



The First Unitarian Universalist Society of Burlington, Vermont  
*"We gather to inspire spiritual growth, care for each other and our community,  
 seek truth and act for justice."*

May 9, 2010 -  
 May 23, 2010

## Calendar

### Sunday, May 9

9:00 Worship Service  
 10:00 Women's Spirituality Group  
 10:30 Psi Meditation & Prayer  
 11:00 Worship Service  
 12:30 UU Burl. Animal Ministry  
 12:30 Spirit in Creativity SGM  
 6:00 YUUth Group

### Monday, May 10

\*\*\*\*\* Zen (Call office for time)  
 9:00 Newsletter Deadline  
 9:00 Mondays at Martha's  
 3:00 UU Psi Meditation  
 5:00 Celebration Committee  
 5:00 All Committee Night

### Tuesday, May 11

10:00 Sprouts SGM  
 12:00 Staff Lunch  
 5:30 Property Committee

### Wednesday, May 12

9:00 Staff Meeting  
 6:00 Sapere Aude SGM  
 6:00 Music Committee  
 7:00 Choir Rehearsal

### Thursday, May 13

9:00 Newsletter Crew  
 10:00 SGM Steering Committee

### Friday, May 14

5:00 UU Dungeons & Dragons  
 6:30 AA Men's Group

### Saturday, May 15

10:00 Wise Together SGM

### Sunday, May 16

9:00 Worship Service  
 10:00 Women's Spirituality Group  
 10:30 Psi Meditation & Prayer  
 11:00 Worship Service  
 12:30 GA Delegates Meeting  
 5:00 Welcoming of New Members

### Monday, May 17

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

### Tuesday, May 18

10:00 Seekers SGM  
 12:00 Staff Lunch  
 6:00 Assist. Minister Rel. Com.  
 7:00 Board Meeting

### Wednesday, May 19

9:00 Staff Meeting  
 7:00 Choir Rehearsal

### Thursday, May 20

6:00 Practicing Your Faith SGM

### Friday, May 21

6:30 AA Men's Group

### Saturday, May 22

6:00 Second Saturday Potluck  
 7:00 Tammy Fletcher Concert

### Sunday, May 23

9:00 Worship Service  
 10:00 Women's Spirituality Group  
 10:30 Psi Meditation & Prayer  
 10:30 Meet the Budget  
 11:00 Worship Service  
 12:30 Meet the Budget  
 12:30 VIA Action Team  
 12:30 UU Burlington Animal Ministry  
 12:15 Spirit In Creativity SGM

## Current Notes

Sometimes I imagine the Society meetinghouse as a boat, and each one of us who comes here - frequently or infrequently - as a member of the ship's complement. Our boat is coming to a big bend in the river. We will pull up to the moorings, directly, to mark an important time out of time. Two events of significance converge this summer. The culminating celebrations marking the 200th Anniversary of our congregation roll around in June, and a minister who has served faithfully for 20 years disembarks in July.

People regularly ask me how I feel about the approaching changes. I was sitting in a minister's meeting recently, and Gary Kowalski was speaking of our relationship with animals. What poetry, I thought. His eloquence is soul stirring. I am going to miss hearing Gary quote passages of poems and prose, proffer his Sunday morning "Welcome" (wish I could manage that with such grace) and, of course, his accomplished, stirring sermons. I join you in feeling a loss, with Gary's leaving. I hope each of you who wishes to will make the opportunity to say your farewells.

As we come up on this big bend in the 200th year of congregational life, I imagine you are also aware that we have to be careful navigating. There are rapids both before and after this juncture. Nothing life-threatening, but be prepared for a few thrills. Like they say, "It's an exciting time, but not an easy one."

As for myself, I am looking forward to discovering what's next on this journey! What's coming up in the next 200 years? Professionally speaking, I have always been more curious than I am ambitious. There will be so many interesting directions, conversations and actions to be taken after we pull away from the dock again in mid July. I know we are headed to places we envision, as well as to places we cannot yet imagine. I trust our sailing will be fine and beautiful.

Blessings,

**Elaine**

## Upcoming Sundays

### Sunday, May 9, 9am & 11am

**"Choir Sunday"** Come celebrate music-making and the Society's music programs for our annual Choir Sunday. Both the Adult and Children's Choirs will perform. A Child Dedication is also planned.

