



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

January 28, 2007 -
 February 10, 2007

Calendar

- Sunday, January 28**
 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 SAM Forum
 3:00 Organ Dedication Concert
- Monday, January 29**
 ***** Zen (Call office for time)
 9:30 Joyful Parenting SGM
 6:00 Yoga
- Tuesday, January 30**
- Wednesday, January 31**
 9:00 Staff Meeting
 7:30 Choir Rehearsal
- Thursday, February 1**
 ***** Zen (Call office for time)
 6:30 Feminist Theologies SGM
- Friday, February 2**
 10:30 Women's Alliance Meeting
 6:30 AA Men's Group
- Saturday, February 3**
- Sunday, February 4**
 8:45 Family Sing
 9:00 Worship Service
 9:00 Social Action Committee
 9:30 Membership Committee
 11:00 RE Worship
 11:15 Worship Service
- Monday, February 5**
 ***** Zen (Call office for time)
 6:00 Yoga
- Tuesday, February 6**
 10:00 Wisdom Wanderers
 7:00 Executive Board Meeting
- Wednesday, February 7**
 9:00 Staff Meeting
 12:00 Trust Fund Committee
 5:30 Mysticism Sm. Group Ministry
 7:30 Choir Rehearsal
- Thursday, February 8**
 ***** Zen (Call office for time)
- Friday, February 9**
 10:00 SGM Steering Committee
 6:30 AA Men's Group
- Saturday, February 10**
 10:00 UU Quilters
 11:00 Canvass Letter Signing
 6:00 Second Saturday Supper

Newsletter News

The next deadline is 9:00am on Monday, January 29, 2007. It is meant to cover events and activities between February 11th and February 24th. Articles are gratefully accepted before the deadline. You may email items for consideration to the editor at: office@uusociety.org.

In My Heart

In reflecting on all that has happened over the past month, the lyrics of a John Bucchino song come to mind. "Temporary" was part of Denise Whittier's presentation of Story Songs. It played both in Burlington and New York City. You may remember:

Everything is temporary,
 A child leaves,
 A heart breaks,
 A love shakes,
 The difference one life makes:
 Temporary.
 The best things,
 The worst pain,
 All temporary.

Anyone who has been part of our Society for a number of years will remember Tid Kowalski, Gary's mother. On holidays and grandchildren's birthdays, she would fly from Tulsa, Oklahoma and bask in the company of her son's family, Dori, Noah, Holly – and Smokey.

People in the sanctuary when Tid was present on a Sunday morning loved watching her watching Gary. She had to see reflected in her gifted son her own flair for drama and wit.

After Tid's stroke in mid-December, Gary's devotion to his mother inspired those who knew of his almost weekly trips to Tulsa. Within a month a major stroke took Tid's life. Gary will be preaching at her memorial, and what a eulogy that will be.

Pam Kay is someone else well known to our congregation who died shortly before Christmas. She also left a trail of glory during her lifetime. As a member of "Room For One More" she adopted Ben and Bob, brothers from Massachusetts. She distinguished herself as a single parent guiding and encouraging her two sons over the past 30 years. Most recently she has been a committed member of the Accessibility Committee, ever challenging our Society to be more aware and accommodating to members with special needs.

Our community has been enriched by the lives of Tid and Pam. Their spirits will live on among us. The difference one life makes is not temporary, not as long as it is witnessed and kept alive within a faith community.

Roddy

With Deep Appreciation

...for all the cards, casseroles and healing wishes that supported us during Bill's recovery from his splenectomy. We felt blessed and loved by our community. *Roddy and Bill*

Upcoming Sundays

February Theme: Love

"Ah. sweet mystery of love." Who doesn't love being loved? How able are we to love? How able are we to forgive? Reinhold Niebuhr says: "We are saved by the final form of love -- which is forgiveness." Dostoevsky draws us deeper into the mystery in *The Brothers Karamazov* where he writes: "Love in action is a harsh and dreadful thing compared to love in dreams."

Sunday, January 28, 9 & 11:15am
"Being Carried Away" Martha Dallas is a member of *Noyana Singers*, a group affiliated with the VNA's hospice program. This morning's sermon emerges from her experiences of singing for those who are dying. She'll explore the capacity of music, and singing in particular, to lift us up and carry us away! The choir will sing.

