



The First Unitarian Universalist Society of Burlington, Vermont
“An Intentionally Diverse Community”

April 22, 2007 -
 May 5, 2007

Calendar

Sunday, April 22

- 8:45 Family Sing
- 9:00 Worship Service
- 10:00 Women’s Spirituality Group
- 11:00 RE Worship
- 11:15 Worship Service
- 12:30 Forum on Peacemaking
- 12:30 Care Network Training

Monday, April 23

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

Tuesday, April 24

- 10:00 Small Group Ministry
- 7:00 Admin. Relations Com. Mtg.

Wednesday, April 25

- 9:00 Staff Meeting
- 6:30 Practicing Your Faith
- 7:30 Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, April 26

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

Friday, April 27

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

Saturday, April 28

Sunday, April 29

- 8:45 Family Sing
- 9:00 Worship Service
- 10:00 Women’s Spirituality Group
- 10:00 Minister’s Forum
- 10:30 Children’s Choir Rehearsal
- 11:00 RE Worship
- 11:15 Worship Service
- 12:15 Nominating Committee
- 12:30 Social Action Forum
- 3:00 Organ Recital

Monday, April 30

- ***** Zen (Call office for time)
- 6:00 Yoga

Tuesday, May 1

- 10:00 Wisdom Wanderers
- 6:30 Adult Program Event
- 7:00 Executive Board Meeting

Wednesday, May 2

- 9:00 Staff Meeting
- 5:15 Mysticism Sm. Group Ministry
- 7:30 Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, May 3

- ***** Zen (Call office for time)
- 6:00 Anti-Racism Action Com.
- 6:30 Feminist Theologies SGM

Friday, May 4

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

Saturday, May 5

In My Heart

I can’t help but love it when a demure, discrete, totally brilliant scripture scholar drops a theological bomb far more explosive to orthodoxy than Dan Brown’s suggestive *The DaVinci Code*. That’s what happened in the McCarthy Arts Auditorium on St Michael’s campus this past March 29th. I’m indebted to Jeff Trumbower, Dean of the College and esteemed UU, RE teacher for alerting me. Gary, Melinda Lee and I were in the front row.

The scholar was Karen King, Winn Professor of Ecclesiastical History at Harvard Divinity School and co-author of *Reading Judas: The Gospel of Judas and the Shaping of Christianity*. Lest you have a problem with taking the gospel of a “traitor” seriously, you need to remember that none of the gospels were literally written by one author. Each one is representative of a whole community, a school of thought that interpreted the life of Jesus from their own perspective, some decades after his death.

The Gospel of Judas represents a radically different take on the meaning of the death of Jesus. Put simply: Jesus did not die for anyone’s sins! Then why? He died because he sided with the poor and oppressed. Liberation theologians have been saying this since the 1960’s. I was first exposed to this alternative meaning while still a nun studying at Union Theological Seminary in a course on *The Nature of the Atonement*. We used a text by John McLeod Campbell, a Scottish theologian condemned in the 19th century for his liberal teaching on the meaning of Jesus’ death.

What is so valuable about the scholarly work of Karen King and her co-author Elaine Pagels is that, thanks to recent archaeological discoveries, they have been able to translate ancient writings on papyrus dating from the second century C.E. (Common Era) These texts testify to a different picture of early Christianity, a time that was tumultuous rather than harmonious. Christians held very diverse views on everything from the nature of God to the meaning of suffering.

What makes the Gospel of Judas so important is that it gives scriptural validation to what some people have intuited for centuries. What kind of a God would be satisfied by the bloody sacrifice of his/her son? The alternative understanding of the death of Jesus, that he sided with the poor and oppressed, holds far more meaning and challenge for people of faith.

The picture scholars are getting from translating the over 40 gospels, letters and other early Christian writings seems closer to Unitarian Universalism than orthodox Christianity. Theological diversity abounded in the first three centuries C.E., as it does in the 21st century within our own faith community—and I can’t help but love it!

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, April 22, 9 & 11:15am
“What Each Vermonter Can Do About Global Warming” is the topic for both services. House Speaker Gaye Symington will speak at the 11:15 service. Speaker Symington will stay for a talk-back in the Sanctuary. Wes Sanders will speak on the same topic at the 9am service. There will be testimonials from EcoTeam members.

