



April 26, 2009 -
May 9, 2009

Calendar

Sunday, April 26

- 9:00 Worship Service
- 10:00 Women’s Spirituality Group
- 10:00 Goals Forum
- 10:00 Join Ning
- 11:00 Worship Service
- 12:15 Join Ning
- 12:30 New U Class
- 12:30 Small Group Ministry

Monday, April 27

- ***** Zen (Call office for time)
- 9:00 Newsletter Deadline
- 4:30 Celebration Committee
- 5:15 Finance Committee Meeting
- 6:00 Consolations & Congratulations
- 7:00 Council Meeting

Tuesday, April 28

- 10:00 Wisdom Wanderers
- 12:00 Staff Lunch
- 7:00 Planned Giving Committee

Wednesday, April 29

- 9:00 Staff Meeting
- 7:00 Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, April 30

- ***** Zen (Call office for time)
- 9:00 Newsletter Crew
- 7:00 Learn to Blog

Friday, May 1

- 10:30 Women’s Alliance
- 6:30 AA Men’s Group

Saturday, May 2

Sunday, May 3

- 9:00 Social Action Committee
- 9:00 Worship Service
- 10:00 Women’s Spirituality Group
- 10:00 Goals Forum
- 11:00 Worship Service
- 12:30 New U Class
- 12:30 VIA Meeting
- 7:00 Young Adult Group
- 7:00 “What I Believe”

Monday, May 4

- ***** Zen (Call office for time)
- 9:30 Joyful Parenting SGM
- 6:30 Administrator Relations Com.

Tuesday, May 5

- 12:00 Staff Lunch
- 7:00 Executive Board Meeting

Wednesday, May 6

- 9:00 Staff Meeting
- 6:30 RE Committee Meeting
- 7:00 Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, May 7

- ***** Zen (Call office for time)
- 9:00 Burl. Church Staff NAMI Trng.

Friday, May 8

- 6:30 AA Men’s Group

Saturday, May 9

- 6:00 Second Saturday Potluck

On My Mind

Last month a young man visited my office. He was ethically confused. Were there any moral guidelines for determining whether an action might be right or wrong? Or were ethics entirely subjective and relative?

I told him there were at least four main points that could help orient anyone’s moral compass. Point One might be called the *test of character*. Ask yourself, *what would a person whose character you admire do in any given situation?* Thinking how an esteemed friend or colleague might act often clarifies things tremendously.

Point Two is the *test of publicity*. When you’re not quite sure whether a given course of action is strictly kosher, ask yourself, *how would you feel if your conduct were reported in the morning newspaper?* Awkward and embarrassed, or proud?

Point Three is Kant’s Categorical Imperative, which sounds complicated in German, but boils down to asking yourself the question, *what would happen if everyone behaved like me?*

And Point Four is the question raised by Situation Ethics: *What is the loving, kind and generous thing to do in any particular circumstance?*

These rules don’t make ethics simple. But the Four Points can help the needle on the compass turn in the right direction.

It occurred to me that these same Four Points could be applied to the question of stewardship, and how much of our income we apportion for support of our UU community. Ask yourself, *what are the leaders of our Society giving—the people you trust and respect?* Consider, *how would you feel if your own contribution were to be publicized in the newsletter?* Think, *what would happen to our congregation if everyone gave at your level?* And finally ask, *what would a generous pledge be in my personal circumstances?*

And if you haven’t yet turned in a pledge card, please do so today. We are depending on all our friends and members. Thank you for doing the right thing!

Gary

Upcoming Sundays

April Theme:

**Wonder.
Connection.
Transformation.**

When do you experience awe? How can we find the infinite in the everyday? What makes you feel connected—to the universe, to the Earth, and to our human community? How can we befriend change, become agents of healing, and foster a growing tide of peace and justice in the world? Wonder, Connection and Transformation are at the center of our hopes and dreams as Unitarian Universalists. Come celebrate and share in stewardship of our liberal religious home!

Sunday, April 26, 9am and 11am “Coming Into Our Senses”

The coming of spring inspires us as we devote a morning to appreciating the wondrous nature of the senses. How deeply we may be rewarded when we open our senses, attend to the world around us, and experience living more fully. The choir sings, and Rev. Elaine preaches.

