



# The UU News

The First Unitarian Universalist Society of Burlington, Vermont  
*"An Intentionally Diverse Community"*

April 24, 2005 -  
 May 7, 2005

## Calendar

### Sunday, April 24

930 Membership Committee  
 9:45 Choir Rehearsal  
 9:45 Women's Spirituality  
 10:25 Family/Jr. Youth Worship  
 11:00 Worship Service  
 12:30 Social Action Film  
 7:30 World Religions Class

### Monday, April 25

9:00 **Newsletter Deadline**  
 \*\*\*\*\* Zen (Call office for time.)  
 6:00 Yoga  
 7:00 Worship Workshop

### Tuesday, April 26

9:45 Small Group Ministry Meeting  
 6:00 Knitting Group  
 6:00 RE Committee Meeting  
 6:45 Worship Workshop  
 7:00 Wellness Workshop

### Wednesday, April 27

9:00 Staff Meeting  
 6:00 VT Interfaith Action Meeting  
 7:30 Choir Rehearsal

### Thursday, April 28

\*\*\*\*\* Zen (Call office for time.)  
 6:00 Sunray Meditation

### Friday, April 29

6:30 AA Men's Group

### Saturday, April 30

8:00 Grounds Clean-Up Activity  
 7:30 Future Shape of Religion

### Sunday, May 1

9:00 Social Action  
 9:30 Children's Choir  
 10:25 Family/Jr. Youth Worship  
 11:00 Worship Service  
 12:15 Nominating Committee Meeting  
 12:00 COTS Walk Lunch  
 6:00 Young Adult Group  
 7:30 World's Religions Class

### Monday, May 2

\*\*\*\*\* Zen (Call office for time.)  
 6:00 Yoga  
 7:00 Worship Workshop

### Tuesday, May 3

1:30 Library Committee Meeting  
 6:45 Eckhart Tolle Group  
 7:00 Executive Board Meeting

### Wednesday, May 4

9:00 Staff Meeting  
 7:30 Choir Rehearsal

### Thursday, May 5

\*\*\*\*\* Zen (Call office for time.)  
 6:00 Sunray Meditation

### Friday, May 6

10:30 Women's Alliance Meeting  
 6:30 AA Men's Group

### Saturday, May 7

5:00 Coming of Age Overnight  
 6:00 Eating Responsibly Potluck

## BUUC Summer Ritual

Come celebrate the beginning of Summer on May 21, with a ritual here at First UU, led by Rebecca Crystal, Facilitator of BUUC. There will be an ingathering @5:30 with a finger food feast to follow. This is a substance free event. Sorry no childcare. For more information, contact Rebecca Crystal at 879-9116.

## In My Heart

Recently a news item caught my eye, tucked away in a sidebar of the Burlington Free Press. The heading read "Pentagon Invests in Robot Surgeons." The pentagon has been awarded \$12 million in grants to develop an unmanned "trauma pod" designed to use robots to perform what are described as "full scalpel-and-stitch surgeries on wounded soldiers in battlefield conditions."

The story went on to say that the Defense Department had been sold the idea by researchers from SRI International, a lab that often handles Defense Department research. What apparently sold the idea was a futuristic "concept video" that was likened to a teen fantasy game. The video showed with color and sound robots operating on soldiers under fire, and then evacuating them.

The researchers acknowledge that their goal is relatively modest. With the \$12 million they hope to show how a surgeon "operating the robot remotely, can stitch together two blood vessels of a pig."

I am as repelled by this kind of research as I am by Star Wars and the militarization of space. How easily this type of pentagon project is funded, as compared to any investment in health, education and the domestic welfare of our society.

Thursday night before Easter, Bill and I attended a debate at the State House on "Should the Vermont legislature enact a publicly financed universal health care system for all Vermonters?" Dr. Deb Richter, a Vermont physician argued the affirmative, and a physician from Toronto, invited by the Ethan Allen Institute argued against it. Both physicians showed themselves to be able debaters. Judging from the response of a packed house, the majority were clearly with Richter.

Lisa Sammet, a librarian from Hardwick, had the last word. She said: "If we, who call ourselves the world's only remaining super power are so powerful, are we so stupid that we can't look at all the systems of universal health care in the world, and then design something better. I think if we were really a super power, we could do this."

When will we challenge our government to invest tax dollars in health care rather than robots on the battlefield?

**Roddy**

## Upcoming Sundays

**Sunday, April 24, 11:00 am**  
**"Blessing of the Animals"**

Folk artists Tim Jennings and Leanne Ponder will join Gary as special guests this morning as we celebrate Earth Day in the company of our fellow creatures. For everyone's comfort, please be sure your pets are leashed, crated and under your control for this intergenerational, interspecies happening. Our choir will sing.

