



May 4, 2008 -
May 17, 2008

Calendar

Sunday, May 4

- 9:00 Worship Service
- 9:00 Social Action Committee
- 9:00 Art Show in Parlors
- 10:00 Nominating Committee
- 11:00 Worship Service
- 12:30 Administrator Feedback Mtg.
- 12:30 Gulf Coast Vol. Presentation

Monday, May 5

- ***** Zen (Call office for time.)
- 6:00 Anti-Racism Action Com. Mtg.

Tuesday, May 6

- 6:00 Ministerial Search Committee
- 7:00 Executive Board Meeting

Wednesday, May 7

- 9:00 Staff Meeting
- 12:00 UU Lunch Bunch
- 6:30 RE Committee Meeting
- 7:00 Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, May 8

- ***** Zen (Call office for time)
- 9:00 Newsletter Crew
- 10:00 Small Group Ministry
- 6:00 Mysticism Sm. Group Ministry

Friday, May 9

- 6:30 AA Men's Group

Saturday, May 10

- 6:00 Second Saturday Potluck

Sunday, May 11

- 9:00 Worship Service
- 9:30 Adult Programs Committee
- 10:00 Women's Spirituality Group
- 11:00 Worship Service
- 12:30 Interweave Potluck

Monday, May 12

- ***** Zen (Call office for time.)
- 5:30 DRE Relations Com. Mtg.

Tuesday, May 13

- 10:00 Wisdom Wanderers
- 10:00 Small Group Ministry
- 12:30 JUMP Volunteer Tea
- 5:30 Property Committee Meeting
- 7:00 Book Discussion Group

Wednesday, May 14

- 9:00 Staff Meeting
- 5:00 Admin. Relations Committee
- 6:00 Music Committee Meeting
- 7:00 Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, May 15

- ***** Zen (Call office for time)
- 6:00 Practicing Your Faith SGM

Friday, May 16

- 6:30 AA Men's Group

Saturday, May 17

Newsletter News

Next deadline: Monday, May 5, 2008 @9am covering May 18 - May 31, 2008. You can view the newsletter and this year's schedule on our website: www.uusociety.org.

From Our New Assistant Minister

Dear Unitarian Universalists in Burlington,

Hello! I am grateful and happy that come July, I will be with you as your Assistant Minister.

Last spring, I decided to seek a new ministry and congregational home. During the time I was considering changes, "my" canary hen laid a clutch of blue eggs with soft brown speckles. Two weeks later, the first of four chicks hatched. Their parents fed them faithfully, their feathers came in, and gradually the nestlings looked less like wizened aliens and more like little birds.

I spent much time observing the canaries; such is the life of a country minister. As the nest became too small and their hunger for food, exercise and adventure grew, each chick followed the same preflight sequence:

- (1) Perch on the back rim of the nest, stretch legs, take in the view.
- (2) Move around to the outer rim of the nest. Survey the expanse from this vantage for a few days. Stretch wings.
- (3) ...Take off!
- (4) After a few ungainly flutters, get the hang of it.
- (5) Enjoy being a canary!

Insofar as we are akin to canaries, this spring, I send you greetings from the outer rim of the nest (Step 2).

What a beautiful prospect First UU Society in Burlington presents! My appreciation to all who have already greeted me with genuine warmth, wisdom, humor, respect and curiosity. Burlington UUs, I am blessed with the opportunity you have extended to me and look forward to our future.

Regards,

Elaine

Upcoming Sundays

May Worship Theme: Competition

Our economy is driven by competition. Sports idols strive for the gold. Religions compete for converts in the spiritual marketplace. When is competition a healthy stimulus that encourages us to excel, and when does excessive rivalry foster feelings of envy, jealousy and ill-will? Gary and Roddy reflect on this month's worship theme.

Sunday, May 4, 9am & 11am

"Competition" Does competition bring out the best in people—or does rivalry bring out the worst? In a display of non-competitive teamwork, Roddy and Gary will present a "dialogue sermon" this morning. There will be no losers involved—but you must be present to win!

Sunday, May 11, 9am & 11am

"Choir Sunday" Come celebrate music-making and the Society's music programs for our annual Choir Sunday. Both choirs will perform at the early service, and the adult choir and soloists will perform at the 11am service. A mix of eclectic styles and sounds! There will also be a Child Dedication at the later service, in honor of Mother's Day.