**Sunday, May 3, 9am & 11am
“Healthcare Sabbath”** Does America’s healthcare system need reform, or does it need re-inventing from the ground up? Whatever the answer, Vermont Interfaith Action is part of the conversation, nationally through PICO and also on a statewide level. In preparation for this morning, Gary would like to hear from members of the congregation. What’s working well, and what doesn’t work in the delivery of your own family’s medical care? Please send your stories to gary@uusociety.org (and indicate whether you want anonymity or are willing to share your experiences with others) at least a week in advance so he can incorporate you into his reflections. Then plan to come to the Vermont Interfaith Action organizing meeting following the service at 12:30 to discuss what we can do to fix the system.

**Sunday, May 10, 9am & 11am
“Choir Sunday”** Come celebrate music-making and the Society’s music programs for our annual Choir Sunday.

Child Dedication

On Mothers Day, May 10, our congregation customarily celebrates Child Dedication, a ritual of welcoming new life, honoring parents and recognizing our moral responsibility to create a world worthy of its children. Please speak to Gary or Elaine if you would like to have your family included, either at 9:00 or 11:00 am.



Message From Martha



The day the Vermont legislature voted to overturn Gov. Douglas' veto of the Gay Marriage bill, I was live-streaming the proceedings on my R.E. Office computer while I worked. The moment Shap Smith announced the results of the house vote, I leapt from my desk, sprinted out of my office and up the stairs towards my colleagues. Before I opened the stairwell door, I could hear Kathleen's hooting, which triggered my own all-out ululations. My barreling arrival at the side door area made a group hug out of the hug that Christina and Kathleen started; Gary's arrival grew that hug within moments; then David, who abandoned some fix-it project in the bathroom, joined and expanded our joy. We immediately missed Elaine, who was out of the building at the time.

Yay, Vermont!

As a lesbian contentedly partnered now nearly ten years, the news of this changed reality has triggered friends and family to ask, "So, when will you and Lucy tie the knot?" Until April 7, that question was never asked of us so directly, readily, or easily. Previously, people had periodically asked if we had (or were going to get) a Civil Union. When I told them we didn't have one, the response was typically nonchalant, which to me implied that, socially, it didn't matter much whether or not we were "C.U.'d." Excitingly, now our official status as a couple matters!

Among the most interesting pieces I heard as the legislature engaged this bill was a VPR interview with E. J. Graff, the author of the Unitarian Universalist Association's Beacon Press book, *What is Marriage For?*. Great question, Ms. Graff! Now that, come September 1, the doors of this social institution will be opened to me as a Vermont resident, I'm impelled to grapple with that question in a way I honestly never bothered to, since it didn't have any personal bearing. Now that I've been granted the right to marry, I can't overlook the responsibility of making authentic meaning out of everything I'll find when I start pawing around in this box called "marriage," which has heretofore been off-limits to me. Now that it's mine to explore too, I'll admit I'm curious to consider what's inside.

Those of you who celebrated Easter with us at the UU know that we unleashed a few party poppers during Joys and Sorrows to celebrate Marriage Equality. Why, in our congregation, was it a "no-brainer" to conspicuously celebrate the passage of this legislation on Easter Sunday? Why did the congregation spontaneously applaud, cheer, and whistle when this Joy was shared?

I think it's because it makes your heart leap to imagine Freedom and Love partnering up, legally recognized, and openly celebrated in a way never, ever before thought possible. My heart sings!

Martha Dallas,
Director of Religious Education

Stewardship Appreciation Due

We want to thank the many people who have worked to make our Stewardship Campaign a success. Thanks are due to the Stewardship Committee, consisting of Bill Suiter, Bill West, Christina Fulton, Debby Bergh, Rev. Elaine Bomford, Janice Lange, Gary Kowalski, Linda Gross, Stephen Rainville, Tracy Titchner, Woody Fulton, John Byer. Special thanks to Carol MacDonald, who designed the colorful rendition of the church used on the posters and the post card. Thanks are due to Kathleen Kemp, for all her help in producing letters, entering data, and keeping track of details. The staff of the Society, especially David McFeeters, Myra Timmins, Jude Mullé, and Lynne Matthews get our appreciation. Maggi Hayes contributed ideas and snacks. And, thanks to all who have pledged to date; we all encourage those who have yet to make their commitment to do so quickly, as this campaign will end shortly after you receive this newsletter.

Woody Fulton

ARC Gallery

Herman Hoffman's black and white photos have come down and a new exhibit by Mary Ellen Manock will hang for two months. Have we seen your work lately? Our list of artists has run out and we need artists, photographers to dust off some old or frame some new work & book your two month time slot in our gallery. Contact memanock@mac.com or call 863-6627.

