



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

June 3, 2007 -
 Entire Summer

Calendar

Sunday, June 3

- 9:00 Worship Service
- 10:15 Annual Meeting
- 12:30 Care Network Ministry Train.
- 5:00 Anti-Racism Action Com.

Monday, June 4

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

Tuesday, June 5

6:00 Executive Board Meeting

Wednesday, June 6

- 9:00 Staff Meeting
- 3:30 SGM Sub-Committee Mtg.
- 5:15 RUI2? Board Meeting
- 6:00 Mysticism SGM
- 7:30 Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, June 7

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

6:30 Feminist Theologies SGM

Friday, June 8

6:30 AA Men's Group

Saturday, June 9

1130 SGM Potluck Picnic

Sunday, June 10

- 9:00 Adult Programs Committee
- 10:00 Women's Spirituality Group
- 11:00 Worship Service
- 12:00 Wheel of Life Potluck

Monday, June 11

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

Tuesday, June 12

- 10:00 Small Group Ministry
- 10:00 Wisdom Wanderers
- 5:30 Property Committee Meeting
- 7:00 Global Warming Cafe

Wednesday, June 13

9:00 Staff Meeting

Thursday, June 14

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

7:00 Global Warming Cafe

Friday, June 15

6:30 AA Men's Group

Saturday, June 16

5:00 BUUC UU Circle

ARAC Potluck Planned

To plan for next year's programs and activities, the Anti-Racism Action Committee will hold a pot-luck dinner at the UU meetinghouse on Sunday, June 3, at 6pm. Racism, as it relates to immigration, will be our focus for 2007-2008. Undocumented workers in Vermont, the new sanctuary movement, economic justice are a few of the topics we will be exploring. We hope to work with other church and community organizations dealing with immigration issues. For more information call Monica Sargent (863-51880) or Susan Schoenfeld (863-6299).

Last September, our Society decided to add a second Sunday service on a one year trial basis. How successful was the experiment? *The number of children coming to Sunday School has increased an average of twenty-five percent. Overall Sunday morning attendance is up ten percent. And our canvass managed to raise fifteen percent more money this year than last—less than our goal, but still enough to maintain our two service format and present the congregation with a balanced budget this June. Thanks to everyone who contributed generously and worked hard to help us reach this point!*

Next fall, expect a few changes. Our first service will still be at 9:00 a.m., but the second service will move back to 11:00 a.m. Children will be present in the sanctuary for the first few minutes of each service, before they go to classes. And those classes will be very similar in terms of curricula, striving to offer a comparable educational experience for kids whether families choose to come early or late. Based on advice from our large church consultant, Stefan Jonasson, we think this will help balance the numbers attending each service and help us make the most of our available classroom space without overcrowding.

We will still need lots of help with our teaching teams! This year we had many non-parents who volunteered to teach, including Jan Abbot, Rebecca Anderson, Linda Ayer, Ron Bernard-Rivera, Bruce Brown, Liza Demarais, Dori Jones, Bridget Meyer, Amelia Schlossberg, Greg Swain, Jeff Trumbower, Chris Vaccaro, and Tresa Jenkins. Next year, we're hoping that others will want to join in this important work. It is a morally complex world we live in. Where else will young people acquire the values and wisdom they need, if not in faith communities like this one? Please sign up to teach on our bulletin board or by calling Martha Dallas.

Other changes we've discussed for next year include a "mid week" program night, which might include a potluck meal followed by games for youngsters, films and forums aimed at adults, and even homework help for older students.

We are working hard to put our limited space to best use and serve the needs of as many people as we can, with a decision-making process that includes our Board and various committees to be as democratic as practical. While change isn't always easy, it's a sign of vitality in a growing congregation with an ever-evolving sense of how we can make a difference in the world.

Gary

Upcoming Sundays

Sunday, June 3, 2007 9am

“Community Matters!” Please note that there will be only one worship service this morning, as Gary reflects on the ways that freedom comes alive in relationship and responsibility. *The 9:00 a.m. service will be followed by our annual congregational meeting at 10:15 a.m.* New members of the Society will be introduced this morning—if you are not currently a stakeholder in the congregation and would like to be a full participant in our community, please speak to Roddy, Martha or Gary about signing our book of members. All who support our principles are welcome.

Sunday, June 10, 2007 11:00am

“Wheel of Life” Although summer services begin next week, this is our final service of the regularly scheduled worship calendar until we reconvene next September, an intergenerational celebration of the milestones of the twelve months past—babies born, children verging into adulthood, lovers united, friends and family passed into memory. Please contact Gary (gary@uusociety.org) if you have family members graduating from high school or college.