Sunday, April 29, 9 & 11:15am
“Labor’s Love Lost?” “Work is love made visible” the poet Kahlil Gibran tells us. Yet many of us fail to feel passion for our work or fed and refreshed by it. In honor of International Workers’ Day let’s look at work with fresh eyes. What is the interplay of work and love in Your life? Worship Leader: M’ellen Kennedy is a Unitarian Universalist community minister, community psychologist and member here at the First UU. She is also co-founder and co-coordinator of the Small Group Ministry Network.

Sunday, May 6, 10:00am
“Blessing of the Animals” There will be just one service this morning, **at ten o’clock**, with four-legged, finny and flying friends welcome (in honor of Be Kind to Animals Week). Please be sure non-human attendees are house-trained and under care giver control at all times (either leashed or crated). No Sunday School classes this morning as we gather our all-species community.

Bid On Fun

Like outstanding bargains? Bid on the great goods and services offered at our UU Silent Auction. Among the offerings: *An Evening Sail on Tanzer 22 with Refreshments; Lunch with Academy-Award Nominee Screenwriter Hawk Ostby (and an autographed copy of his film “Children of Men”); Your Choice of Rainbow Bear, Pride Bear or Vermonter Bear from Vermont Teddy Bear Company; One Hour of Massage at Sports & Fitness Edge in Essex; Four Hours of Basic Garden Clean-Up (weeding, edging, pruning); AND MUCH MORE!*

All items will be up for bid in the Parlors the first three Sundays in May. The auction closes May 20 at 12:3pm. Come support a great cause!

Religious Education News



I heard a story recently on the radio. It discussed the mystery of why humans are so relatively hairless compared to other mammals. One theory is that our ancestors, who were furry from head to toe, began to feel that the babies who had less body hair were cuter. So those babies got more attention and more food... and natural (or preferential!) selection dictated that they survived to reproduce. As generations passed, hairlessness distinguished the humans from other mammals. On the distinction grew, until at some point humans thought of themselves as wholly different from animals. *Or did they all?!*

Two wonderful celebrations are coming up: Earth Day, on April 22nd, and the Intergenerational Blessing of the Animals service on May 6th. The 22nd will feature Earth Day-themed Way Cool Sunday School activities for children during both service times. Activities and the day's sermons will address how we can reduce the impact of global climate change. On May 6th, we'll have one service that day at 10:00am. Bring your pets! All that fly, slither, scurry, scramble, hop, and swim are welcome in the sanctuary that day for a fun blessing and celebration of earth's creatures.

In what ways are we animals? In what ways are we not? In what ways are we part of the earth? (Earth's water and air and minerals flow through us every moment!) In what ways are we distinct from the earth? Unitarian Universalism challenges us to dig deep into understanding our humanness *and* remembering and upholding the vast, mysterious web of existence that we're part of. This is a web of time, of space, of matter, of energy, and of mystery. The fact that it reaches us, touches us, and moves us to attempt to respond somehow is *why* we come here to worship and learn together. It's why we celebrate Earth Day and why we have a responsibility to wed caring for our planet with choices towards its health. There's something that's true, right, and good – our intuition tells us – about an Earth that is *peopled*. And those people, and this earth *are what they are* because of the animals (and everything else!) that's in and of the web.

Let's bless it all! And in so doing, know we are blessed.

Martha

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!

Immigration Study Circle

The topic of immigration brings up many issues- of race, jobs, politics, diversity- and much more. It is a major issue nationally and in our community as well. Please join us for a 4-week series of discussions using the national Study Circles Resource Center's curriculum: "Changing Faces, Changing Communities". Meetings will be held weekly on Wednesdays, May 2, 9, 16, and 23 at the First UU Society. On May 2, we will meet from 6:00 to 8:00. The session will start with the film "The Letter", a documentary about what happened when hundreds of Somali immigrants sought refuge in a small New England town. Anyone who has seen the film is welcome to join us at 7:15. All other sessions run from 6:00 to 7:30. Please sign up (on the bulletin board) or call to register to assure we have adequate materials. For more information call Susan Schoenfeld at 863-6299.