Clarence Darrow and the Search for Justice

Mark your calendar for Saturday, June 13, 7:00-9:00 p.m., when actor Gary Anderson of American Legend Theater Works takes the audience back to the times and life of famed defense attorney Clarence Darrow. Best known for his role in the Scopes "monkey trial," Darrow was a crusader for civil liberties and the rights of labor, fighting racial hatred and capital punishment. He was also the son of a Unitarian minister with lifelong links to our liberal faith. Advance tickets will be available Sunday mornings for \$10, or at the door for \$12. This is intended as a fund raiser for our Society—please plan to attend and support a great cause! *Gary Kowalski*

UU Kids FNO

Come on down Saturday April 25 for a fun evening of games and activities. If the weather is nice, we'll play outside. Kids up to age 5 and their parents come at 4pm, supper for all is at 5:30pm, and games for kids over 5 go from 6 until 8pm (parents can drop off). Nominal cost for supper, volunteers

always welcome. To register please contact Jean Palmer at 288-9566 or jeanpa@pshift.com.

De-Bunking Eco-Terror

Lori Kettler, a grad of Vermont Law School, has been on the legal staff of PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals) for three years, filing Freedom of Information Act disclosures against the FDA and U.S. Fish & Wildlife agencies to learn how taxpayer dollars are used in wildlife management and animal research. On Sunday, May 31, at 12:30 p.m., Lori will update us on the so-called "Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act," a bill passed in the wake of 9/11 that is being used to re-define environmentalists and animal activists as "terrorists" subject to the harshest federal criminal penalties. Come learn and be educated to protect free speech and legitimate dissent. Sponsored by UU's for Ethical Treatment of Animals.

Gary Kowalski

Loose Plate for Charity

On February 15th and February 22nd we collected a total of \$958.72. One half of that amount, or \$479.36 will go to Vermont Refugee Resettlement. On March 1st and 8th we collected \$704.52, half of which will go to the RU12? Community Center. On March 15th and 22nd we collected a total of \$1,149.39. We will be sending half of this, or \$574.70 to Spectrum One Stop. On March 29th and April 5th we collected for the Burlington Parks and Rec Summer Nutrition Program and will be sending them a check for \$648. We can all be proud of the difference we're making in our own community. Which agencies are next on our list? On April 26th and May 3rd we will be collecting for the Vermont Center for Independent Living and on May 10th we will be collecting for our own Choir's Sheet Music Fund. Please come prepared to be generous!

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.

Refugees Need Your Help!

Refugee families are arriving every week in the Burlington area eager to settle in and work. Unfortunately, jobs are hard to come by and rental housing in the area is expensive and scarce. We think members of the UU Society could be immensely helpful to these new Americans and there are many different ways/levels of helping. Look for Lucy Gluck and Jean Palmer at Coffee Hour after both services on May 10 & May 17. We'll have stories to tell and ideas for involvement. Possibilities include: homework help for 1 hour a week, ESL tutoring, driving lessons, teaching

**First Unitarian Universalist
Society**
862-5630

Rev. Gary Kowalski, Minister

*Rev. Elaine Bomford,
Assistant Minister*

*Jerrold Packard,
Board President*

*Martha Dallas, Director
of Religious Education*

*David McFeeters,
Facilities Manager*

*Wayne Schneider,
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*Christina Fulton,
Society Administrator*

*Kathleen Kemp,
Administrative Assistant*

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

computer skills in a class or one-on-one, helping to read their mail and fill out paperwork, offering job contacts or job search support. Jean Palmer, 288-9566

Seward Weber Lecture

The Seward Weber Lecture Series event is scheduled for Thursday, April 30, from 4:30 - 6:30 p.m. at the First Unitarian Universalist Society. Charlie Lord, Director of the Urban Ecology Institute at Boston College and chair of the Urban Ecology Collaborative, will speak about policies that have created environmental injustice in cities. Environmental justice refers to inequitable environmental burdens born by groups such as racial or ethnic minorities, women, residents of economically disadvantaged areas, or residents of developing nations. He will also discuss urban ecology, neighborhood wellness, and social cohesion. This event is hosted by Vermont Land Trust, the Vermont Natural Resources Council, Vermont League of Conservation Voters, and Vermont Audubon. *Debby Bergh*

“What I Believe”

