



The First Unitarian Universalist Society of Burlington, Vermont
“An Intentionally Diverse Community”

February 25, 2007 -
 March 10, 2007

Calendar

- Sunday, February 25**
 8:45 Family Sing
 9:00 Worship Service
 10:00 Women’s Spirituality Group
 10:30 Children’s Choir Rehearsal
 11:00 RE Worship
 11:15 Worship Service
 12:30 Anti-Racism Action Com.
 12:30 Welcoming Congregation Film
 3:00 Organ Recital
- Monday, February 26**
 ***** Zen (Call office for time)
 9:30 Joyful Parenting SGM
 6:00 Yoga
 6:00 VIA Board Meeting
- Tuesday, February 27**
 10:00 Small Group Mi
 5:30 Administrator Relations Mtg.
 7:00 Policy Gov. Task Force Mtg.
- Wednesday, February 28**
 9:00 Staff Meeting
 12:15 Food For Thought
 6:30 Building Your Own Theology
 7:30 Choir Rehearsal
- Thursday, March 1**
 ***** Zen (Call office for time)
 6:30 Feminist Theologies SGM
- Friday, March 2**
 10:30 Women’s Alliance Meeting
 6:30 AA Men’s Group
 7:00 BUUC Business Meeting
- Saturday, March 3**
 5:00 Burlington UU Circle
- Sunday, March 4**
 8:45 Family Sing
 9:00 Worship Service
 9:00 Social Action Committee Mtg.
 9:30 Membership Committee Mtg.
 11:00 RE Worship
 11:15 Worship Service
 12:30 Adult Prog - Burl. Postcards
- Monday, March 5**
 ***** Zen (Call office for time)
 12:00 Monday Lunch Bunch
 3:30 Vermont Interfaith Action Mtg.
 6:00 Yoga
- Tuesday, March 6**
 10:00 Wisdom Wanderers
 7:00 Executive Board Meeting
- Wednesday, March 7**
 9:00 Staff Meeting
 12:15 Food For Thought
 5:15 RU12? Board Meeting
 5:30 Mysticism SGM
 7:30 Choir Rehearsal
- Thursday, March 8**
 ***** Zen (Call office for time)
 10:00 SGM Steering Committee
 6:30 Building Your Own Theology
- Friday, March 9**
 6:30 AA Men’s Group
- Saturday, March 10**
 6:00 Second Saturday Supper

In My Heart

I'm curious as to how many UUs watched the Super Bowl last month? As much as I agree with Barbara Ehrenreich who contends that "sport is one of the most formidable adversaries of the political left, one that offers ordinary people a uniquely powerful alternative to political engagement," I must confess to enjoying the camaraderie and fun of getting together to shout and cheer for whatever team. My partner Bill feels morally obliged to root for whoever is losing – which has a way of undermining serious competition. If you watched the game in Miami, you had to admire the team spirit of the Colts and the Bears charging up and down the field in a tropical downpour, carrying the ball from one end zone to the other.

We have some serious spiritual athletes in our own congregation. The only problem is that at least two of our MVP's (most valuable players) are unable to get to services under their own steam. The Accessibility Committee has worked hard to level the playing field. This past year members of the committee together with the Property Committee studied how other churches made their sanctuaries more wheelchair friendly. Consequently David McFeeters and David Foster shortened the two front pews, allowing persons in wheel chairs the choice of facing the chancel.

What we are lacking is a spirited team of at least eight to ten drivers to transport our MVPs. The presence of these gifted athletes brings breadth and depth to our community. Unless we can meet their needs, we are at risk of being out of the league, the league of intentionally inclusive communities.

For the next few weeks, we are inviting volunteers to join a team of drivers for Gwen Evans and Jill Allen. Sign up on the bulletin board. Colts and Bears are welcome. A training will be provided in how to operate a handicap accessible van. Being a member of this team is guaranteed to get you off the bench, on to the field, and spiritually a winner. For further information, contact Roddy.

Roddy

WiseTogether Wants You

Our Small Group Ministry combines spiritual exploration, community service, socializing...and fun. WiseTogether meets in Burlington every other Saturday morning from 9:30 to 11, and you're invited! Find out more: call Deborah DeLadurantaye at 999-3464.