UU Travel Raffle Tickets Now on Sale!

The final fundraiser before the summer break is underway. Win a trip and help the Society meet its financial obligations.

1st Prize: A week at an ocean-view condo in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico. Prize includes two \$400 airline vouchers.

2nd Prize: Fourth of July week on the Stowe mountainside at a two bedroom condo with indoor pool, sauna, hot tub & tennis courts.

3rd Prize: A weekend getaway to Montreal, Quebec

Consolation prize: A picnic and an antique boat ride on Lake Champlain

Ticket prices: \$10 each or 3 for \$25. Only 700 tickets will be sold! Drawing will be held on June 10th at 1pm in the Memorial Garden. Tickets can be purchased from any board member. Look for them in the Parlors following services. Tickets are also available through Christina Fulton.

Religious Education News

Here comes Summertime!

June 3rd is our last regular RE day, so I encourage classes to make a Big Deal of their year together, and all their shared learning adventures. Have a little party, make a little music, and dig into the ritual of "undoing" a year of togetherness: take stuff off your walls, clear out clutter and odds and ends that the rest of us won't want, or won't know what to do with. It's a rich and meaningful activity for the kids: it engages them in marking the time of transition from spring to summer.

June 10th is our annual Intergenerational Wheel of Life service. It will be at 11 AM. We'll celebrate the year's transitions, including births, deaths, and various changes in between. It will be a great celebration of ourselves and all that we are, and will be followed by a picnic and music on the lawn, where we'll take some time for a big Thank You to All this year's RE Stewards!

I don't know much about the history of UU worship in the summertime, but in New England in particular, churches have historically closed their doors for the summer, and simultaneously opened area camps and conference centers. Many UUs have decades-long, multi-generational traditions of meeting up with friends and families at beloved UU summer gathering spots. Such places provide a mix of structured and non-structured programming; choice of activities or doing nothing; frequent worship experiences, and time for socializing. Program atmosphere reflects the season's heat and its lively nature.

In the spirit of this tradition, I'll be attending "RE Week" in July at Star Island, a UU conference center on the Isles of Shoals, off the coast of New Hampshire. I look forward to a time where "work" feels more like play, and that play is interspersed with plenty of down time under a big, blue sky with the sounds of waves crashing on rock and squawking seagulls!

Here in Burlington, our UU Society will *not* be closed; instead, we will offer up our series of summer services, running from June 17 – August 12 at 10 AM. These will be followed by two "Open House" Sundays, where we'll open our doors not for worship, but to welcome visitors who'd like a tour of the Society with a bit of history and introduction of what we're all about. Childcare will be provided these summer Sundays, and I encourage you to attend some summer services, which are light in style, with a variety of speakers and topics.

I will be working in the RE office for most of the summer, enjoying a more relaxed pace, wrapping up this year's doings and readying for next year. I am looking forward to the quiet, and to a heavier portion of "mindless" tasks!

I hope that your summer brings you plenty of smiles, laughs, sighs of contentment, naps, and fun. Fill up with this summer "food" so it may be a source of nourishment when September returns!

It has been a wonderful first year with you, **Martha**

Pride Parade

March behind the UU banner at the GLBTIQQA Pride Parade on Saturday July 7. For more information about the meeting place, contact Scotty at scottylvt@hotmail.com. Then join the Welcoming Congregation for services in our Sanctuary on Sunday July 8th at 10am. All are welcome.

Monday Yoga

Monday yoga with Haley Mathis (Root Yoga) will be suspended for the summer months. The free class will resume on Monday, September 10th. In the meantime, other Root Yoga classes with Haley will continue as scheduled throughout most of the summer. Discover your potential for growth...begin by building foundations through yoga. Experience a new alignment in the body, reach a higher level of clarity in the mind, free your heart. The current schedule is Friday from 5:30pm until 7pm, and Sunday from 4:30pm to 6pm. Please see www.rootyoga.net or call the church to inquire about any schedule changes over the summer months.

Women's Alliance Picnic

The Women's Alliance Picnic is a long-standing tradition at the First UU Society of Burlington. For many years, we gathered with our guests at Ann Coffrin's lovely lakeside home, and the Alliance thanks her gratefully for those wonderful picnics and views. On Friday, June 1, at noon please join the Alliance at the UU Memorial Garden with your sandwich. Beverages are provided. Please also bring a finger food, or a dessert. At the picnic, the Alliance will dedicate a planting in memory of Tid Kowalski, Gary's mother. Guests are most welcome.

