



May 20, 2007 -
 June 2, 2007

Calendar

Sunday, May 20

- 8:45 Family Sing
- 9:00 Worship Service
- 9:15 Lay Ministry Committee
- 10:00 Women’s Spirituality Group
- 10:30 Children’s Choir Rehearsal
- 11:00 RE Worship
- 11:15 Worship Service
- 12:15 Nominating Committee
- 12:30 Social Action Ministry Forum
- 12:30 Welcoming Congregation
- 12:30 Catamount Healthcare Mtg.
- 12:30 Care Network Ministry Train.

Monday, May 21

- ***** Zen (Call office for time)
- 9:30 Joyful Parenting SGM
- 6:00 Yoga

Tuesday, May 22

- 10:00 Small Group Ministry
- 5:30 Admin. Relations Committee
- 6:00 RE Committee Meeting
- 7:00 Book Discussion Group
- 7:00 Film “The Ground Truth”

Wednesday, May 23

- 9:00 Staff Meeting
- 6:00 ARAC: Immigration Study Circle Discussion
- 6:30 Practicing Your Faith
- 7:30 Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, May 24

- ***** Zen (Call office for time)
- 9:00 Newsletter Crew
- 12:00 Volunteer Luncheon

Friday, May 25

- 10:00 Women’s Alliance Exec. Mtg.
- 6:30 AA Men’s Group

Saturday, May 26

Sunday, May 27

- 8:45 Family Sing
- 9:00 Worship Service
- 10:00 Women’s Spirituality Group
- 11:00 RE Worship
- 11:15 Worship Service
- 12:15 Nominating Committee

Monday, May 28

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

Tuesday, May 29

- 10:00 Wisdom Wanderers

Wednesday, May 30

- 9:00 Staff Meeting
- 6:30 Practicing Your Faith

Thursday, May 31

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

Friday, June 1

- 10:30 Women’s Alliance Meeting
- 6:30 AA Men’s Group
- 7:00 BUUC Business Meeting

Saturday, June 2

- 9:00 RE Roles & Responsibilities Meeting

In My Heart

I don't know if I ever really believed a saying of the German philosopher Martin Heidegger until the recent "New U" session April 21st. "I stand at the door of myself and listen, and then I know what I think." Many probably wish that people would think more before they speak.

As a young child I learned the marks of the true church were that it was: "one, holy, catholic, and apostolic." Since then I have come to believe that the church where I belong is "diverse, flawed, universal in the sense of inclusive, and democratic." What I said last April 21st was that the marks of this church that make it true for me are the people, people from diverse traditions looking for a faith community in which they can grow and be of service.

The ministers share a covenant of expectations and promises with the congregation. Gary and I need to know whether we are meeting these expectations. Each of us has a ministerial committee of four members whom we meet with regularly. (My next meeting is Thursday, May 17, at 4:30pm.) The role of these committees is not that well understood in the larger congregation. They are meant to be conduits of feedback both positive and critical regarding our performance, how well we are meeting your expectations.

On Sunday, April 29th, between the two services our committees held an open forum welcoming input from the larger society. For any number of reasons, timing, inadequate notice etc., the only people who attended were our own committees. Speaking for Gary and myself, we don't want to be the only ones listening as we "stand at the door of ourselves." We need your thoughtful feedback, creative exchange to keep open to the Spirit of Wisdom within and among us all. Our committees on Ministry, as well as Gary and I look forward to hearing from you. The members of my committee are: Pat Allen, Betsy Ferries, Merl Grossmeyer and Brian Jaffarian. Gary's are: D.K.Johnston, Dan Maxon, Becky Peterson and Ginger Williamson.

Roddy

Upcoming Sundays

May Worship Theme: Birth

Whether we're being born or giving birth, it's a struggle filled with agony and ecstasy. Each day that we reverence life, our own and others, we are born anew, our relationships generate energy, and we strengthen the fabric of community. As in natural childbirth, so too in living creatively, the more we pay attention to our breathing, the more able we are to deal with the stress of bringing forth new life. What are you bringing to birth in your life? Does faith play a role in coping with stress?