Upcoming Sundays

March Worship Theme:
 Money and Commitment

What is the relationship between net worth and inner worth? Do your life commitments—how you spend your time, energy and cash—reflect your deepest values and priorities? How can money become our servant rather than our master? *“Money, which represents the prose of life, and which is hardly spoken of in parlors without an apology, is, in its effects and laws, as beautiful as roses.”*
Ralph Waldo Emerson

Sunday, February 25, 9 & 11:15am
“The Final Form of Love” In the company of Dostoevsky and Niebuhr, the sermon will explore our ultimate calling to become the best lovers we can become, as well as the questions: what does self-forgiveness have to do with love and where do both love and forgiveness come from?

Sunday, March 4, 9 & 11:15am
“Lay Service”

Sunday, March 11, 9 & 11:15am
“Transcendental Wild Oats” Louisa May Alcott’s hilarious send-up of her father’s misguided adventures on the “Fruitlands” commune points to a lesson about money and commitment. Follow your dreams—but count the cash. Gary will preach and the choir will sing.

Revisiting UU Principles

What do the Seven Principles mean to you? The UUA’s Commission on Appraisal is inviting congregations to consider changes or improvements to our current statement of principles, adopted back in 1985. Gary Kowalski will lead a two hour workshop, enabling as many as would like to participate in this democratic process of defining our core values and the vision we share for our denomination, on Sunday, March 18, from 7-9 p.m.

Financial Facts

It costs \$1800 per day to operate our Society. Pledge income accounts for just over half our annual budget. Currently our average pledge is \$890. We need to raise \$400,000 for fiscal year 2007-2008 to maintain our current programs, which means our average pledge must increase to \$1126. Please pledge your Fair Share to keep our congregation vital.
The Canvass Committee

Religious Education News

Sophia Lyon Fahs (1876-1978), whose name graces our downstairs community room, wrote, "The purpose of a church is not to give us certain religious kinds of experiences; it is rather to teach us how to put religious and ethical qualities into all kinds of experiences.... The foundation of our religion does not rest upon miracles nor do we believe in Truth as something revealed in its fullness to anyone in times past. To us, life and the universe in which life flourishes are miracles enough. Growing insights are the only revelations on which we count. We glory in our children's curiosities and in their open-minded inquiries. Instead of helping children...to think about 'religious things' we need to learn how to help children to think about ordinary things until insights and feelings are found which have a religious quality."

Wow, to this atheistic RE teacher, struggling to articulate my own beliefs and share them with my children and yours, Fahs' words are a huge relief. I only need to experience and share ordinary things with the Preschool 2 class on Sunday mornings, not extraordinary ones. My constantly-evolving but current religious definition is humanistic pluralist; and I am so relieved that I don't have to proselytize that to our children. But wait, Fahs was also quite adamant that "It Matters What We Believe":

"Some beliefs are like walled gardens. They encourage exclusiveness, and the feeling of being especially privileged. Other beliefs are expansive and lead the way into wider and deeper sympathies. Some beliefs are divisive, separating the saved from the unsaved, friends from enemies. Other beliefs are bonds in a world community, where sincere differences beautify the pattern. Some beliefs are rigid, like the body of death, impotent in a changing world. Other beliefs are pliable, like the young sapling, ever growing with the upward thrust of life."

You can learn more about Sophia Fahs in our Society library. Our librarian, Rebecca Anderson, recently passed along another little gem to me, a gift to the library from Martha Dallas, *Unitarian Universalism Is A Really Long Name*. It's perfect for preschoolers and elementary school age kids, and I recommend it to all RE parents for reading with their children. Rebecca has ordered several copies of this book, hopeful that her New Year's wish that all RE families will visit the library at least once a month this year will come true.

If you think you are capable of ordinary things on a Sunday morning, or like making Valentines, or molding clay villages, or listening to young people talk about what the Golden Rule means to them, please consider sharing your presence and time in an RE class.

Aimee Hutchins Cronin

David McFeeters, Property Manager

Why Pledge?

There is only one reason for joining a Unitarian Universalist church and that is: to support it. You want to support it because it stands against superstition and fear. Because this church points to what is noblest and best in human life. Because it is open to women and men of whatever race, creed, color, place of origin, or sexual orientation.