UU Silent Auction

Thanks to all who contributed so many great goods and services, and to those who bid. We raised roughly \$3800, a necessary supplement to our Society's operating budget that pays for utilities and salaries as well as funding Religious Education, Music and other important programs.

Gary Kowalski, Auction Organizer

Save the Date

UU Weekend at Silver Bay, Lake George, NY is October 12 -14, 2007. For info, phone Rita & Adam Bortz at 864-3516.

Lost and Found

Many different items have turned up in and around the church property, landed in the box near the main entrance remain unclaimed. Please check to see if one of these items might be yours. All unclaimed articles will be donated to a local charity.

Blue Books

All Committee Chairs and Board Members: Please bring your Blue Book to the Annual Meeting on June 3. Updates and changes to the Blue Books are made during the summer so that they are ready to hand out to the new Chairs in the fall. If you will not be at the Annual Meeting, please drop off your Blue Book in the main office as soon as possible. Thank you!

Laptop Needed for Library!

Does anyone have a Pentium III or later laptop that is collecting dust? We have a new program to inventory books in our library. By entering a book's code, information is pulled from the Internet about the book and placed into our local database. The program comes with a scanner so that if a book has a barcode it can easily be scanned. Unfortunately, the old Pentium II laptop we are using does not have a USB or keyboard port and cannot accommodate a scanner.

Lynn Douglas, from the library committee, has faithfully been entering the book codes by hand. Scanning would really facilitate her work, which will make an inventory of books available to the Religious Education folks and others on our network. If you have such a computer you would be willing to donate, please contact me.

Thanks,
David McFeeters
david@uusociety.org

Newsletter News

Our bi-weekly publication goes on hiatus for the summer with this issue. Please stay tuned to our UU website, for next year's schedule due out in August, www.uusociety.org. Have a great summer!

End of Year Event!

An all Society Celebration is planned after the service on Sunday, June 10th. It's the end of the regular church programming year and the beginning of summer services. Come and share a finger food Pot Luck, then dance to music by Joe Pepper in the memorial garden and please, hope for good weather. Please bring food for you, your family and six others. Here are some finger food suggestions: sandwiches cut in quarters, cheese cut in slices or chunks, crackers, vegetables and dips, fruit cut up, humus, etc. You get the idea... *Sponsored by Adult Programs and the Fun, Fellowship and Frolic Committee*

Minister's Summer Schedule

Gary will be on vacation during the month of July. He is "on call" for urgent meetings from June 15-June 30 and August 1-August 15. Please feel free to call him at home anytime in the event of a death or personal crisis, 862-6824.

**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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Vermont Interfaith Action (VIA) Needs Your Commitment

The seven faith-based religious organizations in Burlington have been working on various projects, one of which is affordable housing. On that topic, VIA members, including many UUs, have held meetings with officials at UVM regarding its part in the affordable housing problem within Burlington. UVM has discussed providing a feasibility study with the possibility of providing housing on some of its property within Burlington or nearby. Now it's time for UVM to follow through on its promised study.

A Report-Back Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, June 10 at 5:30 PM at Ohavi Zedek Synagogue located at 188 North Prospect Street in Burlington. This informational meeting is scheduled for one hour. Your presence is crucial; a large turnout of 500 people will ensure community support for VIA's work. Commit, sign the petition, and attend this important meeting. It's an important step in ensuring more affordable housing in our community.

Should you have questions, please call the VIA office at 651-8889, or Pat Allen at 864-9799. Many thanks.

Pat Allen on behalf of VIA

Piano Recital Planned

You are Cordially invited to attend Josh Hester's Senior Piano Recital on Saturday, June 2, 2007 @7pm at the Elley-Long Music Center at St. Michael's College, 233 Ethan Allen Avenue, Colchester, VT. Reception to follow. Josh is a YUUT (Youth Group) and member of our Society. R.S.V.P. (802) 899-3772 or sarahb66@verizon.net.

An Opportunity to Help Unitarian Universalism Grow!

To our fellow Unitarian Universalist
Congregations:

I am writing to tell you about our exciting endeavor in Jericho, Vermont: we're buying a building! For thirteen years the Mount Mansfield Unitarian Universalist Fellowship has held worship services at Jericho Elementary School. Over the past two years of thoughtful discussion and strategic planning, we have decided to purchase a building of our own. It is our hope that the old red barn in Jericho will become our new spiritual home and place of worship.

We are asking if you would be willing help in our efforts. Our goal is to raise \$300,000. We have already raised over half of this amount through membership pledges and fundraising. Now we are reaching out to the larger community for support.