Global Cuisine

Imagine a gourmet dinner for four, complete with side dishes, from any country you desire and delivered to your door. Bid at the UU Silent Auction.

COTS Walk

It's time to plan for the 2007 COTS Walk, May 6th at 2pm! Registration is at 1:30. This is the 18th year that hundreds of individuals, families and teams will raise funds for COTS and walk the 3-mile route visiting COTS shelters and programs along the way. Last year, our fabulous Walk participants raised \$125,000 to support COTS programs and shelters! COTS would love to top that amount this year, but they need your help to do it! Please donate generously if a walker approaches you. For a walker's packet, contact Lynn Douglas 644-2197, moonglow@pshift.com

COTS walkers will have a brown bag picnic between the Intergenerational Blessing of the Animals service and registration. Drinks and dessert and games will be provided. We will be making neckerchiefs stamped with chalices for the UU team! If weather permits we will be outside on the lawn. Please join us and walk to the WALK with your UU community.

Greensboro Massacre Survivors to Speak

On Thursday, May 3 at 6pm, survivors of the 1979 Greensboro (NC) Massacre, Sally and Paul Bermanzohn, will speak in the Sanctuary about the Massacre, its aftermath, and their struggle for social justice, truth, and reconciliation. Five Anti-Klan demonstrators were killed and 10 were wounded on November 3, 1979 with Greensboro police and federal agents organizing and leading the attack. The killers were never punished. Their daughter, Sandy, a UVM graduate living in Burlington, is organizing the talk by her parents. The UU Anti-Racism Action Committee is sponsoring the event.

Forum on Peacemaking

Is there anything more important than peace in the world? Should our denomination reject war altogether, or adopt a specific "just war" policy? Please join us to explore the UUA Congregational Study/Action Issue of "Peacemaking" at a forum on Sunday, April 22 at 12:30pm. Brief presentations on the power, influence, and possibilities of nonviolence will be followed by a discussion of actions we can take as peacemakers. *Sponsored by Denominational Affairs*

UU Views of God

How do Unitarian Universalists conceive of ultimate reality? As goddess, emptiness, creative process, inter-relational liveliness, personal deity? Bob Senghas (Starr King School for Ministry), Roddy 'O Neil Cleary (Fordham University), Martha Dallas (Union Theological Seminary), Mellen Kennedy (Meadville Lombard Theological School) and Gary Kowalski (Harvard Divinity School) join in a clergy conversation on Sunday, May 6 at 7 p.m. All are invited to listen and share in the discussion.

Women's Alliance Meeting

Everyone is cordially invited to hear Pam MacPherson, a UU member and advocate of the Madison-Deane Initiative, on Friday May 4, at 11:15, First UU Society building. She will show a shortened version of the award-winning film that chronicles the beginning of the hospice movement. A discussion will follow about the unique opportunities for growth within the faith community to provide support and caring for people going through death, grief and bereavement. The business meeting begins at 10:30. Please bring your brown bag lunch. Dessert, tea, coffee and good conversation provided at noon.

Organ Concert

Jack Austin, Organist and Choir Director at First UU Society and Assisting Musician at First Congregational Church of Burlington, will play the fourth and final recital of the series celebrating the installation of our new R.A. Colby, Inc. organ on Sunday, April 29, at 3pm. His program will include works of Sweelinck, Bach, Demessieux, Dupre, Langlais, Karg-Elert and Schroeder. Admission is free. Donations will be accepted and forwarded to the national American Guild of Organists to support their initiative to encourage and develop a new generation of organists. A reception will follow the concert.