**Sunday, May 1, 11:00 am**

**"Love Meets Wisdom"** Chung Hyun Kyung, a renowned eco-feminist, rocked the theological world in the 90's with her address at the World Council of Churches. She represents "The Future Shape of Religion," embodying as she does the spiritual traditions of east and west. We are fortunate to have her in our pulpit this morning.

**Sunday, May 8, 11:00 am**  
**"Choir Concert"**

For the past several years the choir has presented a spring concert, and this year is no exception. The May 8 service will feature the choir as an ensemble, and individual highlights from our talented members. Jack Austin has engaged Elizabeth Metcalfe, of the VT Mozart Festival and the New York Chamber Players, to accompany the choir for our featured work, Mozart's *Missa Brevis in G*, from which we sang the Kyrie on April 10. Join with us as we fill the sanctuary with music!

## The Future Shape of Religion

Saturday, April 30, 7:30 P.M.. The third speaker in our series, Chung Hyun Kyung, has spoken at the UUA General Assembly. Since 1996 she has taught ecumenical theology at Union Theological Seminary in NYC, has lectured worldwide on spirituality, religious pluralism, ecology, and women's rights. This Korean eco-feminist argues that without diversity, our very survival on the planet is impossible. Hyun Kyung has authored: *The Struggle to be the Sun Again*, *In the End Beauty Will Save Us All*, and *A Letter From the Future: Goddess-Spell*.

## Religious Education News

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During two March meetings, the Religious Education Committee committed to try a new structure next year. This plan shifts each steward's monthly participation to a small, highly focused subcommittee. The whole committee will only meet three or four times a year for major votes, especially budget.

The subcommittees and their opportunities:

Worship – Already has 4 -- could use more.

Remembership – *Discreetly* notes 3 consecutive absences and checks to be sure people are okay. Needs 3-4 members.

Teacher Support for Ages 3- 10-- Assists staff with teacher recruitment, training, satisfaction. Needs at least 5.

Curriculum for Ages 3-10 – Join staff in listening to basic priorities as we move to two services. Consider and choose teaching materials. 3-4 needed.

Special Projects – Way Cool Sunday School and other non-teaching Sundays. Needs 3-4.

Junior and Middle Youth RE – Oversees spiritual nurture and enthusiasm for grades 5-8. At least 4 needed.

Child Care – In place, welcomes new members.

Youth-Adult Committee – In place and thriving; next year we'll broaden, clarify and confirm its mission.

Library – in place, always welcomes new members.

This structure already serves at least two other UU societies. I am excited that it will increase the number of you with whom I share quality time. Please call or email to join up. All inquiries welcome!

## Elz

*"The greatest good we can do for others is not just to share our riches with them, but to reveal their riches to themselves."*

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## Organ Rebuild

Perhaps you have heard that there are plans underway to rebuild our organ. Well, you have heard correctly, as a committee is actively planning just that. After the service, at 12:15, there will be a forum in the sanctuary to bring you up to date on those plans. Plan to attend if you want the latest on what is "blowin' in the wind" pipes!

## Newsletter Deadlines

The next deadline is Monday, April 25, 2005 @9am. It will cover May 8, 2005 - May 21, 2005.

## Vermont Ethics Network News

The forms for the new version of "A Living Will and Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care" can be downloaded from The Vermont Ethics Network website [www.vtethicsnetwork.org](http://www.vtethicsnetwork.org). Members and friends of the 1st UU Society may contact me for assistance or instruction.

*Dorothy M. Seale-Brown*

## Campus Ministry Help Wanted

UVM hosts a series of orientation fairs for incoming first year students in June. Can you help staff a table for UUs @UVM to inform these newbies about our campus ministry programs? The fairs are scheduled for Sunday June 5, Friday June 10, Monday June 13, Saturday June 18, Tuesday June 21 and Friday June 24. We need hosts/hostesses to be at our UU table these days from 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Please contact Gary ([gary@uusociety.org](mailto:gary@uusociety.org)) if you would be willing to take on one or more of these sessions.

## Public Radio Needs You Now

Our annual contract for underwriting on North Country FM 88.3 is up for renewal at the end of April. Last year our Society was able to purchase \$3800 worth of time, broadcasting our UU message five times a week: "This program brought to you by the First Unitarian Universalist Society of Burlington, teaching tolerance and helping children grow spiritually in a morally complex world, online at [uusociety.org](http://uusociety.org)." This year we have collected only \$1300 to keep us on the airwaves. If you already support Public Radio and want to pool your donation with others to spread the word about our liberal faith, please contact Christina ASAP. Thank you!

## Help for GA Trip

Thinking of going to General Assembly? Our congregation offers scholarships. Please write a short description and submit it to the Council. You can email Rebecca Crystal, Program Vice President and Council Facilitator at [crystalclarity@earthlink.net](mailto:crystalclarity@earthlink.net).

## Second Saturday Potluck

The next one will be held in the parlors at 6:00 PM, May 14. Join us for a delicious dinner and great conversation. Meet new friends. Singing before dinner is optional. We ask that you bring a dish that serves 8. Bring your own dishes and utensils or use ours. Call Shirley McLane at 862-0543. If you get the answering machine; tell me your name, how many are coming, whether you are bringing an appetizer, main dish, or a dessert.