### Sunday, May 16, 9am & 11am

**"Surprised By Hope"** Join us for a 200th Anniversary Celebration Service with Rev. Fred Small. A folk singer and environmental lawyer, Fred Small is Senior Minister of First Parish in Cambridge, Massachusetts (Unitarian Universalist) and co-chair of Religious Witness for the Earth, a national interfaith environmental network. In July, 2007, Grist Magazine named Fred one of 15 Green Religious Leaders worldwide. He'll speak to us - and sing with us - as we look forward in faith.

### Sunday, May 23, 9am & 11am

**"Our Society's Reaction and Engagement to the 1960's"** This Lay Service will be coordinated by Mary Ellen Manock of the Worship Committee.

## Meet the Budget

On Sunday, May 23rd, David Bardaglio, the Society's new Treasurer (as of 1/1/10), will be presenting a preview of our operating budget for the upcoming fiscal year which begins on July 1st. If you are interested in how our Society is faring and/or have questions about our finances, please join David to "Meet the Budget". The sessions will take place in the Parlors at 10:30 am and at 12:30 pm in the Susan B. Anthony Room.

## Bike Racks

When you ride your bicycle to the Meetinghouse, remember that we have choices for parking. One rack is easily visible near the main door entrance. You can find the other one behind the hedge and on the lawn of our Clarke Street building.

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## Message From Martha

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Perhaps you have heard the story about four people named Everybody, Somebody, Anybody, and Nobody. There was an important job to be done and Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it. Somebody got angry about that because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought that Anybody could do it, but Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn't do it. It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have done.

Attributed to Charles Osgood, this clever and amusing little story seems to be about failed responsibility. But to me, it's more about anonymity. It's about a world where individuals are casual and noncommittal toward one another, where who you uniquely are and the life that is yours to live doesn't much matter.

Our faith community at First UU should not be a haven for Everybody, Somebody, Anybody, or Nobody. In other words, if we live out the Principles of Unitarian Universalism, each one of us will be known, in a deep and authentic way, to others in our midst. There will not be anything important that Nobody does. We will not just ask Somebody to step in and get something done, because we will know just the person who will do it well, and we will tell them this and invite them to do it. There will be nothing that just Anybody can do, because we all will know one another's unique gifts, talents, and passions, and will know better than to just ask Anybody. And what Everybody does, when Everybody does it, will be by definition, Important and Essential by virtue of its contribution to the whole which we create together.

So let's always be the community of You and Me, and We. Let's always seek to know one another and open up to being ever more widely and deeply known by others. Together, being our Truest and Best selves, let's do some Wonderful and Important things!

*Martha*

Martha Dallas,  
Director of Religious Education

## Feeding the Hungry

A few times a year we have the opportunity to feed the hungry. Every Sunday evening, UVM students volunteer at the Chittenden Food Shelf by preparing and serving a hot meal to those in need. When the students are away or on school break, they ask us to step in. They need our help on May 16 and 23. It takes about 8 people to prepare the food, serve the meal, and clean up afterwards. We also need others to prepare casseroles at home and pick up donations at local restaurants. If you can cook, serve, or wash dishes; and have a few hours to share, please email us directly, Aimee: [alhutchins@aol.com](mailto:alhutchins@aol.com) (for 5/16) or Suzie: [sdebrosse1@gmail.com](mailto:sdebrosse1@gmail.com) (for 5/23).

## Book Group

Our annual pot-luck poetry meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 11 at 6:00 p.m. at the Etherton's house in South Burlington. Bring your favorite one or two poems to share, include original poetry if you like. Please call Alison or Bud Etherton, 658-4126, to get directions and tell us what you would like to bring.

## GA 2010

The General Assembly of Unitarian Universalists will be held June 23-27 in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Would you like to join other Burlington First UU Society members on their trek to G.A.? Funds to help cover Registration costs are available. Please see the General Assembly brochure on the bulletin board, and speak with Reverend Elaine if you'd like to learn more.

## Performance

Sally Dames, Heidi Tappan, and FUUSB member Karin "Spike" Robinson present "What's Alive Inside?" on May 29th, 7:30 pm at the Flynnspace. This intimate cabaret of the spirit challenges each of us to look within and seek an answer to this vital question. We will hold a reverent space to allow those who wish to express what is burning within them, or simply to witness the unfolding celebration. Visit [whatsaliveinside.com](http://whatsaliveinside.com) for more information.

## Next Newsletter Deadline

Monday, May 10, @9am covering May 23 - June 6! Please submit items directly to Kathleen, [office@uusociety.org](mailto:office@uusociety.org). Early articles gratefully accepted!