You want to support a Unitarian Universalist church because it has a free pulpit. Because you can hear ideas expressed there which would cost any other minister his or her job. You want to support it because it is a place where children come without being saddled with guilt or terrified of some celestial Peeping Tom, where they can learn that religion is for joy, for comfort, for gratitude and love.

You want to support it because it is a place where walls between people are torn down rather than built-up. Because it is a place for the religious displaced persons of our time, the refugees from mixed marriages, the unwanted free-thinkers and those who insist against orthodoxy that they must work out their own beliefs.

You want to support a UU church because it is more concerned with human beings than with dogmas. Because it searches for the holy, rather than dwelling upon the depraved. Because it calls no one a sinner, yet knows how deep is the struggle in each person's breast and how great is the hunger for what is good.

You want to support a UU church because it can laugh. Because it stands for something in a day when religion is still more concerned with platitudes than with prejudice and war. You want to support it not because it buys you some insurance policy towards your funeral service, but because it insults neither your intelligence nor your conscience, and because it calls you to worship what is truly worthy of your sacrifice. There is only one reason for joining a Unitarian Universalist church: to support it!" Rev. John Wolf, All Souls Unitarian Church, Tulsa, OK

Burlington UU Business Directory

Wouldn't it be great to do more of our business with fellow UUs? I want to update our UU Society's business directory. If you would like to have your business included in the new publication, please pickup a form from the bulletin board in the hallway and return it to the folder provided. Call me with questions, suggestions: Julie McKane, 658-3258. Alternatively, you can email me and request a form, juliemckane1@yahoo.com.

Meetinghouse Key Holders

It is time to change the password to the alarm system! I am aiming for Thursday, March 8 and will be contacting folks with the new password in early March. Once changed, I will flop a notice over the alarm keypad to remind you that the code has changed. If March 8th approaches and you haven't heard from me, please let me know! Thank You,

UNICEF Fair

This year's UNICEF Fair was a big success! We raised \$200 to help children around the world to live better lives through all the wonderful programs that UNICEF offers.

Thank you to those folks who made it happen. I'm sure I am forgetting to list some names but please know that we do appreciate your contribution, whether it was in prize/cash/cookie/icing donation or precious time during set-up and on the day of the fair.

Big Kudos to:

Keenan Lantz, Wendy Pelletier, Aaron Schlossberg, Shepherd Lantz, Hannah Brown, Erin Marvin-Reilly, Jess Wolvington, Fabio, Sadoch, Jean Palmer, Laura Massell, Kevin Wise, Jim Hester, Evelyn Ingram, Ginger Williamson, Liam Patullo, Chip Patullo, Amelia Schlossberg, Emily Massell, Katie Whitman, Katie Pelletier, Beth Griffin, Ellen Wollensack, Matt Gaboriault, David Whitman, Brianna Douglas, Molly Rideout, Jennifer Woods.

Kathleen Ingram
2007 UNICEF Fair Coordinator

Attention Families of Preschoolers - 4th Graders

The Early Ages Committee needs your input in order to plan for 2007-2008 RE programs. We will be having several feedback sessions and hope you can attend one of them in order to give us your input, suggestions and comments about the two RE programs.

Dates: February 18, March 11 & 25

Time: 10:25am-10:55am

Place: Louis Latimer Classroom

Issues to be addressed: What grade groupings should RE offer at the 9:00 service? At the 11:00 service? What curricula/ theme/topic will each class cover? Any other comments, suggestions or feedback encouraged. CHILDREN ARE WELCOME! Please contact Aimee Hutchins Cronin (878-0255, or alhutchins@aol.com) with questions.

Book Discussion Group

You are invited to join us at any or all of the meetings of the Book Discussion Group. We will be discussing the following books:

March 13. The World is Flat by Thomas L. Friedman. "In his latest book, *The World is Flat*, Friedman describes the unplanned cascade of technological and social shifts that effectively leveled the economic world,....." ---MIT World.

April 10. Year of Magical Thinking by Joan Didion. "An exact, candid, and penetrating account of personal terror and bereavement . . . sometimes quite funny because it dares to tell the truth." --Robert Pinsky, *The New York Times Book Review*

We meet at 7:00 pm at the UU church building. Please call Bud or Alison Etherton at 658-4126 for more details.