Sunday, May 20, 9 & 11:15am

“Smells Like Teen Spirit” Music expresses the energy and aspirations of youth across the generations. Join our Young UU Thinkers at **9:00am** for this worship rave. **“Choir Sunday”** The **11:15** service, an annual event, will consist of musical offerings from our UU choir directed by Jack Austin.

Sunday, May 27, 9 & 11:15am

“Memorial Day in a Time of War” On this Memorial Day weekend, we honor the people who have given their lives in war. How can we honor their commitment without honoring the glory of war? As the young soldiers say in the poem by Archibald MacLeish, "We give you our deaths. Give them meaning." Bridget Meyer, who comes from a military family background, coordinates this lay led service that explores these issues.

Sunday, June 3, 9 & 11:15am

“Community Matters” Cornel West has written a number of books with intriguing titles: *Race Matters*, *Democracy Matters*, *Faith Matters*. This morning Gary reflects on all of these themes—why our intentionally diverse, liberal religious community matters--as we convene for worship prior to our annual congregational meeting, which immediately follows. Come spend the morning with friends and fellow dreamers.

Hire A Youth

Do you need help with yard work, babysitting, odd jobs, household chores, pet care? Our UU youth group is eager for summer time employment. Please call any of the following Burlington high schoolers: Jason Gerrard (860-7271), Amelia Schlossberg (862-2069), Sarah Gleich (658-8662), Holly Hill (658-5116), Holly Jones (862-6824).

Religious Education News

When I was in fifth grade, my friend, Marion, invited me to join her club, which was affiliated with MAD Magazine. I was thrilled! I'd never been asked by a friend to join a club. There were four or five other girls in it, and we would meet periodically in Marion's room. She sent away for a club kit, which provided activity ideas for us to follow. We also paid dues (though I wonder now whatever happened to them!) I was aware that there were other MAD Magazine Clubs out there, and that knowledge, combined with my own club membership, gave me a wonderful feeling of affirmation and belonging.

While First UU is not a club – not a “members only” social group, it is a *Religious Society*, where membership plays a critical part. Those who choose membership choose commitment to liberal religion, with its rights and responsibilities.

Have you made the choice to become a member here? Of the parents of this year's registered children, only 38% are members. That surprises me, because such a huge majority of you *act* like members! You are involved, volunteering your time, teaching, contributing financially, attending worship, and serving on such a strong, hard-working RE Committee. You come here so your children can be surrounded by other kids whose parents' values are in line with yours. UU values are precious in this world, where, as adherents to a liberal religious movement, we often find ourselves swimming against the current of the wider culture's values.

By observing you, one can't pick the members out of the crowd. You all clearly care about this place, these values, and these people. You are *far* from *indifferent* about the world and about your children's future in it.

Elie Wiesel, who endured World War II as a prisoner in Auschwitz, is known for his understanding of what it means to be *indifferent*. “The opposite of love,” he says, “is not hate, it's indifference. ... The opposite of faith is not heresy, it's indifference. And the opposite of life is not death, it's indifference.”

This is a place of love, of faith, and of life. I hope that if Unitarian Universalism is not a place for indifference, than neither, ultimately, is one's choice about membership in this Society.

Martha

PS: This column is my venue for musings and reflections on the importance of liberal religious education. I'd like to remind folks that in addition, I send out a weekly “RE Community e-news,” which is purely informational and practical in nature. Multiple hard copies are available on the Welcome Table in

the community room every Sunday.

VIA Virtual Tag Sale

Turn your spring cleaning into valuable items for re-sale to benefit Vermont Interfaith Action's campaign for affordable housing and healthcare. Drop off any donation worth \$75 or more at Global Garage Sale, 94 West Canal Street in Winooski. The eBay guys will take care of the rest, giving you a receipt for tax purposes and handling the online auction, with proceeds going to VIA. Antiques, Vehicles, Boats, Collectibles, Cameras, Computers, Sporting Goods, Musical Instruments, Real Estate, Coins and Watches are all hot sellers. Questions? Call Global Garage Sale at 655-4443 or Peggy Poppe at 865-0357.

