



April 20, 2008 -
May 3, 2008

Calendar

Sunday, April 20

- 9:00 Worship Service
- 9:15 Care Network Ministry
- 10:00 Women’s Spirituality Group
- 11:00 Worship Service
- 12:30 Social Action Forum
- 6:00 20s & 30s Movie and Potluck

Monday, April 21

- ***** Zen (Call office for time.)
- 9:30 Joyful Parenting SGM
- 7:00 Executive Board Meeting

Tuesday, April 22

- 10:00 Small Group Ministry

Wednesday, April 23

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

Thursday, April 24

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

Friday, April 25

- 6:30 AA Men’s Group

Saturday, April 26

- 9:00 New UU
- 9:00 Art Show Hanging

Sunday, April 27

- 9:00 Art Show in Parlors Begins
- 9:00 Membership Committee
- 9:00 Worship Service
- 10:00 Women’s Spirituality
- 11:00 Worship Service
- 12:30 VIA LOC Meeting
- 6:00 20s & 30s Movie & Potluck
- 7:00 Gospel of Judas

Monday, April 28

- ***** Zen (Call office for time.)
- 9:00 Art Show in Parlors

Tuesday, April 29

- 9:00 Art Show in Parlors
- 10:00 Wisdom Wanderers

Wednesday, April 30

- 9:00 Staff Meeting
- 9:00 Art Show in Parlors
- 7:00 Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, May 1

- ***** Zen (Call office for time)
- 9:00 Art Show in Parlors
- 6:00 Practicing Your Faith SGM

Friday, May 2

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

Saturday, May 3

Save the Date

On June 8, immediately following the service, we will be having Roddy’s retirement party. Think about what tasty dish to share that you can bring that is fit for the wonder woman that she is. Help make this a very special occasion. Please put it on your calendar or in your blackberry -- right now. This is number one.

In My Heart

Dear Elaine,

The title of a song from Frank Loesser’s musical “Guys and Dolls” springs to mind as I think of what I want to say. “More I Cannot Wish You” than the experience of the community you have been chosen to serve. These past eleven years have been among the most satisfying in my life. They have expanded my mind and heart.

The people who are drawn to this society are as interesting as they are different, they are as acceptant as they are engaging. From your own experience of the Ministerial Search Committee you are probably well aware of the warmth and welcoming nature of this congregation. We are indebted to this committee for being as thorough and dedicated as they were to the process that ultimately selected you.

I cannot do justice to all of what makes this society as vital as it is. Here is only a taste of the many groups that contribute to its life and to mine. The Care Network Ministry Committee has a vision of equipping more members to be able to reach out to the multiple needs of those experiencing difficult times. Small Group Ministry fosters deeper relationships, listening skills and the opportunity to reflect on ultimate spiritual questions. Social Action connects our congregation to the ongoing work of peace and justice within the broader community and beyond. Vermont Interfaith Action mobilizes people in the pews to become effectively involved in civic issues like affordable housing and accessible health care. It does this as part of a coalition of seven other faith communities representing 2,000 families. Anti-Racism Action works tirelessly to repair the inequities and to heal the wounds of racism in our culture. The Music Program and choir lift our hearts and make them sing Sunday after Sunday.

There are a litany of important causes that are being addressed by this society. I believe that it is as effective as it is because of the Compassionate Spirit that animates it. It is that same loving Spirit within and among our members that generates the relational energy needed to be the healthy community that it is.

Our members not only excel at service they are equally good at celebrating and socializing. I have thoroughly enjoyed brunches with Interweave on the Second Sunday of the month, sing-a-longs at Second Saturday Suppers and First Friday lunches with the Women’s Alliance. Then there’s the celebration on Sunday morning that draws us all together, the celebration of the liberating faith that sustains our community. As for working day to day with the staff and with Gary, more I cannot wish you.

Yours,

Roddy

Upcoming Sundays

April Worship Theme: Change

The British Unitarian and naturalist Charles Darwin wrote, *“It is not the strongest of the species that survive, nor the most intelligent, but the one most responsive to change.”* Change means disruption: when a relationship ends, when we consider a new job, or try to kick old habits. Sometimes change is the enemy, sometimes our best friend. What clues tell us when to hold onto and preserve our present situation and when to embrace transformation for the sake of a new, larger sense of self?

Sunday, April 20, 9am & 11am

“Who Is My Neighbor?” The lawyer’s question to Jesus is a question that lingers in every human heart. This morning Roddy’s sermon explores the story Jesus told in response to the query. Good Samaritans within our own congregation will be acknowledged. Rev. Keri Aubert, executive director of Jump will share the pulpit. The choir will sing and Tom Cleary will play an original song.

