



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

February 11, 2007 -
 February 24, 2007

Calendar

- Sunday, February 11**
 8:45 Family Sing
 9:00 Worship Service
 9:00 Adult Programs Committee
 10:00 Women’s Spirituality Group
 10:30 Children’s Choir Rehearsal
 11:00 RE Worship
 11:15 Worship Service
 12:30 Interweave/GLBTQIIA Potluck
 12:30 Adult Programs Speaker
- Monday, February 12**
 ***** Zen (Call office for time)
 9:30 Joyful Parenting SGM
 6:00 Yoga
- Tuesday, February 13**
 10:00 Small Group Ministry
 5:30 Property Committee Meeting
 6:00 Quilt Group
 7:00 Book Discussion Group
- Wednesday, February 14**
 9:00 Staff Meeting
 6:15 Music Committee Meeting
 7:30 Choir Rehearsal
- Thursday, February 15**
 ***** Zen (Call office for time)
 6:30 Feminist Theologies SGM
- Friday, February 16**
 10:30 Women’s Alliance Meeting
 6:30 AA Men’s Group
- Saturday, February 17**
 5:00 Burlington UU Circle
 7:30 Canvass Event - Bill Schulz
- Sunday, February 18**
 8:45 Family Sing
 9:00 Worship Service
 9:15 Lay Ministry Committee
 10:00 Nominating Committee
 10:00 Women’s Spirituality Group
 10:30 Children’s Choir Rehearsal
 11:00 RE Worship
 11:15 Worship Service
 12:30 Social Action Forum
 12:30 Welcoming Congregation
 Committee Meeting
 12:30 Anti-Racism Committee
 12:30 RE OWL Class
- Monday, February 19**
 ***** Zen (Call office for time)
 6:00 Yoga
- Tuesday, February 20**
 10:00 Wisdom Wanderers
 6:00 RE Committee Meeting
 7:00 Board Meeting
- Wednesday, February 21**
 9:00 Staff Meeting
 5:30 Mysticism Sm. Group Ministry
 7:30 Choir Rehearsal
- Thursday, February 22**
 ***** Zen (Call office for time)
- Friday, February 23**
 10:00 Women’s Alliance Exec. Com.
 6:30 AA Men’s Group
- Saturday, February 24**

On My Mind

Each year, as we ask ourselves how much to pledge toward the support of our Society, we might also ask, “What does our congregation really need?” Not an exaggerated need—but a solid dollars-and-cents figure for what’s required.

The bottom line is that we need a total of \$400,000 in pledge income, a twenty-six percent increase, in order to cover the cost of maintaining two services, covering a major jump in health premiums for our employees, and fully funding the set asides that keep our property in good repair.

Why is such a big increase needed? Because last year’s canvass was pretty disappointing. Revenues actually went down \$20,000 from the previous year. Expenses and inflation, however, surged ahead. Now we’re playing catch up.

Everyone’s financial circumstances differ. But this means our average contributor must give \$1,130 from July 1, 2007 - June 30, 2008. Some cannot give this much, which implies that most of us must do more. Dori and I will be increasing our pledge from \$4800 to \$6000 annually to help meet this challenge. We believe our faith is worth it.

We give 4% of our combined annual income to the First UU Society. That’s considered our Fair Share. I’d encourage you to take the UUA Fair Share Guidelines seriously, as Dori and I do. You’ll see the Guidelines printed in this newsletter.

The theme of our canvass this year is “The Faith We Choose.” What your family chooses to give is personal, voluntary and confidential, as always. But there is really only one reason to be affiliated with this Society—and that is to support it.

Gary

Essex Small Group Ministry

Are You looking for an opportunity to build community and for deeper spiritual exploration? A new small group ministry group is starting in February in Essex. We’ll meet in the home of a member twice a month on Wednesday evenings from 7 to 8:30. For more information please contact EJ Haack at 878-8236.