A highly distinguished panel of UU clergy (Gary Kowalski, Elaine Bomford, Roddy O'Neil Cleary, and Bob Senghas) ponder the question of personal faith. What beliefs typify Unitarian Universalist religious leaders today—from Buddhism to Christian/Pagan to Pluralist/Feminist to Naturalistic Theism and Process Theology? The metaphysical sparks will fly on Sunday night, May 3, from 7-9 p.m. Please come to listen, ask questions and share in what should be a lively discussion! *Gary Kowalski*

Green Up Day

Spruce up our beloved community on Saturday, May 2nd. UU's are invited to register at the Lawrence Barnes School at 9:30 am for an assignment de-cluttering the Old North End. Volunteers are encouraged to bring their own water bottles to reduce waste, and garden gloves also come in handy. Hungry workers are welcome to share lunch at the Celebration & Sustainability Fair from noon-1:30 p.m. in City Hall Park. Come join Gary Kowalski and the UU team!

UU Walkers Wanted for COTS

The COTS Walk is coming on Sunday, May 3rd and I am hoping to organize as many UU walkers (of all ages) as possible! We plan to hold a picnic on the church grounds after second service, then walk to Battery Street Park for check-in at 1:30pm. The walk begins at 2pm and will take us on the route a homeless person would take in order to receive shelter and services. Please contact Donna Canniff at 872-0552 or herbivorecake@hotmail.com to let me know you plan to walk! Thank you!

Book Club

You are invited to join us on Tuesday, May 12, at 6:00 p.m. for our third annual poetry meeting. Please bring your favorite 2 or 3 poems to read and/or discuss. Original poetry welcome! We will meet at Alison and Bud Etherton's house. As this is our last meeting of the year, we will celebrate our most enjoyable season by having a pot luck dinner. Please call Alison or Bud, 658-4126, to let them know you are coming and what you can bring. Call early to ensure your place!

Last 08-09 Second Saturday Potluck

The last Second Saturday Potluck for this season is on May 9. We gather at 6 PM for wine, appetizers, conversation, and the option of singing along with Bill Cleary. At 6:30, the music stops, we help ourselves to the great food that has shown up, and the conversation continues. If this sounds like a good evening for you, we'd love to have you join us. Please contact Deborah Deladurantaye at 999-3464 or arananna@gmail and leave a message. Questions to be answered: Are you bringing an appetizer, salad, main dish, or dessert? Do you need child care? How many adults? You may call up to the last minute, unless you need child care. We ask for a \$2 donation to cover the cost of the beverages (wine, cider, soda, coffee). If you want to cut down on the use of disposables, please bring your own place settings. Hope to see you there.

New U

Are you new to our congregation? Want to meet other newcomers, visit with our ministers, learn a little more about the history and tradition of our First UU Society? There are two newcomer orientation sessions planned for Sunday, April 26, and Sunday, May 3, from 12:30-1:45 p.m. You'll have a chance to share a little of your own spiritual journey, ask questions, take a tour of the facility and find out where you can get involved. Childcare and light snacks are provided. Sign up on the bulletin board or contact Reverend Elaine (Elaine@uusociety.org) to reserve your spot.

Next Newsletter Deadline:

Monday, April 27, 2009 @9am covering May 10 - May 23, 2009. Articles gladly accepted before this deadline! You can view the newsletter and current year schedule on our website: www.uusociety.org.

Attention UU Book Lovers

The UU Book Cart is having a clearance sale! The book cart makes an appearance and offers books for sale twice a month. Proceeds benefit the Society. We need to clear out some titles to make room for new books, and that's good news for you! On May 3rd in the Parlors, and on May 17th in the Community Room, stop by the cart and find some great deals: selected books of UU interest for 30% off or more! Stock up on your spring and summer reading now. *Elaine Sopchak*

An Evening in May to Benefit VIA

St. Paul's Cathedral, 2 Cherry St., Burlington, is hosting a festive silent auction on Friday, May 1, from 6:30 to 9 pm to benefit Vermont Interfaith Action. Join your fellow VIA supporters for an evening of conversation, music and savory finger foods while you view the auction items and place your bids. Elegant desserts will be served while the winning bids are tallied. Tickets are \$15 (\$20 at the door) and are on sale now. For more information, call St. Paul's at 864-0471 or Carol Walters at 238-6020.