## Business Advertising Opportunity: See Your Business Run All Over Town!

The 13th annual Run for JUMP will be held this year on Saturday, September 25, at Waterfront Park in Burlington. Your UU JUMP volunteers are hoping that your UU business will support the event by becoming an Underwriter for \$500 plus, or a Sponsor for \$100 to \$499.. All funds raised will go toward supporting the JUMP drop-in center. In return for your support, you will receive not only the opportunity to help the neediest in our community, but also publicity for your company in JUMP press releases, newsletters, signage, and t-shirts. Checks may be made payable to "JUMP, Inc." and mailed to Lynn Douglas 2688 Kinsley Rd, Jeffersonville, VT 05464-6437.

## Religious Education Program Survey

Please take a few minutes to complete the Religious Education Program Survey that the RE Committee is conducting this year to inform planning for next year. We are in an important stage of our development and everyone's input is crucial to our continued growth and ability to meet the varied needs of our UU Society. The survey can be found on line at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/VV6637R>. There will be hard copies made available in the community room over the next few weeks. Thank you for your support. Please contact John Grimm with any questions at [vtgrimms@comcast.net](mailto:vtgrimms@comcast.net) or 863-2672.

## Annual Reports

If you are the Chair of a Committee or any other special group at the Society, we would like to have an Annual Report from you! Each year I publish an Annual Report that informs members of the work we are doing here at the First UU Society. A brief description of what your group has done this year, what your plans are for next year, who your members are, requests for more members, etc. will do the trick. Also, if you have a picture of your Committee or Group, I'd love to include that in the report.

Please send your reports to me at [xina@uusociety.org](mailto:xina@uusociety.org) no later than Monday, May 17, 2010, although earlier would be better! Contact me if you have any questions!

*Christina Fulton,  
Society Administrator*

First Unitarian Universalist  
Society  
862-5630

*Gary Kowalski, Minister*

*Elaine Bomford,  
Assistant Minister*

*Linda Gross,  
Board President*

*Martha Dallas, Director  
of Religious Education*

*David McFeeters,  
Facilities Manager*

*Wayne Schneider,  
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## Roots & Wings: OPUS 2010

"Roots & Wings: OPUS 2010" the annual spiritual retreat for UU Young Adults (ages 18-35) is scheduled for August 4-8. Artistic expression, philosophical discussion, religious exploration, environmental action, contemporary worship, respectful community, UU values, and the option to lead your own workshop will take place as young adults gather at Camp Shaw in Kankakee, Illinois. Scholarships available. More info on the Bulletin Board and at [www.CMWD-UUYAN.org](http://www.CMWD-UUYAN.org).

## Child Dedication

On Mother's Day, Sunday, May 9, we will celebrate birth, honor parents, and pledge our commitment to creating a world worthy of its children with a rite of Child Dedication. Families who participate receive a flower and Certificate of Dedication as we welcome and bless the youngest members of our community. If you would like to have your children included in this ceremony, or have questions about it, please speak with Gary Kowalski or Elaine Bomford. "A baby is God's opinion that the world should go on."  
(Carl Sandburg)

## Loose Plate For Charity

On February 28 and March 7 our congregation pledged to contribute 50% of our Sunday Loose Plate Collection to Vermont Refugee Resettlement Program. I am proud to report that our congregation will be sending a check to them for \$428.81. On March 14 and March 21, we pledged to contribute 50% of the loose plate collection to RU12? Community Center. On these two dates we collected a total of \$1072.79, and we will be sending them a check for \$536.39. On March 28 and April 4 we collected a total of \$1612.80, and will be sending a check to Dismas House for \$806.40. And then on April 11 and April 18 we collected for the Burlington Parks & Rec Summer Nutrition Program. We collected a total of \$1085.91 and will be sending them a check for one half of that amount.

On May 9<sup>th</sup> we will have our annual Choir Sunday and money collected this day will be used for the Choir Sheet Music Fund. On May 16 and May 23 we will be collecting for Kids-A-Part. Please come prepared to be generous!

Our Loose Plate for charity program benefits non-profit agencies that are located in or serve residents of the Old North End of Burlington. If you would like to nominate an agency to receive our collection, please contact Christina Fulton at [xina@uusociety.org](mailto:xina@uusociety.org) or 862-5630 ext. 22.