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 10 am. All are welcome.

Do You Ride Your Bike to Church?

It is so exciting to see so many families riding their bikes to church on Sunday mornings. What a wonderful way to spend time together and save on fuel. Please remember that chaining your bike up to the handicapped ramp or the front step railing is not a good idea. It makes it very difficult for folks to use the railing and can even be a hazard if we were to have a fire emergency. Bikes can be locked up at the bike rack near the side entrance, or can also be locked up to the fence. Thanks for your cooperation!

Monday Yoga

Monday yoga with Haley Mathis (Root Yoga) will be suspended for the summer months. The last free class will be held on Monday, May 21st, and 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 Thursday from 12pm to 1pm, 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.

Coming of Age

Coming of Age will be offered next year! Coming of Age is a program designed to recognize and celebrate the passage from youth to adulthood. In our Society, it is offered to youth in 9th – 12th grade as an optional supplement to participation in the YUUTs, our Youth Group. Youth develop a connection with an adult mentor, and together, they explore life's biggest questions. The program culminates with each youth writing a personal Credo, or statement of personal belief. Youth who complete the program become eligible to sign our membership book. Please speak to Martha Dallas, DRE, if you, or your youth would like to know more!

Advance Notice to Members and Friends of the First UU Society

Half a duplex home on a quiet residential cul-de-sac (abutting conservation land) in Colchester is expected to be ready for rent in May. This split-level ranch house on Belwood Avenue is the former residence of late UU Society member, Pam Kay. Inquiries may be made at the office of Aaron Goldberg, PLC, 233 Pearl St. Burlington, 651-9000.

General Assembly

Join four thousand Unitarian Universalists from across the country this June 20-24, 2007 in Portland, Oregon as congregations explore the theme “Choices That Matter.” If you plan to attend and would like to be an official delegate from our Society, please contact Gary Kowalski. Full information about GA programming and how to register can be found online at www.uua.org/events/generalassembly.

Catamount Health Initiative: Vermont's Health Care Bill

The Adult Education and Programs Committee is pleased to sponsor the Champlain Advocacy Team and AARP Health Care talk on Sunday, May 20, at 12:30 at the UU meetinghouse. Mary Carol Massonneau and Roger Bourassa will review the health initiative, who it is for, how it will be funded and what will be the expected health care outcomes in Vermont. Light refreshments will be provided. For more information, call Alida Lund at 985-8517.

Get your UU Travel

**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

Raffle Tickets!

1st Prize: A week at an ocean side 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 antique boat ride on Lake Champlain Ticket prices: \$10 each or 3 for \$25. Only 700 tickets will be sold! See a UU Board member for tickets. Their names are in the directory.

Swing for VIA

Put on your dancing shoes to support affordable housing in Chittenden County. Vermont Interfaith Actions hosts a Swing Dance on Friday, May 18 at St. Anthony's Parish at 305 Flynn Avenue in Burlington. Lessons for the uninitiated are from 7:45-8:30 p.m., with 2 hours of DJ'ed fun to follow. Ten dollars per person or twenty-five per family (kids ten and older welcome to dance!) What better way to spend a Friday night? Have fun and support a good cause. Refreshments and fun for everyone. Questions? Contact Mike Reed at 310-2265.

Feed the Future of UU!

Our Religious Education program is

extending a warm invitation to you! We are currently recruiting for a variety of stewardship roles, with an emphasis on building bridges between the "upstairs" and "downstairs" communities. To that end, we are looking for new Classroom Helpers. These are people who simply show up on a Sunday morning and support the lead teacher and other teaching team members, by helping serve snack, helping children stay focused and engaged, helping young ones with trips to the bathroom, helping with gluing and cutting, and perhaps reading a story. You can choose how frequently you'd like to help and what age(s) you'd like to help with. Come meet some inspiring young UUs and be part of the future of liberal religion! How? Sign up on one of the bulletin boards, talk to an RE Committee member in the parlor after worship, or contact Martha Dallas (862-5630 or martha@uusociety.org), or Pam Laser (863-3846 or plaser@hartlaser.net). Thank you!

