May 31

12:00 Staff Lunch

Wednesday, June 1

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

Thursday, June 2

11:00 Core Staff Meeting
3:45 Creative Spirit SGM

Friday, June 3

6:00 Mysteries SGM
6:30 Men's AA Group

Saturday, June 4

9:00 Wise Together SGM

Sunday, June 5

8:30 RE Classroom Clean-up
10:00 Worship Service
11:15 Annual Meeting
1:00 Coming of Age
5:00 Alanon

Current Notes

by Reverend Elaine Bomford

I awoke to the news today (May 2) that Osama bin Laden is dead. I read the headline at Michael Moore's website: "Osama bin Laden killed in mansion (not cave) in Pakistan (not Iraq or Afghanistan) by small strike force in country with NO U.S. ground war." I watched President Obama's speech: "The American people did not choose this fight. It came to our shores, and started with the senseless slaughter of our citizens." I sighed with sadness and relief. I sighed again with apprehensions of reprisal.

The story is unfolding all across the media this morning. Congratulations, gratitude and scenes of celebration jockey for position with calls for vigilance, ramped up security, and admonitions that the war against terrorism goes on. Osama bin Laden's persona as an international symbol is alive and kicking; martyrdom is actually a promotion. I learn that bin Laden's son was also killed in the strike, and I feel a flicker of sympathy.

Bin Laden was, like me, born in 1957, one of 50 (50??) brothers and sisters. A document at the Frontline website, provided by a source close to him, states that his father, who went from being a dock worker to vast wealth as a construction mogul, was a strict, dominating man, a harsh disciplinarian. Dad was close to King Saud and the royal family, and during the Hajj season, prominent and respected Muslim scholars and leaders from all over the world stayed with the bin Ladens'. Osama bin Laden started out rich, respectable and educated; he never traveled outside of the Arabian Peninsula, Syria, Pakistan, Afghanistan and Sudan. I flip over to FOX News for variety and learn his body was offered to Saudi Arabia, but they refused it. What a sad thing, to think that a person's homeland would refuse to take back their body.

I took a walk with the dog up in the cemetery near my place and thought of all this; we walked through the small section in which Muslims are buried. Perhaps it is a just reward that the last words said over Osama bin Laden's body were spoken on the deck of a United States Navy vessel. They say he was buried with dignity, in accordance with Islamic tradition. Someplace out on the Indian Ocean this morning, a Muslim prayer was said - maybe this one: "...Wash him with water and snow and hail and cleanse him of faults as a white cloth is cleansed of dross." Allah and the Indian Ocean, wash us all.

Upcoming Sundays

Sunday, May 15, 11am

One Multi-generational, Multi-species Service

"Blessing of the Animals" Bring your generally well-mannered 4-legged, furry, finned or flighted companion animals - or pictures of them - to the Blessing of the Animals service. The UU Animal Ministry of Burlington and Reverend Elaine celebrate our connections with animals, and the love and wisdom they bring into our lives. Bring donations of cat or dog food to be distributed to low-income pets via the Food Shelf.

Sunday, May 22, 9am & 11am

"The Fire of our Faith" What does it mean to be a people of faith guided by our own wish to be of use, to speak with our works in community of our power to help and to heal a broken world?

Rev. Olivia will reflect on the passions we share that lead us to work together in the name of our faith.

Sunday, May 29, 10am

One Service only

"Of War and of Peace" This year begins the 150th anniversary of the Civil War, which killed well over 600,000 soldiers and civilians, though back then, it was mostly soldiers who lost their lives. Everyone suffered. Today everyone still suffers, and everyone dies. On this Memorial Day weekend Rev. Olivia will find a place of hope in the evolution of war to the possibility of war no more.

Sunday, June 5, 10am

One service only

"Annual Youth Sunday" Today, there will be one service at 10 AM, planned and led entirely by the members of our high school "Yuuth" Group. This year's theme is "Morning." We will do a bridging ceremony to welcome the incoming ninth graders, as well as bidding farewell to graduates. The service will include our Coming of Age participants' sharing of their Credo with the congregation. Hope to see you there!



Message from Martha



I had an opportunity recently to practice some math problems. The harder ones (for me) involved multiplying and dividing fractions, including both negative and positive numbers. I hadn't attempted math like this since high school, and a few rules miraculously reemerged in my mind (such as: *a negative times a positive equals a negative*).

I identify as someone who is not good at math. The only kind of math I enjoyed learning was geometry, and as an adult I've found myself drawn to examples of natural geometry, such as chambered nautilus, flower petal formations, etc.