**First Unitarian Universalist
Society**
862-5630

Gary Kowalski, Minister

*Roddy O'Neil Cleary,
Affiliate Minister*

*Brian Haas,
Board President*

*Martha Dallas, Interim
R.. E. Director*

*David McFeeters,
Property Manager*

*Jack V. Austin,
Choir Director/Organist*
jack@uusociety.org

*Christina Fulton,
Society Administrator*

*Kathleen Ingram,
Secretary & Newsletter Editor*

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Learning Opportunities

Gary is pondering adult education offerings for the spring. Possibilities include a Divorce Support Group, Immigration Study Circle, Science and Religion Book Discussion, Dream Group, Jesus Seminar, OWL for Adults, Parents of Teens Support Group and more. He would love to hear from congregants. Which of these programs speak to you? Contact Gary with your suggestions, gary@uusociety.org.

Charles Callahan Organ Recital

On Sunday, February 25, at 3:00 PM, Dr. Charles Callahan, Orwell resident, Organist/Choirmaster at St. Stephen's in Middlebury, internationally acclaimed recitalist and renowned authority on the American Classic tradition of organ design, will present a concert at our Meetinghouse. His program will include works of Peeters, Langlais, von Paradis, Bach, Coke-Jephcott, Purvis, and Strayhorn, along with two of his own compositions. Dr. Callahan served as consultant for the project leading to installation of our recently completed R.A. Colby Inc. organ. Admission is free. Donations will be accepted and forwarded to the national American Guild of Organists for addition to a restricted fund that underwrites attendance costs incurred by young people attending AGO's Pipe Organ Encounters program, which is intended to develop and encourage a new generation of organists.

The Nominating Committee Needs Your Help!

Our charge is to present a full slate of candidates at the annual meeting in June. For this we need the help of all members and friends of the Society. If you have considered becoming more involved, or if you have a particular interest in Religious Education, Music, our Building and Grounds, Social Action, Lay Ministry, or any of the other aspects of governance that requires input and commitment from members, please let a member of our committee know, or simply e-mail us at: nominate@uusociety.org.

Over the next few weeks you will be hearing more about specific positions as we work to assure continuing quality operation of our Society. *The Nominating Committee: Martha Fitzgerald - Chair, Dot Seale-Brown, Melissa Akey, Bill Klock, Woody Fulton*

Couples Workshop

Want more intimacy, trust and real communication in your relationship? Gary Kowalski offers his annual workshop for married, unionized and committed partners on Saturday, March 10, from 9:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Easy, fun exercises will help participants express appreciation, set mutual goals, and develop strategies for getting more of what they want from couple-dom. The workshop is free, but pre-registration is required, and couples must commit to attend the entire session. Childcare can be provided if need with one week advance notice. Contact Gary (862-5630 ex. 24) or sign up on the bulletin board. Participants should bring a brown bag lunch.

Women's Alliance Meeting

The next meeting is planned for Friday, March 2, 2007 at 10:30 AM in the Parlors. Following our business meeting, the Madison-Deane Initiative will show their award-winning film that chronicles the beginnings of the modern hospice movement, as told by four of its founders. This will be followed by an open conversation about the unique opportunities for growth that exist within the faith community as they provide support and caring for people through death, grief and bereavements.

Why Marriage, Why Now?

Come see and hear "Voices of Vermonters"—a short DVD, sponsored by the Welcoming Congregation Committee. It will be followed by the personal story from a Vermont Freedom to Marry Task Force speaker, then an open forum for discussion. The date & time and location details are: February 25, 2007 12:30 - 2:30 pm at the First UU Society meetinghouse. A marriage equality bill would eliminate discrimination against gay and lesbian couples in Vermont's marriage laws, while protecting the right of clergy and religious organizations to refuse to perform same-sex marriages contrary to their faith." Can't attend? Go to www.vtfreetomarry.org to learn more about the pending legislation.

Get Your Receipts!

Our wonderful friends in Washington have added a kink to the ease of putting cash into the plate on Sunday mornings. Beginning in January 2007, you will need to have a receipt if you want to claim any cash contribution on your taxes. You will soon find Cash Contribution envelopes in the pews on Sunday mornings. If you would like a receipt for your cash contribution, please complete the form on the front of the envelope, put your cash in the envelope and put the envelope in the basket. If you are in our data base, your receipt will come in the form of a Giving Statement which is mailed every quarter. If you are not in our data base, you will receive a letter as your receipt. If you are not interested in claiming your cash contribution on your taxes, just go ahead and toss your cash in the basket. No receipts will be issued for cash contributions not put in an envelope. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Christina 802-862-5630 ext. 22 or xina@uusociety.org.