GAYLA

GAYLA is an annual retreat for gay men at the UU retreat center at Ferry Beach, Maine. Last summer 4 of us from Vermont attended the retreat and had a terrific week. About 70 or 80 men from all over the country attended. We strongly urge others to join us this summer at GAYLA XXIX, July 14-20, 2007. More information can be found on two web sites: the GAYLA website is www.gayla.org and the Ferry Beach website is www.ferrybeach.org.

New VIA Executive Director

Debbie Ingram has accepted the Board's offer of the Executive Director's position. As many of you know, Debbie has been active in the Christ Church Presbyterian and College Street Congregational LOC's and is currently working on the affordable housing "roadshow" presentation. Debbie is an ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church (USA) and has privilege of call in the United Church of Christ. Most recently she was the Development Coordinator for the Chittenden Emergency Food Shelf. Debbie has also worked as a Communication Consultant in Bangladesh where she wrote, produced and directed 20 informational videos for international development projects.

Debbie brings to her job at VIA fundraising expertise, a strong sense of faith, and an already established commitment to VIA's mission of social justice.

Debbie has just returned from PICO National Training. She will start full-time at VIA on May 7th. Please look forward to a call from Debbie setting up a one-to-one with you so that she can get to know you, and you can get to know her. Be sure to ask her about her unusual cat.

UU Men's Network

The Journal of the Unitarian Universalist Men's Network is published quarterly. You may access it and past

issues by going to www.uumen.org. Titles of articles from the Spring issue include: "It's Not Enough to be a Human Being When You Are a Man of Color", "War and the Soul", "War Dances", "Nuts and Bolts: Tips on Creating a Men's Group," as well as a great book list. Questions? Email info@uumen.org.

Vermont City Marathon

Please make a note that the marathon will take place on Sunday May 27, 2007, and will cause street closings and traffic delays for most of the day throughout the city. For more information, please check our community bulletin board or log onto: info@runvermont.org.

Film Screening Scheduled

Plan to attend the upcoming local screenings of "Holding Our Own", a wonderful film about aging and dying. Showings are Tuesday, June 12 and Friday, June 15 at 7pm in the Alumni Auditorium of Champlain College. It features the Hallowell Chorus, after which Noyana (Hospice) Singers was modeled. This is also a fundraiser for the Noyana Singers. The film is directed by Burlington filmmaker, Camilla Rockwell, a Noyana member. It's very well done, deeply moving and one hour long. Tickets are available at the door. For more information: 864-6263 or www.holdingourown.com.

Splinters from the Board

Your Board of Trustees has been trying a bit of "visioning" at each Board meeting. By that I mean that we are taking time to look up from the details of budgets and personnel issues to allow each Board member to speak about long-range goals and hopes & aspirations for this Society. This visioning activity is an aspect of Policy Governance (PG) that we are trying on for size. At present we are planning to move to PG as our Board governance form in the summer of 2008, about one year from now. PG allows the staff to run daily operations based upon a clear set of policies and it allows the Board to be more in contact with the membership bringing our combined wisdom and shared vision to bear upon the activities and programs of the Society. We will plan to present more about Policy Governance at the Annual Meeting, June 3rd. Note that there will be only one service on Sunday, June 3rd at 9:00 AM followed immediately by the Annual Meeting. Plan to participate in this living democracy in action. Be there!
Brian Haas, Board of Trustees Chair

Newsletter News

Monday, May 21, is the deadline for the last newsletter of the church year. It will cover information about events and activities scheduled for June 3, through the entire summer. Next year's newsletter deadlines will be published on our UU website in mid-August.

First Unitarian Universalist Society
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www.uusociety.org

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

*"When the Sunday School teachers were tired
Of the prepping and planning required
They said to the members:
Bring fire to these embers!
For we're one! To each other we're wired!"*

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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