But I like a puzzle, and I was drawn to these algebraic challenges. I was stumped -- my mind at a stymied impasse -- when it suddenly occurred to me that I might visualize the problem in my mind's eye with an X-Y axis! "Of course!" I thought, excitedly, knowing as I do now that I'm naturally a visual learner. In high school, I was instructed to memorize all the rules in order to solve equations. But with this organic "Ah-ha" of maturity, I felt liberated and empowered! Bring on the math!

The theory that people manifest intelligence in a variety of ways is credited originally with Howard Gardner, who developed it in 1983, as I was struggling through high school math. Had my algebra and trigonometry teachers geared their instruction to my natural learning strengths, I wager I'd have gotten higher math grades, enjoyed the subject more, and developed an identity as someone with a solid confidence and curiosity about math.

Given this, how might we teach to the multiple intelligences of those in our UU community? What would religious education experiences look like if we worked with each individual to find clues as to their natural learning modes? What if all of our worship services, which currently emphasize linguistic and musical styles, included a greater presence of kinesthetic worship experience? No doubt the linguistic and musical learners would experience uncomfortable moments, but how meaningful and enriching this would be for those who are "at home" with hands-on experiences and physical movement!

First UU is our spiritual home, and my vision is to do more than simply offer a comfortable place for every sort of person who wants to grow their faith with us. My vision is that we serve as a seedbed for excitement, experiment, play, courage, thinking, dreaming, and more! This way, we'll power one another up with ever-unfurling eager confidence to act in the world uniquely and authentically. That is what our world is waiting for!

Martha Dallas,
Director of Religious Education



UU General Assembly

General Assembly (GA) 2011 in Charlotte, North Carolina will mark the 50th anniversary of the merger of the American Unitarian Association and the Universalist Church of America. UUs from across the country will remember the persons and events that brought into being the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) in May 1961, reflect on our denomination's relevant achievements and struggles since then, and chart new aspirations for the future we are determined to shape.

Experience wonderful and uplifting worship services, participate in our democratic process, hear terrific speakers. Connect with craftspeople and artisans, social action groups, professional and educational resources, theological schools, UUA organizations and staff, Beacon Press, and visit the UUA Bookstore in the General Assembly Exhibit Hall. Network with other congregation leaders. Return reinvigorated and inspired to put your values to work.

If you would like to attend General Assembly and represent our congregation, please contact Reverend Elaine.



Walk and Roll to Church!

In honor of Earth Day, and in an effort to reduce our collective carbon footprint, let's make an effort to walk or bike to church for the remainder of the church year! If you're able to do this, please add your name(s) and number of miles of your commute to the sheet on the bulletin board in the hallway. We'll announce our collective total the next newsletter!

Valerie Wood-Lewis

Meet the Budget

On Sunday, May 22rd, David Bardaglio, the Society's Treasurer, will be presenting a preview of our operating budget for the upcoming fiscal year which begins on July 1st. If you are interested in the ins and outs of our budget and/or have questions about our overall finances, please join David to "Meet the Budget". The sessions will take place at 10:30 am and at 12:30 pm. Please see the white board opposite the main office for the exact location.



Sunday Morning Meditation

From 10:30 to 10:45 on Sunday mornings, in the back of the Sanctuary or outside at the Labyrinth, weather permitting, PSI Symposium folk invite you to join in a healing meditation and prayer. We gather informally for fifteen minutes of quiet, peaceful concentration in the midst of the Sunday bustle. Every person is welcome to sit or walk with us. If you have an issue or person, animal, etc. you would like included in the healing meditation, please speak with Rebecca Anderson, Reverend Elaine, or any other PSI member.

Board of Trustees

The next Board of Trustees meeting will be held on May 17th 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.

Office Schedule Change

We will close the office during the following times to accommodate Core Staff Coaching Meetings:

June 3	10:45 – 12:45
June 16	10:45 – 12:45
June 23	10:45 – 12:45
June 30	10:45 – 12:45

We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause and give thanks for this precious time to work together without interruption!

**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



Do You Have a Love Affair with Numbers?

Do you adore spreadsheets? Does your heart leap at solving budget puzzles? We need your talents and skills as our First UU Assistant Treasurer. Train with our present Treasurer, David Bardaglio for one year. Then become Treasurer and part of the Board leadership team. For more information contact Sally Conrad, Nominating Committee 658-1047 or e-mail: dconrad@uvm.edu.

JUMP Opportunity

For just \$100 to \$499 your business can sponsor the RUN for JUMP. See your business on T-shirts, our website, newsletter and signage on event day. Contact Lynn Douglas for information, 802-644-2197.



Save the Date!