Sunday, May 18, 9am & 11am

"Failure" In keeping with this month's theme of competition, Gary will speak this morning on the great constant of human experience. While all of us strive to excel, most of us find ourselves failing to measure up to our own and other's expectations more often than not. How do we handle losing? Coming in second place or farther down the pack?

UU Lunch Bunch

Anyone interested in discussing Gary's new book *Revolutionary Spirits* is invited to a brown bag discussion circle in the Parlors on Wednesday, May 7, from noon to 1:30 p.m. If you own a copy of the book, bring it along, but whether you've read it or not, all are welcome to join in the conversation. Don't forget to bring a sandwich.



Message From Martha



Recently, Lucy and I took a young friend to Lyric Theatre's production of *Beauty and the Beast*. The show opens on a dark, stormy scene, where a wizened old woman is seeking shelter for the night. She knocks on the door of a house and is greeted by a young man, who, repulsed by her appearance, cruelly turns her away. Her response is to reveal that she is actually a beautiful young woman, and to punish him for his shallow judgment and heartless response, she casts a spell which renders him beastly in appearance. The spell will only be broken if he can truly love, and be loved in return.

Spell-casting may seem to be just a thing of fairy tales, but imagine with me that there's something to it – that's it's not just fictitious play. For I think that in a sense, we do – we *can* -- cast spells on one another. Perhaps they aren't as overtly dramatic as the ones which come replete with a flash of light or a puff of smoke, but I would argue they are just as powerful.

During the month of May, the Religious Education Committee and I will be running our spring RE Registration and Steward Recruitment campaign. I hope that in our efforts, we will effectively cast spells of understanding such as:

◆ We are many! Collectively, we can do an amazing job raising UU kids!

◆ We can learn so much from the children and each other; this community draws us back again and again!

◆ Our choice of whether or not to attend R.E. on Sundays affects people beyond our own family.

◆ There are tired UUs among us. May we trustingly accept some folks' need to rest and rejuvenate.

◆ A deep commitment here can be spiritually nourishing and powerfully liberating.

◆ Those who decide they are ready to give more time and energy will bring fresh strength to our programming.

◆ This faith we love is as loud and proud as our participation in it!

I'll let you decide whether you would describe Unitarian Universalism as *magical* or not... whether participating in its power is like joining other UUs in a *spell of possibility*. But I must add that I have chosen this faith because *working with you fuels my hopes for humanity and for the world*. We reach for the stars together, or not at all.

May it be so, and "Poof!"

Martha

Gulf Coast Volunteer Program

During the first week of April, three members of our congregation traveled to New Orleans, Louisiana to volunteer for the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee's gulf coast volunteer program. Please join us Sunday, May 4 from 12:30 - 1:30 to hear a presentation about this experience. Planning will begin soon for a similar trip in the upcoming year. For more information, contact Susan Schoenfeld 863-6299.

Book Discussion Group

Please join us at the home of Bud and Alison Etherton on Tuesday, May 13 at 6:00 pm, when we will enjoy a potluck dinner and read aloud and discuss some of our favorite poems (about two or three poems per person). Garrison Keillor's Good Poems and More Good Poems have excellent selections from a variety of poets but feel free to choose your own sources. Please call 658-4126 to let us know what you'd like to bring to the dinner. **Please note the change in time and place.**

Church Administrator Feedback Session

As part of its role to strengthen the quality of church administration, the Administrator Relations Committee will be holding a feedback session for our Church Administrator, Christina Fulton. People with comments on their interactions with Christina or those who have questions about the role of the Church Administrator are welcome to attend. Your feedback will be used in our annual evaluation of the Administrator. The meeting will be held on Sunday, May 4th from 12:30 until 1:30. Light refreshments will be served.

Vermont Quebec Universalist Convention

Never heard of it? Well, when the Universalist Church of America merged with the UUA in 1961, the Vermont Quebec Universalist Convention remained a holding company to administer and disburse funds. Names are now being accepted for the Trust Fund, Allocations and Nominating Committees of the VT/Quebec Convention. Please speak to Gary if you're interested in serving on a historic body that now gives away money to UU churches each year. No heavy lifting required.

Save the Date

Silver Bay UU Weekend is October 17, 18, & 19, 2008. Mark your calendar. Questions to Adam or Rita Bortz 864-3516.

Dream BIG!