Please consider a contribution to help us make our dream come true, a home for Mount Mansfield Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. Contributions can be sent to: MMUUF, PO Box 150, Jericho, VT 05465.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sincerely,
Dana Baron
MMUUF President

It Takes a Village

Hillary Clinton's words ring true in our Society. It takes a village to provide religious education to our Society's children. This year many parts of our Society's "village" contributed to raising our UU kids: parents, grandparents, ministers, youth, staff and many members of our Society at large. You helped as teachers, RE Angels, classroom helpers. You helped all year long, a couple times a month, or one special time. Whatever the effort, however long it was, it all contributed to the fine UU kids that we have. Myself and entire the RE Committee thank each of you for your time and effort toward our RE village. You made a difference. As planning for next year takes place we invite each of you to join next year's "village." Sign up on the RE boards both upstairs and downstairs. Fill out a new RE volunteer pew card and leave it in the collection basket. Or talk with Martha, our DRE, who will be available all summer. Let us know if you have a special area of interest or age group so that we can fit you in to a spot right for you. It takes a village. Come be part of ours.

*Respectfully submitted by Pam Laser,
RE Committee Chair*

Remember the Bazaar

As you do your canning, making preserves, pickles, tomato sauce, etc. this summer, please make a few extra to donate to the food table at the December Bazaar. These items *fly* off the table!

Women's Alliance

Summer Hours

During the summer we go down to a skeleton crew. Those of us that work through the summer like to take vacation time. Therefore, please note our reduced summer hours. For the most part, these are the hours that the building will be open. However, if you are making a special trip to the meeting house, please call ahead as there may be times when the staff is on vacation and the building closed. Beginning on Monday, June 18, the building will be open Monday through Thursday from 9am - 1pm. If you come during these hours and the door is locked, please ring the bell. If a staff person is alone in the building, they will keep the door locked. We return to normal business hours (M-Th, 8:30 - 4) on Monday, August 27.

New Members

John and Rebecca Grimm live in Burlington's old North end. Becka is a pediatric occupational therapist, and John is a clinical social worker who works with adolescents. They split their time between their careers and spending time at home with their children Dylan (3) and Abbie (5), and their dog Wylie.

Martina Lemm has been attending First UU with daughter Zika since 2000, and both are very active in the RE program. Martina, a native of Germany, describes herself as a life long learner, and teaches Spanish and French in South Burlington.

Mary Kehoe, a practicing attorney, moved to Burlington in 1983. She shares her life with children Libby and Peter.

Peg Rosenau has been active as a teacher in the RE program for 2 ½ years prior to joining the Society in April. Peg, a former environmental educator but now stay-at-home mom, lives in Shelburne with husband Paul, daughter Emma, and son Theo.

Campus Orientation

UU's are needed to help staff the "Religion & Spiritual Life" tables at UVM during first year orientation. Orientations occur in the green between Bailey-Howe and the Fleming Museum between the hours of 10 am - 1 p.m. on June 10, June 15, June 18, June 23, June 26, and June 29. You will be there to greet any UU's registering and inform them about our campus ministry, UUs@UVM. All volunteers receive a free lunch! Please contact Gary (gary@uusociety.org) if you can help.

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
152 Pearl Street
Burlington, Vermont 05401
(802)862-5630
www.uusociety.org

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Annual Meeting

The members of the First Unitarian Universalist Society of Burlington, VT are hereby warned of the Annual Meeting to be held at the Meeting House on **Sunday, June 3rd, 2007.**

Schedule:

Member Registration: 8:30 AM to 9 AM

Community Sing: 8:45 AM to 9:00 AM

Note: Only one worship service will be held this day: 9 AM to 10:15 AM

Annual Meeting Start: 10:15 AM sharp

Social Hour to follow

AGENDA

1. Call to order: Dedication of Annual Report
 2. Opening
 3. Approval of minutes from 2006 Annual Meeting
 4. Introduction of Board Members
 5. Annual report of the Minister: Gary Kowalski
 6. Annual report of the Board Chair: Brian Haas
 7. Policy Governance:
 - a. General Information about Policy Governance
 - b. Starting date of July 2008 (start of FYE 2009)
 - c. Amendment of by-laws at next Annual Meeting
 - d. Questions and Answers
 8. Nominating Committee:
 - a. Nominations for positions by the committee
 - b. Nominations from the floor
 - c. Discussion;
 - d. Voting
 9. Treasurer:
 - a. Presentation of the FYE 2008 Budget
 - b. Discussion
 - c. Voting
 10. Other Business that may be presented by the membership.
 11. Closing
 12. Adjournment
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