**Friday, June 17th 7:30pm at the
First UU Society of Burlington**
Dawna Hammers in Concert performing songs from her new cd: "Love & Loss." Come here this great singer, songwriter, pianist and recording artist delve into her most intimate, jazzy, bluesy and soulful relationship songs. \$10 per person All proceeds to benefit the UU Society. For more info go to www.dawnahammers.com.

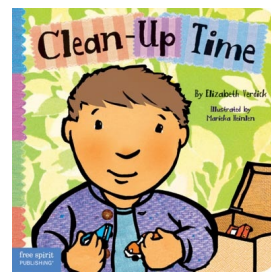


Childcare for the June 5, 2011 Annual Meeting

There is only one service on June 5 which will be held at 10:00 A.M. Worship will be at **10 am** for the annual youth service. No RE classes are scheduled and children ages preschool and up will be with us in the sanctuary for the full service. Nursery care, however, will be available for infants and toddlers. The annual meeting will start at 11:15 and child care and supervised activities for older children will be available. If you will need childcare during the Annual Meeting, please bring your children to the Nursery after the service and check in with childcare staff who will need to know the names and ages of children in their care. They will also inform you where supervised activities will take place. The Annual Meeting will start in the sanctuary promptly at 11:15. During the meeting there will be food for children; following the meeting there will be a reception with refreshments. Questions? Linda Gross 865-0038 or Martha Dallas (863-2438, ext. 28).

Next NL Deadline:

Monday, May 16, 2011 covering events and activities from June 5, 2011 through the entire summer!



Annual RE Classroom Clean-Up

Many hands make light work!
RE stewards : Please mark your calendars for June 5 @8:30am as the time to help tidy up all Religious Education classroom spaces for the summer! Children are welcome to join in the fun! Then we can all go up to the fabulous Youth Group Service @10:00. Contact Martha Dallas with questions, martha@uusociety.org.

Mother Nature's Child: Free Movie Screening Event & Reception

Wednesday, MAY 18
INFORMATION: Margaret Burke, 802-985-0327 or
www.mothenaturesmovie.com

Mother Nature's Child, directed and co-produced by Camilla Rockwell, explores the essential ways in which contact with the natural world promotes children's health and well-being, contributes to the future of the planet, and nourishes the human spirit. The film demonstrates nature's powerful role in children's health and development through outdoor educational scenarios and inspiring interviews with authors, trackers, educators, and more.

FAMILY SCREENING: 4:00–5:00 pm
Adults can enjoy the one-hour film while children are invited to connect to the land through facilitated activities with Shelburne Farms educators. **REGISTER** your child for free outdoor activities: Julia Penca, jpenca@shelburnefarms.org, 985-8686 For ages 4+; Children under age 4 may join parents for screening.

EVENING SCREENING: 7:00–9:30 pm
A 7:00 pm screening will be followed by discussions with educators featured in the film, experienced facilitators, and community members. Continue the conversation at our community reception! No registration for evening screening.



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Warning of the 2011 Annual Meeting

The members of the First Unitarian Universalist Society of Burlington are hereby warned of the Annual Meeting to be held at the meeting house at **11:15 AM on Sunday, June 5, 2011.**

We will be voting to accept the minutes of the June 6, 2010 Annual Meeting, the annual budget for 2011-2012 and the slate of officers for 2011-2012. *Linda Gross, Board President*



Loose Plate for Charity

On March 27 our congregation pledged to contribute 100% of our Sunday Loose Plate Collection to the UUSC Japan Earthquake Fund. I am very pleased to report that our congregation has sent a check to them for \$1,721.30! On April 3, we pledged to contribute 50% of the loose plate collection to Vermont Refugee Resettlement. On this date we collected a total of \$457.30, and we will be sending them a check for \$228.65. On April 17 our loose plate was collected for Burlington Recreation and Nutrition Summer Program, we sent them a check for ½ of the collection, or \$357.77. On April 24 and May 1 we collected for Outright Vermont. One those two dates we collected a total of \$1,447.08 and will be sending them a check for \$723.54.

On 15 and 22 we will be giving half our cash collection to the Chittenden Humane Society. On May 29 we will be collecting for Vermont Center for Independent Living. On June 5 we will be collecting for Vermont Interfaith Action and on June 12 we will be collecting for the Joint Urban Ministry Project. Please come prepared to be generous!

Our Loose Plate for charity program benefits non-profit agencies that are located in or serve residents of the Old North End of Burlington. If you would like to nominate an agency to receive our collection, please contact Christina Fulton at xina@uusociety.org or 862-5630 ext. 22.