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, February 11, 9 & 11:15am
“Delight, Joy, Triumph, Exultation: The Faith of John Adams” Standing in the long shadow of Washington, the second president of the United States is often overlooked on Presidents’ Day, and his Unitarian leanings are underplayed by most biographers. This morning Gary presents a more accurate portrait of a man who could be grouchy, stubborn and vain, but in his love of liberty (and love of Abigail) did as much as any to establish American independence. Our choir sings at 11:15.

Sunday, February 18, 9 & 11:15am
“After Ecstasy, the Laundry” To launch our annual canvass campaign, our guest this morning will be Rev. Bill Schultz, President of the Unitarian Universalist Association from 1985-1993 and Director of Amnesty International from 1994-2006. Dr. Schulz is the author of *Tainted Legacy: 9/11 and the Ruin of Human Rights* (Nation Books, 2003) and currently chairs the board of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee. Bill will be speaking about the importance of Unitarian Universalist principles in today’s world; all members and friends will be encouraged to fill out canvass cards at this service.

Sunday, February 25, 9 & 11:15am
“The Final Form of Love”



Religious Education News



Henry David Thoreau said, "If you have built castles in the air, your work need not be lost; That is where they should be. Now put foundations under them!"

Do you see the castles I see? Do they shimmer and gleam, like the emerald turrets of Oz? Some of my "castles" are about people all over the world free to speak their minds and believe deeply in their hearts; rainforests *increasing* in acreage, and farms lush and verdant with organic produce; polar bears roaming a vast arctic ice cap and cheetahs racing and chasing their prey over endless African savannahs; and American children inspired to be wise, humble, and generous world citizens. And I see UU as perhaps the best Yellow Brick Road around. "Follow the UU Brick Road!"

I'll be on vacation with my partner, Lucy, in Thailand from February 6 -22. Kathleen Ingram and Roddy will each be leading worship for children and families. They will be here Feb. 11th and 18th, respectively. Kecia Gaboriault, RE Assistant, will be keeping her hours here in the RE office. She is happy to help out with practical needs that may come up in my absence. Aimee Hutchins-Cronin will be writing the next RE News column. Pam Laser and other members of the RE Committee will be available Sundays to answer questions and greet newcomers to our RE Program. *Thank you all for your good work!*

What do *your* castles look like? Are they castles of dreams, castles "in the air," as Thoreau put it? If they are, then Hooray! The world needs those castles. Children need to know about those castles! But castles are greater and grander than houses. *What massive foundations they need!*

While I'm away, our annual canvass begins. Think of it as a groundbreaking ceremony for building our castle's foundation. Bring the sturdiest stones you can find and lay them thick, snug and strong. This gleaming castle we dream of in our hearts is worthy of only the surest footings we can collectively give. And a Two Services Castle requires significantly more than we've given before.

Please consider the power of your dreams and then support them, *generously*, with your financial pledge to UU this year. Thank you!

Martha

Quilters & Knitters Welcome

On Saturday, February 13, we are planning an informal evening of hand work. Come with projects to work on and enjoy spending an evening with others who love what you do, too. We hope to meet monthly from 6-9pm on the second Tuesday of the month at the UU meetinghouse. Any questions, call Claire Graham-Smith at 660-8903.

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*. "A profoundly inspiring and important book about one of the truly great men of our time." --- Ethan Canan, author of *Carry Me Across the Water*.

March 13. The World is Flat by *Thomas L. Friedman*. "....Friedman demystifies the brave new world for readers, allowing them to make sense of the often bewildering global scene unfolding before their eyes" --- *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.

Boston Trippers

The 6th grade curriculum is currently covering early 18th century UU events and people. Students are memorizing the key principles of William Ellery Channing's 1819 sermon "Unitarian Christianity." They are learning the history of the Burlington UU and how it began as the First Congregation (Unitarian) Society of Burlington and that our meeting house is the oldest surviving church in Burlington. Thank you for continuing to support the 6th grade class in their fund raising efforts. We accept all donations at our weekly bake sales and bagel sales, and our upcoming pasta dinner March 18th.

UURE Community Event

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!

Missing Hymnal Readings

The Large Print (spiral bound) ASL Interpreter copy of the 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.