Sunday, April 27, 9am & 11am

“Transformation Through Art” Visual artists can celebrate the return of our all-congregation art show, as Gary, Katherine Monstream, and other members of the Society reflect on how the creative process opens us to new visions and wider currents of being. If you are a painter, photographer, quilter, sculptor, potter or print maker, please bring a sample of your work to the parlors between 9:00 and 11:00 am on Saturday, April 26, for our exhibition. Items for sale will benefit our congregation with 30% of the sales proceeds to support our Society.

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!

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.



Message From Martha



It is sometimes difficult for people to understand how one Sunday morning's worth of activities is supported by my work on a full-time basis. Even I myself, having had experience as a DRE at a congregation about 1/3 the size of ours, wondered what would fill my time, when I first began here.

Now I sometimes liken my job to being a traffic cop in a multi-dimensional universe. I am frequently a conduit for information, passing it from individuals or groups to other individuals or groups, endeavoring constantly to ensure a smooth, effortless flow. With 14 RE classes, roughly 220 children, and 126 families, I keep busy!

But there's more to my work than that, so when recently, I was asked by a couple of board members, "What is it, exactly, that you do in your job during the week?" I decided to keep a log of my activities. I was urged to share it, since others may wonder the same thing. Here is a sampling of what I did on March 20th (edited for space):

Sent check to Lund family center for OWL guest speakers; Recorded receipt of reimbursement for professional travel expenses; Met with Gary (weekly check-in); Mopped three basement areas which had flooded, and put in dehumidifiers (this was unusual: David and Christina were both out, but there was 3 1/2 gallons of water on the floor!); sent a special "enews extra" to the RE community; registered for the Northern New England District Youth Summit to meet as a member of the transitional task force for district youth programming; worked on preparations for Easter leaf ritual, including punching holes in remaining paper leaves and planning what to say; read the Society newsletter; made phone calls about a scheduling confusion regarding RE Angels; to a church-shopper who's decided to register her child here; to our youth advisor about a newsletter submission; about my Sundays off; to someone interested in helping in RE and considering a career in education; with someone who will lead a seed-planting activity on Earth Day; sent emails about a family that has stopped coming; arranging a time to meet with a parent whose child has behavior challenges; next year's teaching team model; Gary's upcoming visit to the 6th grade class (UU history); a speaker who impersonates Thoreau who's being co-hosted by our 6th graders and Adult Programs; thanks for coverage of RE duties this past Sunday; plans for rehearsal of youth Sunday worship; feedback on a survey to be distributed to RE families; someone wanting to teach yoga to our youth; the possibility of hosting a Passover Seder; a young man needing to complete his religion requirement to become an Eagle Scout; and New UU plans for kids.

That's a snapshot of what happens
"beyond Sundays!" Martha

Loose Plate for Charity

On March 23rd and March 30th, our congregation pledged to contribute 50% of our Sunday Loose Plate Collection to Spectrum One Stop. I am proud to report that our congregation will be sending a check to Spectrum One Stop for \$879.52. We can all be proud of the difference we're making in our community. On April 20th and April 27th we will be collecting for Burlington Recreation and Nutrition Summer Program, and on May 4th we will be collecting for the Association of Africans Living In Vermont. 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.

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 til 1:30. Light refreshments will be served.

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.

The Gospel of Judas

Early Christianity was not a unified movement, but a constellation of competing, often contradictory notions about the life and teachings of Jesus. On Sunday, April 27 at 7 p.m., Jeff Trumbower and Gary Kowalski discuss *The Gospel of Judas*, a gnostic document from the 2nd century that illuminates differing interpretations of Christ's death and sheds light on the religious roots of violence. Dr. Trumbower is Dean of St. Michael's College and author of *Rescue for the Dead: The Posthumous Salvation of Non-Christians in Early Christianity*, published by Oxford University Press. All are welcome.

What is Really

Happening in South America?

The Social Action Committee hosts Benjamin Dangl and Peter Lackowski on Sunday, April 20, speaking about events in Boliva and Venezuela which do not appear in the mainstream media. Benjamin Dangl is the author of "The Price of Fire: Resource Wars and Social Movements in Bolivia". He is the editor of towardfreedom.com and upsidedownworld.org. Peter Lackowski is a retired teacher and political activist who recently returned from his second visit to Venezuela, interviewing people about their opinions and experiences.

Stewardship Reminder

Thanks to all who have turned in pledge cards with their financial commitment for the coming year. We have now received over \$350,000 in pledges from our members and friends. However, we are still \$60,000 short of our goal—which will mean very difficult choices over where to cut expenses, unless those of you who have not yet pledged step up quickly to do your Fair Share. If you enjoy our services and ministries, won't you give us your support? Whatever your financial circumstances, and however much you can afford to give, your contribution is urgently needed.