Farmers Market/World Fair Trade Festival

On Saturday, May 9, Burlington City Hall Park hosts two great events: 8:30 - 2:00 Opening day for Farmers Market and Noon - 4pm World Fair Trade Day Festival. This festival will include the World's Largest Fair Trade Coffee Break, dance and music performances, Drum Circle, and wonderful display and vendor tables. Would you like to have a table or volunteer for an hour or two? Contact Sandy Wynne at 343-9289 or sandywynne@comcast.net for more information.

First Unitarian Universalist Society
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Feedback for Assistant Minister Welcomed

Rev. Elaine Bomford's transition committee meets monthly with Elaine to help promote a successful relationship between our congregation and our Assistant Minister. We are available to hear feedback from members of the congregation. Just contact any one of us, or come to the beginning of our meeting if you like. These meetings are Tuesdays at 6pm in the meetinghouse on April 21, May 12, and June 9. Just check the whiteboard for our meeting location. Committee members are: Gary DeCarolis 863-9132 Meosla@aol.com, Marla Emery 540-0362 memery@uvm.edu, Lynn Foster-893-9967 lynnclauerfoster@gmail.com, Barbara Heeter 864-4622 BBHeeter@aol.com, Bridget Meyer-879-5409 Bmeyer1038@aol.com, Jonathan Sands 658-3258 Jonathan.Sands@uvm.edu.

“Archaeology, the Land, and Prospects for Peace: A Biblical Scholar visits Israel”

Professor Jeff Trumbower, Dean of St. Michael's College, shares findings from a recent tour of the Middle East on Sunday, April 26, at 7 p.m. in the Parlors. After receiving his Ph.D. from the University of Chicago for his dissertation on the Gospel of John, Jeff began teaching at St. Mikes, where he published *Rescue for the Dead: The Posthumous Salvation of Non-Christians in Early Christianity in 2001* (Oxford University Press). This remarkable scholar also teaches Bible Stories in our 4th Grade UU Sunday School! Expect a fascinating tour of history, culture, and religion. *Gary Kowalski*

International Youth Activists Host Families Needed

PH International of Waitsfield (formerly Project Harmony) is seeking host families in the Burlington, Montpelier, and Waitsfield areas for 30 teens coming to Vermont from Sunday, July 5th to Saturday, July 25th. These civically engaged 14-16 year olds from Armenia, Azerbaijan and across the US will be here to learn how to create socially-conscious short films on issues important to youth globally, with the goal of inspiring action locally. The Department of State, UNICEF, ListenUp!, Change.org and a number of other organizations are working with us on this endeavor, supporting global distribution of the work that students create. In addition, while the students are in Vermont in July, they'll be organizing a film event to showcase their work and talk about ways youth can contribute to community initiatives.

If you are interested in hosting one or two students for all or part of the three week stay, please contact Elizabeth at elizabeth.metraux@ph-int.org. Host families are always one of most important elements of exchanges. Not only does the host family provide meals (except lunch on weekdays) and a warm bed, but also exposes guests to Vermont living and provides an invaluable cultural experience for foreign visitors. Host families are also asked to provide transportation to a centrally located pick-up and drop-off point in Burlington or Montpelier on weekday mornings (around 8:30am) and evenings (5:30pm).

Fresh Air Fund Hosts Sought

Are you looking for a way to turn your faith into action? Share two weeks of your summer with a child, and reap the rich rewards of adventure and newfound friendship. As a host family with The Fresh Air Fund, you will help a child experience the freedom of playing outdoors and the simple pleasures

of life in your community. By hosting a Fresh Air Fund child, you are answering a call made back in 1877 when Reverend Willard Parsons asked the families of his congregation to give children living in New York City tenements a brief respite. This tradition of caring continues today through The Fresh Air Fund's Friendly Town Program.

Every summer, thousands of children visit volunteer host families in rural and suburban communities. Fresh Air children on first-time visits are six to 12 years old. (Hosts may request the age and gender of their Fresh Air Fund visitor). Many families enjoy their young guest so much that they invite their Fresh Air child to return, year after year. There are no financial requirements for hosting a child, just a warm heart and home. The gifts of hosting are mutual. "My host family taught me to be patient, accept other people, and try new things, even when I was afraid of them," said one Fresh Air child. "Our Fresh Air child makes our family appreciate running barefoot through the grass and looking at the stars, things we take for granted," a Fresh Air host explained. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer host family, please contact your local Fresh Air Fund Representative, Karen Allen, at (802) 372-5324 or by e-mail at karen@hvt.org. You may also call The Fresh Air Fund at 1-800-367-0003 or visit the Web site at www.freshair.org.