Horticultural Therapist To Speak

Donna Covais, Vermont's first and only registered Horticultural Therapist, is an inspirational speaker. On Sunday, February 11, at 12:30, Donna will explain her new business, The Green Connection - Horticultural Therapy to teach, motivate and heal. She conducts hands-on horticulture programs in residential facilities and schools to evoke positive changes physically, psychologically and spiritually. As a blind person for the past nine years, Donna is an inspiration for all. She will speak about her own life and explain how her previous career as a florist prepared her for this new career helping others. Maybe you will win the floral arrangement she will demonstrate! Light refreshments.

Singing Workshop

Were you inspired by Martha Dallas' sermon on Sunday, January 28 about the power of singing? If so, please attend the following workshop where you will feel free to open and explore your own voice as well as hear the beauty of others.

Pure Voice! - A Singing Workshop, led by singer, songwriter, song leader; Dawna Hammers is scheduled for Sunday, February 18th from 2-4pm at The Gailer School Building at Shelburne Commons, Shelburne Rd. Shelburne, VT. Everyone has a voice. You can sing! No experience is necessary. Donations gladly accepted to help Dawna fund her trip to the United Nations!

Transportation provided for those in need. Please call ahead to arrange. For more information please call Dawna 985-2074.

Young Adults

If you're between the ages of 18 and 35 and want to meet other young adults in our congregation, please visit <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/burlington-uuyan> on the web for more information.

Pension Protection Act Information

The Pension Protection Act of 2006 contains a provision for qualified charitable distributions from Traditional or Roth IRAs. Basically, if you're 70 ½ or older, you can contribute money (up to \$100,000 per taxpayer per year) from your IRA direct to a qualified 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization (that would be us). If these qualified charitable distributions are made in 2006 or 2007, they may include the amount that the taxpayer must withdraw (their Required Minimum Distribution), and will not be considered taxable income. Additionally, the distribution from an IRA to a qualified charity may not be used by the taxpayer as a charitable income tax deduction. Contact your financial advisor for more information on how you can contribute to the Society directly from your IRA..

**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*

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*Christina Fulton,
Society Administrator*

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Secretary & Newsletter Editor*

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Anti-Racism Action Committee: Change of Meeting Date!

The Anti-Racism Action Committee's February meeting will be held Sunday, February 25th at 12:30, instead of our usual meeting time (third Sunday of the month). The meeting agenda will include arranging this year's school grants, a report from Nini Worman and Monica Sargent on what they learned attending a UUA conference on "Leading Congregations into a Multi-Racial, Multi-cultural Future". We will also be discussing the possibility of organizing a group from our congregation to participate in a UUSC work camp focusing on Katrina recovery activities. All are welcome to attend. For more information, please call Susan Schoenfeld at 863-6299.

Forgiveness

A way to enlarge your soul and lighten your heart. If you have ever struggled to forgive yourself, another or God you might want to join us. A group will be meeting at noon on Mondays: February 19th; March 5th; March 19th; April 2nd. We will be using Kent Nerburn's book Calm Surrender (Don't be put off by the title, it doesn't do justice to the subject!). Call Hopkins bookshop to order 658-6223 or find it online. Co-facilitators: Jeanne Parsley & Roddy. Please sign up on the bulletin board.

Newsletter News

The next deadline is 9:00am on Monday, February 12, 2007. It will cover events and activities between February 25th and March 10th. Articles are gratefully accepted before the deadline. You may email items for consideration to the editor at: office@uusociety.org.

2007 UUSC Holiday Card Design Contest

Creative Unitarian Universalists of all ages are invited to submit festive original designs for UUSC holiday cards for the 2007 holiday season. Each year, UUSC holiday card sales help support our worldwide work for human rights. One of these cards could be designed by you! Create an original design that reflects the joy of the holidays, as well as the spirit of justice, equity, and compassion.

Please visit www.uusc.org/ia/holiday_cards/2006/contest2007.html for submission guidelines and to the 2006 award-winning card. Submissions must be received on or before April 27, 2007. Mail submissions to: UUSC Holiday Card Contest, 130 Prospect Street, Cambridge, MA 02139. E-mail submissions to: volunteerservices@uusc.org.