Please contact Christina Fulton and xina@uusociety.org, 862-5630 ex. 22, to make your pledge today.

Bicentennial – 2010

A major milestone in our Society's history is only a year and a half away! We will be 200 years old! That is hard to believe but true. I'm looking for some history enthusiasts who would like to begin planning for what we can do in 2010 to celebrate our glorious history. If interested please call Gary De Carolis at 802-863-9132 or e-mail at: meosla@aol.com.

New UU Class

Want to know more about Unitarian

**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 Ingram,
Administrative Assistant*

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

Universalism? If you are a newcomer or even an "old" comer – the key is that you have lots of questions – we have such a deal for you! Come to the New UU class on April 26th from 9:00am – 12noon, and we will strive to answer your questions about the UU movement and First UU Society of Burlington, in particular. Please be sure to sign up on the sheet posted on the bulletin board and let us know if you need childcare. Questions? Call Linda Gross at 865-0038 or email lgross@together.net.

LOC to Meet

The LOC (Local Organizing Committee) for VIA is meeting on Sunday, April 27, at 12:30. Please make an effort to attend because we have decisions to make regarding our discussions about the Vermont Community Loan Program and other issues. Bagels and cider will be available. Should you have questions call Pat Allen at 864-9799. Thank you.

UU Family Camping

The deadline(April20) to register for our June 20&21 weekend at Lake Elmore State Park is fast approaching. Check your calendars and come join us for an easy, fun filled weekend for UU kids and grownups. Information can be found on the RE welcome table downstairs or contact Beth Griffin 865-1774, beth@burlingtontelecom.net.

COTS Walk

Information packets for the Annual COTS Walk on May 4, will be available in the Parlors on Sundays from April 13 - April 27.

PINS Request

PINS'(Partners in Service) mission is to promote the well-being and successful

development of children served by Vermont's AHS DCF Family Services Division. PINS currently facilitates a supporting partnership between our UU Society and Spectrum. PINS recently requested assistance for a boy who hopes to return to Burlington from the Brattleboro area.

The latest request is help for a 16 year boy from the Burlington District who is currently in a residential program and will soon be ready to re-integrate into the community. Because this boy is a legal orphan and will be released soon, he is looking for a "forever family" or another foster family. If you, or someone you know, would be interested please contact Aaron Metzger, social worker, at 802-863-7370.

Room For One More?

A Korean high school student, a rising 11th grader at Rice Memorial this fall, is looking for a host family. The family with whom he is currently staying is moving to Boston some time in May. This student is looking for a place to stay. He could move as early as the end of April or some time in May. He will go back to Korea during the summer months. This student wants to have a place confirmed when he returns in August. He will pay for his room and board, an agreed-upon, reasonable amount. Mikyung P. Kwon, UVM Continuing Education, 802-656-2085 (press 1) and 802-656-3891 (fax).

RE Teachers Needed

Please consider yourself asked. The Religious Education Committee (REC) is seeking teachers for the 2008-2009 RE school year. Never taught before? Don't worry...you'll get plenty of help. Was your RE teaching experience a while ago, when your children were in RE? Consider teaching again, and giving a young family a break to attend services, to refresh and re-charge. You could always teach at one service and attend the other. Don't think you can do it? Consider this, from Dr. William Ellery Channing, UU preacher and theologian: "The great end in religious instruction is not to stamp our minds upon the young, but to stir up their own; Not to make them see with our eyes, but to look inquiringly and steadily with their own; Not to give them a definite amount of knowledge, but to inspire a fervent love of truth...In a word, the great end is to awake the soul, to excite and cherish spiritual life." You can stir up, look inquiringly, and inspire young people. Just do it. For more information, contact Martha Dallas or any member of the REC: Pam Laser, John Grimm, Tom Parris, Greg Swain, Jennifer Callahan, Ginger Williamson, Nancy Hellen or Aimee Hutchins Cronin.

Newsletter News

Next deadline: Monday, April 21, 2008 @9am covering May 4 - May 17, 2008. You can view the newsletter and this year's schedule on our website: www.uusociety.org.

New Members

Jane and Dean Corrigan have resettled permanently in Burlington. They were members of the UU Society in Burlington in the 1970's when Dean was Dean of the UVM College of Education and Social Services. Most recently, they have been UU Members in College Station, Texas where Dean held the Harrington Endowed Chair in Educational Leadership and was Professor and Dean Emeritus at the College of Education and Human Development at Texas A&M. Jane worked in the Graduate College office. On their retirement colleagues and friends at their Texas church sponsored a lecture by then Poet Laureate of the United States, Robert Pinsky, to honor the contributions that Jane and Dean made to the Bryan/College Station Community and beyond. The Corrigan's are already involved in Society activities. Jane participates in the Women's Alliance and Dean is on the Anti Racism Committee. Both are involved in VIA projects.