Sunday, February 4, 9 & 11:15am
"Love Thy Neighbor"
 We welcome Betsy Ferries of Mercy Connections and Hal Colston of Neighborkeepers. These agencies are committed to empowering individuals and families to build the relationships needed to pull themselves out of poverty. This service is presented by the UU Worship committee. Questions? Call Stephen Rainville at 343-9546.

Sunday, February 11, 9 & 11:15am
"Delight, Joy, Triumph, Exultation: The Faith of John Adams"

In Memoriam

Tid Kowalski, July 19, 1923 - January 7, 2007

Quilting Event

Come join me in the community room on Saturday, February 10, 2007 from 10am until 3pm to make lap and baby sized quilts for the children at the COTS Family Shelters. Bring your sewing machine, scissors, etc., your lunch, and your energy. Let me know if you are coming and I will let you know more about fabric, batting, etc. My email is ritabortz@aol.com and my phone number is 864-3516. Thanks. *Rita Bortz*



Religious Education News



I'm getting over a real doozy of a cold. I had made my New Year's resolutions to clean up my eating and get up every morning to go for a walk, and I woke up Dec. 31st feeling horrible. I spent the first week of the year resting and drinking tea. One night I lay in bed for three hours, waiting for my tired lungs to ease, so that sleep would take over. Lying there, I really noticed my breathing. I tried various breathing techniques, trying to outfox the dry bronchial tickle that inevitably returned, grasping my torso with bucking, spastic coughs.

I understand that in an important way, our bodies need colds now and then. Colds teach a lot. They remind us that there's much in life we cannot control, so from them we can learn humility. If we support our bodies to fight the virus, by giving ourselves time and rest and fluids, we end up with a stronger immune system than we started with. And when we start to feel better, we realize that feeling healthy feels like a million bucks!

Upcoming Sundays:

Jan. 21st: I'm taking a Sunday off! Laura Massell is graciously leading the beginning of 9:00 worship and 11:00 RE Worship for me. Thank you, Laura!

Jan. 28th: I'm preaching and leading both worship services. Dawna Hammers will take my place leading the day's worship for children and families. Thank you, Dawna!

Feb. 4th: UNICEF Fair! There will be ONE fair, not two. If you love this popular annual UURE event, join us at 9 AM. We'll begin, as is tradition, with gathering to remember WHO we are raising money for and WHY it's important to do this. Then we'll dive into the FUN! For families who come for the second service, we'll provide games for children. There are many ways you can help make the UNICEF Fair a success. We need donated items for the "Fabulous Prize Room" -- bring them to the 4th grade room (last classroom on the left off the community room). Please bring only clean, new or like-new items. Many hands make this event a success! Look for sign up sheets on the bulletin board outside the main office and in the community room.

I have a renewed gratitude for my health, and especially for my ability to breathe. I got out for a walk this morning, saw the moon headed westward, and the sky growing pink in the east. I said hello to people who were out walking their dogs. I got snow on my boots.

We are part of an interdependent web. My New Year's virus needed me to fulfill its viral purpose. And I have to admit that if it weren't for that virus, I wouldn't have found fresh appreciation for my breathing, my general health, and the miracle of this world that I wake up to every morning. Thank you, virus. Thank you, world. Thank you, friends.

Martha

Valentines Gift Tree

Our "UU Library in the Parlors" has become a much-enjoyed feature of our Sunday morning Coffee Hours. Now our Library Committee wishes to further enhance our collection of books with the inclusion of adult titles chosen from the 2007 UUA Bookstore Catalog.

On Sunday, February 4, from 10:15-1:00pm (between and after services) we invite you to visit our Valentines Gift Tree in the Parlors and encourage you to donate a book for our library. Our theme is "LOVE, HONOR, MEMORY". Your name, and the name of a very special person in your life, will appear on a gift plate at the front of the book. For more information, please call Bobbee Hirsch at 660-8946 or Anne Nixon at 859-9221. Many thanks to the excellent volunteer librarians and to all those who eagerly browse the book carts each week. The new books will be much-needed additions.

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:

February 13. Mountains Beyond Mountains by Tracy Kidder. This is a book about Dr. Paul Farmer. "..... if any one person can be given credit for transforming the medical establishment's thinking about health care for the destitute, it is Paul Farmer." ---The New York Times

March 13. The World is Flat by Thomas L. Friedman.(an) "account of the great changes taking place in our time, as lightning-swift advances in technology and communications put people all over the globe in touch as never before-creating an explosion of wealth in India and China, and challenging the rest of us to run even faster just to stay in place." --- The New York Times. We meet at 7:00 pm at the church. Please call Bud or Alison Etherton at 658 - 4126 for more details.