Loose Plate for Charity

On January 7th and 14th, our congregation pledged to contribute 50% of our Sunday Loose Plate Collection to Dismas House. I am proud to report that our congregation will be sending a check to \$581.51. On February 4th and 11th, we will be collecting for the RU12? Queer Community Center and on February 18th and 25th, we will be collecting for Vermont Refugee Resettlement. Loose Plate for Charity collections go to non-profit agencies that serve residents of the Old North End. If you would like to nominate an agency, please contact Christina at 862-5630 ext. 22 or email at xina@uusociety.org.

Indigenous African Spirit Technology

A two-year intensive training with Malidoma Some is scheduled to begin in May of 2007. This five-part program is grounded in radical explorations of the elements of cosmology, FIRE, WATER, EARTH, NATURE, and MINERAL. This workshop is produced by the EAST COAST VILLAGE, a spiritual community based in upstate NY. Under the guidance of Malidoma and his elders in Burkina Faso, the ECV engages in and promotes indigenous teachings and ritual for the purpose of healing and community. Please go to www.eastcoastvillage.org for more information. If you'd like to speak to a Vermonter who has worked with Malidoma a bit, please feel free to email me at dulcimer2001@aol.com, Bernadette Rose

You are cordially invited
to attend the

Canvass Kickoff Event
Featuring:

The Rev. William Schulz

Former UUA President and
Executive Director Of
Amnesty International USA

Saturday, February 17,
2007

7:30 p.m.

*Chocolate Buffet Reception to
follow.*

*See the article by William
Schulz in the Winter 2006
issue of the UU World, "What
Torture Has Taught Me" How
twelve years at the helm
of Amnesty International
challenged and affirmed
William Schulz's Unitarian
Universalism.*

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. Alternatively, you can email me and request a form, juliemckane1@yahoo.com. Call me with questions, suggestions: Julie McKane, 658-3258.

First Unitarian Universalist Society

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Considering Ministry?

Meadville Lombard Theological School announces the Spencer and Susan Lavan Scholarship for Excellence--a full, merit-based scholarship for an incoming residential student in our Master of Divinity Program in the Fall of 2007. Application deadline for the scholarship is March 15, 2007. Please see the Meadville Lombard Website (www.meadville.edu) for more information on the scholarship and the Master of Divinity Program.

Finding Your Religion

Interested in FINDING YOUR RELIGION? Join us on Wednesdays at 12:15pm in the Parlors February 14th - March 14th. We will be using Rev. Scotty McLennan's book Finding Your Religion. The author is a UU minister and was the inspiration for the character of Rev. Scot Sloan in the Doonesbury comic strip. Rabbi Lawrence Kushner describes this book as "A religious seeker's bible. The author puts human faces on a spiritual search, using the real life stories of seekers...he offers us clever insight, sage counsel, and guidance for our own quest." Co-facilitators : Bridget Meyer & Roddy. Please sign up on the bulletin board ASAP. Texts are available for \$8.00. Contact Bridget regarding books: bmeyer1038@aol.com or 879-5409.

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.

Famous UU February Birthdays

February 11 - Lydia Maria Child, who gained renown in the nineteenth century for her abolitionist writing and who also espoused women's suffrage and the cause of Native Americans;

February 12 - Peter Cooper, leading member of Unitarian Church of All Souls in New York City and the builder of the first locomotive in the United States;

February 12 - Fannie Barrier Williams, founder of the Provident Hospital and Training School for Nurses, and co-founder of the Frederick Douglass Center, a predecessor of the NAACP.

February 15 - Susan Brownell Anthony, the most prominent strategist of the women's suffrage movement and an activist in the abolitionist movement as well as teachers' organizations;

February 17 - Sallie Holley attended Oberlin College where she defended her religious views as the only Unitarian student there. With her lifelong friend and partner Caroline Putnam, she worked for the American Anti-Slavery Society fighting for freed slaves' voting rights. Their school for black students in Lottsburgh, Virginia became known as the Holley School.