David McFeeters, our First UU Facilities Manager, joined our congregation in December 2007. His passionate interests of spirituality, community, and energy conservation enrich us all. David and his family live in Shelburne.

Ken Swearingen recently moved to Burlington and has continued his association with UU where he has been a member since his twenties. He is retired and he and his wife Cherifa have 3 children and 5 grandchildren. Ken enjoys hiking, skiing and sailing.

Both *Mary Peabody and Diane Bothfeld* are native Vermonters. They've been together for 20 years. Mary works for UVM Extension as a Community Economic Development Specialist and Diane works for the Agency of Agriculture as an Agricultural Development Coordinator. They've been attending here for about 8 years. Mary likes gardening, spinning, knitting, and reading. Dianne likes woodworking and home repair.

Erik and Jane Sandberg moved to Jericho five years ago from central Vermont. They have 3 children. Erik, a native of Highland Park, IL, is employed as a programmer, and Jane, who is from Saranac Lake, teaches water color classes. They both enjoy meditation and cross country skiing.

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.

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

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Run Against Rape

RU12? Community Center is getting ready for Sexual Violence Awareness Month's (SVAM). "Run Against Rape," is a community building fundraising event of which all proceeds go directly to RU12?'s queer anti-violence program SafeSpace. On April 27th SafeSpace supporters will run/walk a 5k through Burlington's parks to raise awareness about the prevalence of sexual violence in our communities. RU12? organizes this event in an effort to create community support for queer survivors of all forms of violence.

Oftentimes, LGBTQQ victims of violence are silenced and overlooked in our community-SafeSpace is changing the way people think about violence. Last year, over 100 people registered for the event. SafeSpace staff and volunteers sold t-shirts; there was food, music, and prizes for the top 3 fundraisers! This year the top fundraiser will receive a one night stay at the HYPERLINK "<http://www.blkbearinn.com/>"Black Bear Inn!! We hope to make the 4th annual "Run Against Rape" an even more valuable contribution to SVAM's events.

Where: Oakledge Park

Time: Registration - 9am - Run/Walk: 10am

Registration Fee: Before April 27th (RU12? Water Bottle included): \$25

On April 27th (RU12? Water Bottle included): \$30

All participants must raise at least \$50 in pledges – Prizes will be given to the top 3 fundraisers! For more Info or to Register Visit the RU12? Website <http://www.ru12.org/run-against-rape.html> or call the Center 802-860-7812. We hope to see you there rain or shine!

VIA Interfaith Passover Seder

On Monday, April 21, at 6 p.m., Vermont Interfaith Action invites you to participate in its first-ever "Interfaith Passover Seder." Rabbi Joshua Chasan will be joined by spiritual leaders of VIA congregations, including Gary Kowalski and Roddy O'Neil Cleary, to lead a traditional Passover seder (slightly abbreviated!), along with a vegetarian dinner prepared by Ducky Donath and Jeff Potash. The cost for attending this unique event will be \$15 per person. If you would like to participate, please contact the Ohavi Zedek Office at 864-0218, Ducky Donath (862-6375) or Jeff Potash (862-0917 or jeffpotash@comcast.net) no later than April 17th. Donations will be collected at the door. Ohavi Zedek synagogue is located at 188 North Prospect St., Burlington. *Contributions will be used to support the Vermont Interfaith Action's "faith-based" efforts to organize Vermonters at the grass roots level in advocating for access to affordable housing, decent health care, and improved social and educational opportunities for our youth.*

Open Your Home This Summer and Create A Friendship for a Lifetime!

ASSE International Student Exchange Programs invites 20-25 Burlington area families to be part of its Culture & Current Events program starting July 24th.

A group of High School Students from around the world will be participating in four weeks of structured classes as well as cultural enrichment activities and excursions in the Burlington area. This program is designed to "jump start" their English language skills and exposure to N. American Culture, before starting High School either locally or across the country.

Host Families are needed to host students from Asian and European Countries in this program welcoming students to North America.

Host Families are invited to become actively involved in the program, including a welcome & farewell party, excursions, and much more! This is the first year the CCE program will be brought to Burlington and community support is needed to make this enriching experience possible!

If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a host family, please contact me for more information: Chandra Leenheer, Vermont CCE Program Coordinator, Tel.#: (802)-863-6276 / Cell#: (970)-708-1316. E-mail: Chandra_ann@yahoo.com This program is sponsored by ASSE INTERNATIONAL, a non-profit cultural exchange program.