## Support Group for Male Identified Survivors of Violence

SafeSpace is offering a peer led support group for male identified survivors of relationship violence, dating violence, emotional violence or hate violence. This group will meet in Burlington at the RU12? Community Center and will be facilitated by Damian. Support groups give survivors a safe and supportive environment to tell their stories, share information, and offer and receive support. These groups also provide survivors an opportunity to gain information on how to better cope with feelings and experiences that surface because of the trauma they have experienced or are currently experiencing. Please contact SafeSpace if you are interested in joining this group, 863-0003.

## "Peacemaking" Statement of Conscience

For several years the Denominational Affairs Committee has focused on the UUA Congregational Study/Action issue of "Peacemaking." The Committee has sponsored forums and panel discussions on issues like the peace tradition of Quakers and Mennonites, the realities of war, alternatives to violence, and the urgency of nuclear disarmament. A veteran shared his experience as a Marine serving twice in Iraq, and a film examined the human cost of war.

During this time, a draft of a "Statement of Conscience" (SOC) on Peacemaking was drawn up by the UUA Commission on Social Witness. Members of our First UU Society of Burlington discussed and critiqued several early drafts of the SOC, sending comments and suggestions to the drafting committee. Now the final draft has been completed and will be voted upon by delegates at the General Assembly in Minneapolis in June.

In order for potential delegates to General Assembly and other members of our congregation to become better informed about the Peacemaking SOC, Denominational Affairs is sponsoring a discussion of the final draft on Sunday, May 23 at 12:30 PM in the Susan B. Anthony Room. We hope that you will join us then to share your perceptions of the final draft. This will be our last opportunity to discuss the Peacemaking Statement of Conscience before it is voted upon in June. You can find the final draft online at:

[www.uua.org/socialjustice/issues/process/currentissues/peacemaking/121606.shtml](http://www.uua.org/socialjustice/issues/process/currentissues/peacemaking/121606.shtml)

Please put the May 23rd discussion of "Peacemaking" on your calendar. Childcare will be provided for those who need it. Thank you.

*David Conrad,  
Denominational Affairs*

## Large Print OOS

Large print Orders of Service are now being made available for Sunday services! This is one more attempt to make our information accessible here at FUUSB!

**First Unitarian Universalist Society**  
**152 Pearl Street**  
**Burlington, Vermont 05401**  
**(802)862-5630**  
**www.uusociety.org**

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## **Seeking Youth Programs Coordinator!**

First UU is seeking to fill a new part-time position of Youth Programs Coordinator, starting hopefully by June of this year. The position we seek to fill will combine direct adult leadership for our high school "Yuuth" Group, with broader program development responsibilities for both middle and high school ages.

We seek applicants who:

- Are 25 years of age or older
- Affirm Unitarian Universalism
- Demonstrate initiative
- Can execute plans to achieve goals
- Have experience working with teens
- Bring facilitation skills
- Can navigate youth-friendly modes of communication
- Will pass a background check

This position is paid through a stipend. We expect the person in this position to work an average of approximately 7-10 hours a week, including summers. Applications must include a resume, three references, and a letter of interest. The application deadline is May 15, 2010. Please direct inquiries and applications to the attention of Martha Dallas, Director of Religious Education.

## **So What Is Interim Ministry All about Anyway?**

In the time between called ministers, the congregation has the rare opportunity to take advantage of a breathing space – to take stock of who you are now, how your programs are faring, what worthy challenges you face, and how you are getting on together as a community. It is a time to do whatever needs doing to get ready to welcome a new called minister with enthusiasm for the possibilities of new paths, new ways, new ideas.

You might say that the work of the intentional interim minister is to help you make sure the next called minister is not an "unintentional" interim – that is, one who does not last long because the interim work was not done before the new called minister came.

So the interim minister comes –

- to help you come to terms with your history, celebrating glories, grieving losses, letting go;
- to work with your lay leaders and staff to un-stick stuck places and get the kinks and tangles out – in other words, to give the operating system a tune-up;
- to enable you to experience a different model of ministry and worship so you can see that more than one style can be effective in meeting your needs and enriching your spiritual or religious life; and
- to give you a chance to try out some new ways and greet your future in the spirit of adventure.

Ralph Waldo Emerson wrote: "People wish to be settled. Only insofar as they are unsettled is there any hope for them." You are invited to share your congregational life with an interim minister in an exciting and fruitful time of being unsettled – in between times!

*Rev. Barbara Child*  
*Chair, UU Interim Ministry Guild*

*Rev. Dr. John H. Weston*  
*UUA Transitions Director*

## **Attention Committee Chairpersons and Board Officers!**

Time to weed! Most of the business file folders in the copier room are full! Please take some time to sort through and clear them out soon. Thank you!