Book Discussion Group

Please join us on Tuesday, May 15 at 6:00 pm, when we'll discuss Garrison Keillor's **Good Poems** (available in paperback) and enjoy a potluck dinner at Bud and Alison Etherton's. If you've heard his Writer's Almanac on Public Radio, you're familiar with his interesting choice of poems. No need to read the whole book. We'll share our favorites with each other, after dinner. Please call 658-4126 to let us know what you'd like to bring to the dinner. **Please note the change in date, time, and place.**

**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

Creating Balance in Your Life

The Adult Education and Programs Committee is pleased to present Marty Garrett, a certified Co-Active Life Coach on Tuesday May 1, in an interactive program from 6:30-8pm at UU. Marty who also has degrees in education and counseling, will explore eight areas of our lives which encompass life balance. Are you living at a frenetic pace with little time to do the things you enjoy the most? Take time out of your busy day to reflect on what you most value. You will leave this experience with a new awareness of where your life is out of balance, and a plan to make new choices to live differently. The program is limited to 18 participants. Sign-up on the bulletin board. For more info, call Bobbee at 660-8946.

Learning About Peace from Quakers and Mennonites

The Denominational Affairs Committee warmly invites you to a panel discussion with several Quakers and Mennonites who will share their perspectives on peace and peacemaking. Please join us on Sunday, May 6 at 12:30 PM in the Community Room as we explore the UUA Congregational Study/Action Issue of "Peacemaking" in conjunction with UU congregations all over the country.

Have A Party

Soup, Salad and Bread for Eight, fresh and made to order delivered to the location of your choice. Bid at the UU Silent Auction.

Loose Plate for

Charity

On March 4th and March 11th our congregation pledged to contribute 50% of our Sunday Loose Plate Collection to the Boys & Girls Club of Burlington. I am proud to report that our congregation will be sending a check to the Boys & Girls Club for \$358.82. Also, on March 18th and March 25th we collected money for Spectrum One Stop. The Society will be sending them a check for \$581.52. On April 15th & 22nd we will be collecting for Center City Little League and on April 30th and May 6th we will be collecting for the Burlington Parks & Recreation Summer Nutrition Program. Please come prepared to give generously!

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](mailto:email@xina@uusociety.org).

A Chance to Review the Covenant

The ministers and congregation share a covenant with expectations and promises that is renewed annually through the ministers' contract. Sunday, April 29, is an opportunity for the congregation to reflect on how the ministers have met their end of the bargain. This opportunity will be in the form of a discussion of the *things the congregation reasonably may expect its minister to do*.

General comments will also be welcome. Members of Gary's and Roddy's ministerial committees will facilitate the discussion and use the information to provide its reports to the congregation at the annual meeting. The forum will be held in the Susan B. Anthony Room from 10am-11am on Sunday, April 29. Please, plan to stay a little late or arrive a little early. Coffee and Bagels will be provided. Questions may be directed to Dan Maxon, 879-7086 or dmaxon@comcast.net
Respectfully, Committees on Ministry.

UU Business Directory

The time is approaching to compile the new society business directory. **The deadline is April 29.** If you want your business or service included please pickup a form from the bulletin board in the hallway and return it to the folder provided. Call me with questions, suggestions: Julie McKane, 658-3258. You can also email me and request a form, juliemckane1@yahoo.com.

"I Listen" by Aidan (Age 8)

I like the desert.
A beach without water.
Clay is easy to find
Sand is soft, shifty
Sun is hot
How wondrous is the desert
In its own way
Mesas are high
Scorpions crawl low
Birds fly with the spirits
People walk the Earth
We are happy here
We hope the spirits are happy there
They give us air to breathe
Game to hunt and eat
In exchange we should be thankful
We should listen
We should listen
We should listen...

Save A Life

Learn infant, child and adult CPR in a Red Cross certified lifesaving course. Bid at the UU Silent Auction.

Notes from Membership

Doesn't everyone love statistics? We thought you might be interested to know that in the 2005-2006 church calendar year, a total of twenty people signed our membership book. To date in this church calendar year, 24 people have joined. Please be assured that if you are considering joining the congregation, a public introduction is not mandatory! You can be introduced in church, the newsletter, both church and newsletter, or neither. If you have questions about joining the congregation, please contact either Gary or Roddy, or stop by the piano some Sunday morning to speak with one of our friendly committee members. And a note to all our members and friends, please wear your nametags as it is a help to both newcomers and "oldcomers" alike.

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 in Winooski, 94 West Canal Street and 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 65504443 or Peggy Poppe at 865-0357.