Second Saturday Supper

Do you enjoy good food, wine, conversation, new friends, or singing old songs? Please join us in the UU parlor for the 2nd Saturday Potluck on Saturday, March 10, at 6PM. Please contact Richard Kemp at 862-4418 or rtkemp@aol.com to let him know you are coming. Also, please say if you are bringing an appetizer, main course, or dessert and how many people we can expect. Bring your own dishes or use ours. Hope to see you there. Baby sitting available on request.

Heroes of the Spirit

This fall UU Service Committee founders Waitstill and Martha Sharp were posthumously honored as *Righteous Among the Nations* by Yad Vashem, the Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Authority in Israel, for their work helping Jews escape Nazi persecution during World War II. The Sharps are only the second and third U.S. citizens to receive this international distinction; Martha Sharp is the first woman from the United States to be so honored.. "Heroes of the Spirit," a 25 minute documentary illuminating their courageous story will be shown on Sunday, March 11 at 12:30. Sponsored by Denominational Affairs.

What's Next???

The answer is: This individual, a Burlington UU Society member, was once a contestant on Alex Trebek's Jeopardy. The question is: Who is Jeff Trumbower?

Jeff has agreed to be "Alex Trebek" on March 17, when he will lead us in an intergenerational game of Jeopardy at the First UU Society. There will be pizza and drinks provided. (Donations will be accepted to cover costs.) Please bring a dessert to share.

All are invited to come together from 5-8pm to play the game and/or cheer the teams to victory. (FYI—Jeopardy is on CH 5 @ 7:00 p.m. every weeknight if you want to see how it is played.)

First Unitarian Universalist Society

152 Pearl Street

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

The Steeple Bell Rings!

For about a year and a half our steeple bell has rested. One day, I was headed up to the Sanctuary's attic to change a Sanctuary light bulb and as I passed through the floor under the clock, I noticed a huge stack of weights hanging in the air with broken timber hanging from beneath them. Upon further inspection, I saw that the chain that held the bell weights had wrapped the wrong way around a gear and ripped the weight stabilizing mechanism off the floor. I stopped the pendulum of the clock and called Nick Meyer, who was then our Property Committee chair.

Shortly after this, John Hinckley, an active member of the Property Committee, along with Tom Peterson, a new member of the committee, volunteered to rebuild the mechanism and get it working again. With much design and planning work and support from Colin Kerr (who cared from the clock for more than 20 years) the rebuild of the ringing mechanism was set into motion.

The tower was inhabited many Saturdays and Sundays with John and Tom, taking things apart, cutting away wood, and preparing for a new mechanism. They would come out at times full of grease and sweat. At one point, a sturdy new base was hoisted up the stairs by members of the Property Committee, only to find that it was too big to fit up the stairs and through the hatch of the clock tower. It went back down, was cut off and welded again. Many more days were spent by John and Tom installing and securing the new mechanism.

A wiring scheme was contributed by Woody Fulton, by degree, an electrical engineer. The Church's regular electrician installed the main electrical components, but could not see the complicated installation through to the end. The organ electrician finished this work. In January a clock expert was called from Connecticut to check the installation and synchronize the clock and the ringing mechanism. At the beginning of February a final alignment was performed. Since then there have been glimpses of a wonderfully sounding chime. Finally, last week a final safety switch was installed by the electrician and the ringer was put in normal operation. Since then it has not missed a beat, ringing every hour and striking the corresponding time.

Tom and John deserve a hand both for their skills and dedication to this project. With families and full time jobs it was a sacrifice and a labor of love. *David McFeeters, Property Manager*

Summary of Cash Activity

January 2007

Cash Balance as of 01/01/2007 \$99,753.91

Income	\$14,299.75
Pledges	\$20,772.72
Transfers	\$ 531.26
Journal Entries	\$ 51.35

Total Additions \$35,655.08

Expenses	\$ 526.65
Payments	\$ 72,980.21

Total Subtractions \$73,506.86

Cash Balance as of 01/31/2007 \$61,902.13