What do you envision as goals for our UU Society? Please put a bright star on your calendar for June 15, which is the first Sunday of our summer service program. After the 10am service that day, the Goals Committee is planning a brunch followed by activities that will help us to begin the process of identifying future goals of our congregation.

What would you like to see happen at First UU? Do you have dreams of what we could accomplish here? A paid membership coordinator, enhanced programming for the young adults in our congregation, more partnership with area agencies, an inspiring statement of our mission, vision and goals, a gala celebration of our 200th year; all of these are possible when our shared goals become clear.

Plan to participate in this first event on Sunday, June 15th which will lead to a second more involved planning day when we return in the fall. Contact any of the committee members if you have ideas you would like to share: George Rutherford, Scott Gardner, Linda Gross, David McFeeters, Gary Kowalski, Sharon Leach, Susan Rutherford, Brian Haas.

We need you, and you, and you to help imagine our UU future!

Anti-Racism Action Committee

The Anti-Racism Action Committee will be meeting on Monday, May 5, from 6 - 7pm at the First UU meeting house. Bob Walsh, a local professor and author, will be joining us for the meeting. We'll be discussing the school grant program, ongoing work with the Vermont Refugee Resettlement Program, and planning for next year's activities. All are welcome. For more information, please call Monica Sargent 863-5188 or Susan Schoenfeld 863-6299.

Loose Plate for Charity

On April 6th and April 13th, our congregation pledged to contribute 50% of our Sunday Loose Plate Collection to Center City Little League. I am proud to report that our congregation will be sending a check to Center City Little League for \$658.96. We can all be proud of the difference we're making in our community.

On May 11th we will be collecting for our choir's Sheet Music Fund and on May 18th and May 25th we will be collecting for the Sara Holbrook Community Center.

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.

**First Unitarian Universalist
Society**
862-5630

Gary Kowalski, Minister

*Roddy O'Neil Cleary,
Affiliate Minister*

*Jerrold Packard,
Board President*

*Martha Dallas, Director
of Religious Education*

*David McFeeters,
Facilities Manager*

*Wayne Schneider,
Music Director*
wayne.schneider@uvm.edu

*Christina Fulton,
Society Administrator*

*Kathleen Kemp,
Administrative Assistant*

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

Child Dedication

Infants and children are welcomed to our Society each Mother's Day with a ceremony of Dedication, honoring families and acknowledging the miracle of life. If you would like your children included in this year's Child Dedication on Sunday, May 11, please contact Gary or Roddy at least one week prior to the service.

UU Library Closing for Summer

Once again, our UU Library will be closing for the summer months, as we prepare for a very special year ahead. The last day to check out books from the library (upstairs and downstairs) will be May 4, 2008. Please return all books to the library by Sunday, June 1, 2008. I have enjoyed serving you as UU Librarian and wish to thank all those who, in so many ways, have supported our library within the past year. Have a great summer! I am already looking forward to re-connecting with everyone in the fall!

Sincerely,
Rebecca Anderson, Librarian

Second Saturday Potluck

The May 10th potluck in the Parlors at UU will be hosted by The Wisdom Wanderers Small Group Ministry. The gathering begins at 6pm with music, wine, and treats. Dinner begins at 6:30pm. You're welcome to bring your own plates and cutlery or use what we provide. Please call Barbara Heeter at 864-4622, if you plan to attend, tell her the number in your party, and the dish you plan to contribute. If you need childcare, please let her know how many children you plan to bring and their ages. Thank you.

Grant Received

Thanks to the efforts of the Property Committee, The First UU Society has been awarded a \$1000 matching grant from the National Trust for Historic Preservation's grant program, the Preservation Fund. This grant will help pay for hiring a specialist to document the existing condition of our Meeting House, the other buildings that we own on our site, and the grounds, and to develop a useful long-term care and maintenance plan for them all.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation, chartered by Congress in 1949, is a nonprofit organization with more than 270,000 members. As the leader of the national preservation movement, it is committed to saving America's diverse historic environments and to preserving and revitalizing the livability of communities nationwide.

Earlier this church year the Property Committee also applied for and received two matching grants from the Vermont Preservation Trust. One grant helped pay for an expert on historic windows to give us advice about maintaining and making operable, in historically appropriate manner, the windows in the old parts of our Meeting House. The other grant is to for a slate roofing expert to assess the condition of the slate roofs on all of our buildings. In addition, an application for another matching grant is being submitted to the Vermont-Quebec Universalist Convention that would pay for new bicycle racks.