Women's Alliance

On Friday, February 2, the Women's Alliance invites you to hear Hal Colston (former director of the Good News Garage Program), as he talks with us about his exciting new endeavor, "Neighborkeepers." Our business meeting begins at 10:30 and Hal will join us at 11:30.

Last Chance For An Old Directory

We have a few boxes of Society directories left from 2002 that have members' pictures and a nice photograph of the Church on the cover. They will be available in the Parlors for the next month if anyone would like a copy. After that, it's to the recycling bin! *David McFeeters, Property Manager*

Things Are Moving Around!

In order to make room in the basement for a washer, dryer and workbench, I have been moving some things around. If you open up a door and find that what you are looking for is gone, don't panic! I have posted signs indicating where things have been moved.

David McFeeters, Property Manager

Adult Programs Speaker

The Adult Education and Program Committee is honored to present Donna Covais, Vermont's first and only registered Horticultural Therapist at UU on Sunday, February 11th at 12:30. In her business, *The Green Connection - Horticultural Therapy to teach motivate and heal*, Donna conducts horticulture programs in residential facilities and schools to evoke positive changes physically, psychologically, and spiritually. While overcoming blindness for the past nine years, her inspiring speeches have moved audiences from Champlain College to the US Botanical Gardens in Washington, D.C. Donna lives in Burlington with her husband, Joseph and son, Nathaniel.

Visitor Parking Permits

Most of the temporary visitor parking permits are missing. (These are the red and white ones with a 2-digit number on the bottom.) If you borrowed one and forgot to return it to the main office, please do so ASAP. They were not meant for long term use. Thank you.

New Members

Bob and Julie Devins have been residents of Essex Jct. since their move from Colorado in 1990. One of their two daughters began attending a FUUSB youth group with a friend, and soon Julie and Bob found they were drawn to the society as well. They enjoy walking, bicycling, sailing, music, and hockey.

Shanna Moyer, who has a history with the Methodist, Quaker, and Congregational faiths, began visiting First UU in August of 2006. She has both a BS and MA in religion from Florida State University. Shanna is on break from veterinary school, caring for her husband and two daughters.

Peace & Justice Center Phonathon

The Peace & Justice Center Annual Phonathon is coming up! We need your help making calls! We would love to have a UU Team! Dates are February 11-13 (SU-TU) and March 11-13 (SU-TU). 6-9pm. We start at 6pm with feeding you and giving an orientation. We are done calling by 9pm. Contact Andrea Arratoon aarratoon@pjcv.org 863-2345 x6

**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*

Email: office@uusociety.org
Web Page: www.uusociety.org

Make Your Voice Heard!

Help craft our congregation's response to a UU Statement of Conscience on "Moral Values for a Pluralistic Society" as well as express your ideas about the new Congregational Study Action Issue adopted at the 2006 General Assembly on "Peacemaking" at an upcoming Forum.

The UUA Congregational Study/Action Issue, "Peacemaking," challenges us to respond to this provocative question: "Should the Unitarian Universalist Association reject the use of any and all kinds of violence and war to resolve disputes between peoples and nations and adopt a principle of seeking just peace through nonviolent means?" Information about this Study/Action issue and a draft of "Moral Values for a Pluralistic Society" will be distributed at the Forum, or you can look them up beforehand at www.uua.org/csw/issues.htm

Please join us at a Forum to discuss these vital issues on Sunday, January 28 at 12:30 PM. Home baked goodies will help stimulate our discussion.

Dave Conrad, Denominational Affairs

UURE Community

Events

Come one, come all, to two events for our UURE community this winter that are fun, family-friendly, and inexpensive!

UU Movie Night at Euro Café! Sunday, January 28 from 5-7 p.m.

Come hang out on Euro's couches or at tables, enjoy a huge selection of beverages or a panini or dessert, and watch a family-friendly movie together!

UURE Game Night at Euro Café Sunday, February 18 from 5-7 p.m. Bring a favorite game to play with others, relax, and catch up while having your dinner or dessert!

Euro Café is a sweet, comfortable spot at Main and Champlain Streets. The owners, Vladimir and Anita, offer their space for free for just this kind of gathering, though we encourage you to plan on buying some food or drink to enjoy. No RSVP necessary. Let's start a new tradition! Contact Valerie Wood-Lewis at 859-0049 with any questions. Hope to see you there!