Special Benefit Concert

A benefit concert is scheduled for Saturday, May 5th @7:30pm at the First UU Society of Burlington. It will feature songwriter, recording artist; Dawna Hammers along with her only son, John Graham on drums and The World Unity Choir!

Dawna is raising funds for the World Unity CD! She and several adult and children members of our society as well as refugee children from Barnes Elementary School began recording March 18th and are very excited. Dawna needs to raise several thousand dollars to continue recording, manufacturing and promoting this worthy CD! She hopes to sell it at the United Nations bookstore, through the UUA and elsewhere to raise awareness for the work and ideals of the UN as well as to raise funds for innocent victims of war through UNICEF!

This will be an interactive concert where everyone is invited to sing, drum and dance if they desire! \$10 minimum donation requested, \$5 for children under 18. To volunteer or for more info call Dawna at (802) 985-2074 or visit www.dawnahammers.net Donations also may be sent to her at 9 Railroad Lane, Shelburne, VT 05482

First Unitarian Universalist Society

152 Pearl Street

Burlington, Vermont 05401

(802)862-5630

www.uusociety.org

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Canoe Adventure

Enjoy four hours of gliding Vermont's calm waters in a hand made, solo-paddled canoe, complete with guide, at a time to be mutually arranged. Bid at the UU Silent Auction.

The Ground Truth

As part of our congregation's ongoing exploration of the UUA's Congregational Study/Action issue of "Peacemaking," you are invited to a free viewing of a compelling film called "The Ground Truth" on Tuesday, May 8 at 7:00 PM in the Parlors. You can learn more about this film by going to www.thegroundtruth.net

Written on the envelope that comes with the DVD is this description: "Patricia Foulkrod's powerful documentary spotlights American soldiers sharing their experiences on the battlefield in Iraq and back home as they try to reassemble their lives. With aching honesty, these men and women discuss the anguish of war, the difficulties of readjusting to life after their tours of duty, post-traumatic stress disorder and the often callous treatment returning troops receive from the military and the Veterans Administration." This R rated film runs 1hr. 18 minutes and was made in 2006. According to the web site, it is one of only 15 films on the Oscar "short-list" for the 2007 Academy Awards nominations.

Critic Kenneth Turan of the [Los Angeles Times](#) observes: "This thoughtful, sensitive film, is perhaps the most emotionally wrenching of all the Iraq documentaries..." Claudia Puig of [USA Today](#) writes: "This is undeniably one of the year's most compelling films...Unflinching, disturbing, and fascinating." Filmmaker Patricia Foulkrod said about the film: "I produced and directed "The Ground Truth" so we could start talking about what really happens in war...I wanted to share with all Americans the profound wisdom these young men and women have to impart."

If you want to understand what is really going on right now in Iraq, in military training facilities, and in civilian life after soldiers come home you will want to attend a viewing of "The Ground Truth" on May 8. *Dave Conrad, Denominational Affairs*

Cut Our Budget?

Our pledge goal for 2007-2008 is \$400,000. To date we have raised \$315,000. Those who have pledged have increased their pledges by 18% over last year, which is great news. Yet, our Board will be wrestling with the challenge of cutting our Society's budget and welcomes feedback from the congregation. The following items will be on the table:

Cut travel and GA for Martha, Roddy and Gary (\$4500)

Cut guest musicians (\$1000)

Eliminate campus ministry (\$1000)

Scrap Youth Advisor Position (\$1200)

Cut piano & organ tuning and care (\$1000)

Zero support for JUMP (\$2300)

Goodbye summer services (\$1000)

Cut Social Action budget (\$2500)

So long Children's Choir (\$2080)

Inactivate Vermont Interfaith Action (\$6000)

Cut support for UUA (\$24,000)

Stop Adult Programs (\$1250)

Cut 9:00 a.m. service (\$25,000)

Unfortunately, we could make all these cuts—they still don't add up to the \$85,000 we need to balance our budget. The only solution is for those of you who have not yet pledged to do so, and for those of you already pledged to dig a little deeper. Thanks to those who are doing their Fair Share to support our Society. *The Canvass Committee*