The tasks involved in taking care of our beloved old buildings and site are never ending, always interesting and usually expensive. The Property Committee welcomes additional committee members to share the fun, discussions and decisions. Structural engineering skills are not required; interest in old buildings and gardens is.

The Big Payoff!

Its that time of year, time to pay off your pledge. This year's pledge total was \$353,000, and so far we have collected \$290,152.96. That means we need to collect \$62,847.04 by the end of the fiscal year. In a perfect world, we would collect this money by the end of May, so that we have enough money to pay all our bills before June 30th. If you are unsure of the amount you have left to pay on your pledge, please contact Christina at 802-862-5630 ext. 22. Thank you so much for your generosity!

Ride Your Bike!

Spring is here and many of you are planning to ride your bikes to Sunday service. This is great and really puts into practice our 7th Principle. There are two really great places to lock up your bike: the bike rack on the side of the building near the Clarke Street entrance and the fence that encircles our church yard. Please do not lock your bike to the handicapped ramp nor the hand railing on the front steps. Enjoy Spring, enjoy life, enjoy the ride!

GoodSearch and GoodShop

What if every time you shopped online a percentage of the sale went to the First UU Society?

Welcome to GoodShop! More than 100 great stores including Gardner's Supply, The Body Shop, Travelocity, Land's End, Target, Macy's, The Gap, Best Buy, PetSmart, and Staples have teamed up with GoodSearch to do just that.

The next time you're looking for a new book, computer, DVD, pair of shoes or clothing, go to GoodShop first.

It's simple. No username or password is required. Just designate your favorite charity (**First Unitarian Universalist Society of Burlington**), click on the store's logo from the GoodShop site and then shop as you normally would.

You'll get the same great prices, but every time you place an order, you'll be supporting the First Unitarian Universalist Society with donations that average around 3% of the sale but can exceed 20%!

Shingles Vaccine

The Health Department will be offering free Shingles vaccines to anyone over 60 years old on Monday, May 19th.

White Cap Building
426 Industrial Drive
Williston, Vermont

Monday, May 19th
8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

For more information contact the Health Department at 951-0076.

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Data Shows Bullying Problems Remain in VT Schools

Outright Vermont reaching out for coordinated response

Marking today's (April 16, 2008) state-wide *Day of Silence* in Vermont schools, Outright Vermont released anti-queer bullying data reported jointly by the Department of Health and Education's Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS). This report shows that 34 percent of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender students surveyed in Vermont public schools have been bullied in the past 30 days. This number is 100% higher than the 17 percent average for overall bullying experienced by Vermont youth. Outright Vermont Executive Director Christopher Neff stated, "There is more to this story than queer youth as the victims of bullying and harassment. School climate is manageable and anti-bullying trainings work. The next step is committing to doing more because it will help all students in the long run."

Outright Vermont's efforts to combat bullying include presentations in schools, recent discussions on anti-queer bullying with Governor Douglas during the 2008 Queer Visibility Day in Montpelier and co-hosting the first *Night of Noise* with GSAs from around the state. This event will take place on Wednesday, April 16th starting at 5:00 pm at City Hall Park in Burlington. In addition, Outright Vermont released letters to the editor (text below) calling for awareness and support of all youth who participate in the 2008 *Day of Silence*.

The YRBS confirms that issues of gender, sexual orientation and gender identity remain among the leading causes of harassment and bullying in middle schools and high schools today. Neff added, "Let me be clear that there are some very troubling numbers here around bullying, drug use and suicide attempts. These numbers are a call to action for all of us to coordinate more and Vermont is in a strong position from which to have a coalition response to bullying. Youth and GSAs are stepping up, the 2004 law is on the books, schools are paying closer attention and there is strong leadership from Governor Douglas."

The full report on YRBS queer youth data is available at www.outrightvt.org.

First Unitarian Universalist Society

Summary of Cash Activity

March 1, 2008 - March 31, 2008

Cash Balance as of 03/01/2008	\$33,312.62
Income	\$52,174.48
Pledge Payments	\$44,858.98
Transfers	\$
Journal Entries	\$ 410.66
Total Additions	\$97,444.12
Expenses	\$ 1,084.19
Invoices & Payroll	\$63,029.18
Total Subtractions	\$64,113.37
Cash Balance as of 03/31/2008	\$66,643.37