Viva la VIA!

Affordable housing is now the short-term lead issue for Vermont Interfaith Action as a whole, so VIA's energy can be more focused. Because there's momentum in Burlington's city government and the UVM community toward new gains for affordable housing, immediate opportunities exist for real wins. First, Burlington's City Council is poised to "write in" VIA's proposal for Inclusionary Zoning in the revision of the city's zoning plan. Though the proposal isn't all VIA wanted, it's a huge improvement over what exists now.

Second, the University of Vermont is interested in VIA's idea of designating some UVM-owned land for affordable housing for UVM employees. Talks with the University administration and UVM union leadership look promising. Third, in the next few weeks, VIA will be devising a way to work with Chittenden County municipalities to encourage affordable housing growth outside Burlington. Though youth empowerment and health care are still major issues for VIA, opportunities for concrete action exist for them in the longer term and currently are a bit on the back burner. In another issue of the Newsletter we'll cover what VIA is doing on those fronts.

Right now we need your good energy to support the VIA Inclusionary Zoning proposal. We need Burlington residents to make comments at City Council Public Forums: Monday, Feb. 5; Tuesday, Feb. 20; Monday, March 12; and Monday, March 26 all at 7 PM, Contois Auditorium, Burlington City Hall. VIA will provide help in educating you on the issue, suggesting talking points beforehand, and support for you that evening. We also need help contacting City Councillors individually to gather support for strengthened Inclusionary Zoning. If you are interested in these tasks or VIA in general, please contact Sally Conrad 658-1047 or e-mail: dconrad@uvm.edu

"Big Things From Small Group Ministry"

Looking for deeper spiritual exploration and an opportunity for friendship? Consider joining a small group ministry. Members meet to explore various topics of interest and share personal experiences and spiritual beliefs. In addition, members enhance their listening skills and gain a greater understanding of topics through hearing different points of view. Groups generally have 8- 10 members; some are organized around specific themes while others explore general topics.

Interested? New groups are now forming and some existing ones are welcoming new members. Contact M'ellen Kennedy at 802-453-5469 or Roddy at 862-5630 (x25) for more information.

Missing Hymnal Readings

The ASL Interpreter copy of the Large Print (spiral bound) hymnal readings is missing. If you have borrowed it or know of its whereabouts, please see that it is returned to the office. Thank you.

Help Needed

Teen or college student needed for part-time childcare and light housekeeping on Sunday and Monday afternoons, six hours per week. Great pay and many perks. Call Aneca at 655-2501 or email her: quiltedcrow@comcast.net.

First Unitarian Universalist Society
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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Summary of Cash Activity

December 2006

Cash Balance as of 12-01-2006 \$60,819.09

Income	51,168.47		
Pledge Income	40,273.49		
Transfers	16,256.12		
Total Income		107,698.08	

Expenses	219.15		
Payments	68,544.11		
Total Expenses		68,763.26	

Cash Balance as of 12-31-2006 \$99,753.91



UU Niagara Experience

Hear the roar! Feel the mist! See the mighty Falls! July 15-17, 2007

Come experience the wonder of Niagara Falls including some great educational opportunities while being taken care of like royalty. The UU Church of Niagara is conducting a four day UU Niagara Experience which is a lifetime opportunity to encounter the Falls up close from every perspective, even safely riding beneath a tethered balloon. Spend four days with us exploring the rich historical and natural wonders around the Falls. For information visit our web site: [http://www.uunex.net/](http://www.uunex.net)

Email : info@uunex.net Telephone : (716) 791-4453



It's Not Too Late...

If you still have a Guest at Your Table box at home, please bring it to either service on Sunday, January 28. If you have already returned your box, many thanks!

Your contribution to the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) helps protect and promote human rights worldwide. By joining UUSC, you help ensure that your values lead to action in the U.S. and abroad. UUSC advances economic justice, defends civil liberties, and makes environmental justice a reality. Membership is \$40 regular, \$75 dual, \$10 student/youth, \$20 senior. Contributions of \$75 or more will be matched dollar for dollar by the UU congregation at Shelter Rock in Manhasset, New York. All contributions to UUSC are tax-deductible.

If you would like to send your membership contribution directly to UUSC, please help yourself to a stamped, self-addressed envelope located on tables in the Meeting House. Thank you for supporting the important work of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee.
Dave Conrad, Denominational Affairs