## School of the Americas

What is the SOA/whinsec? The School of the Americas(SOA), now known as the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation(whinsec) is a training school for Latin American police and military personnel. Eleven dictators and some of the most notorious human rights abusers in the Americas have been trained at, or are graduates of the school. There has been no accountability for torture manuals used at the school from 1982-1991 and SOA watch has found that known human rights abusers continue to take courses at the school. Please join us on April 24 @12:30 at the meeting house for the most current SOA watch video. Find out what you can do to help close this school of Assassins.

## Accessibility on the Rise!

Our meeting house now has a handicapped-friendly faucet in our Women's Room and the counter has been cut back to allow wheelchairs closer access to the sinks. Special thanks go to property manager Dave McFeeters and property management committee chair Nick Meyer. Note: If you are interested in joining the Accessibility Committee, we now meet on 3rd Wednesdays at 7 p.m. in the Whitney Young room. KK [Wilder@aol.com](mailto:Wilder@aol.com), 658-0448.

## Holiday Bazaar

The Holiday Bazaar was a great success and netted \$4,651. Donations will go to the following organizations: Emergency Food Shelf, Spectrum, Partner Church, Jump, Planned Parenthood, City Warmth Program, Clara Barton Center, Lund Home. 65% of the proceeds are set aside for Society projects. The Alliance will contribute to a fund to buy badly needed chairs for downstairs. Frames and labels will be made for photographs in the parlor and corridors. The Alliance will consider written requests for other projects. Many thanks to all who contributed to the Bazaar's success -- workers, contributors, shoppers. We couldn't have done it without you all.

*Women's Alliance*

## Eating Responsibly

Steve Boyan, author of *Politics in an Age of Ecological Scarcity*, will be our featured speaker at the next vegan/vegetarian potluck dinner, scheduled for Saturday, May 7 at 6:00 p.m. Steve will share information on the health and nutritional advantages of a non-meat diet. All are welcome; please bring a suitable dish to share!

**First Unitarian Universalist Society**  
**862-5630**

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*Gary Kowalski, Minister*  
*Roddy O'Neil Cleary, Affiliate Minister*  
*Pat Allen, Board President*  
*Elz Curtiss, Acting R. E. Director*  
*David McFeeters, Property Manager*  
*Jack V. Austin, Choir Director/Organist*  
*Christina Fulton, Society Administrator*  
*Kathleen Ingram, Secretary/Newsletter Editor*  
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Home Page: [www.uusociety.org](http://www.uusociety.org)

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## 16th Annual COTS Walk

It is scheduled for May 1, 2005. Registration begins at 1:30 pm in Battery Park, Burlington. The COTS Walk is a chance to visit shelters, meet the staff, see what homelessness looks like, and how the pledges raised by Walkers are put to work. This is a great educational event for families, school groups, business groups, church groups, clubs, or groups of friends or neighbors. UUs will be meeting at 12:15 on May 1 to picnic together before the COTS Walk. Bring a picnic lunch or support the Boston trip and buy brunch food from the 5/6th graders. They will be serving quiche, fruit salad, burritos, pizza and breads. Drinks provided. See you there!

## Annual Meeting

The First Unitarian Universalist Society of Burlington will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, June 5, 2005. Save the date on your calendars! Plans are under way to hold a light luncheon before the meeting. The meeting will begin around 12:45pm. Would you like to help plan the luncheon? Call Pat Allen at 864-9799 if you would like to be part of this effort.

Thank you,

*Pat Allen, President of the Board*

## Children's Theatre Troupe

From June 28-June 30, Burlington will host the Al Rowwad Children's Theatre Troupe, 11 children from Bethlehem, Palestine, who have been taught to respond to living in conditions of war with creativity. Save June 30 for a performance in Contois Auditorium of the children, ages 9-16, who will do Palestinian dance, a puppet show, and a play written by their director, Dr. Abdel Fattah Abu-Srouf. Needed for the children: Does anyone have any unused sleeping bags or bicycle helmets that could be donated to the group? Thanks so very much. Nancy Farrell 865-3730

## Our Weekly Offering

Last fall our Board decided that half of the "loose plate" from our Sunday collection should go to a helping organization either located in the Old North End or targeting our neighbors who live there. Recipients to this point have included the Boys & Girls Club, Vermont Refugee Resettlement, COTS,

SafeSpace, the Healthy City Initiative, and the Vermont Association for the Blind. Future beneficiaries will include Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity, the Burlington Land Trust, Spectrum, Vermont Interfaith Action, the Chittenden Emergency Food Shelf, JUMP, Sarah Holbrook Center, RU12, and the Community Health Center. If you know of other worthy organizations that serve Burlington's Old North End, please contact Roddy or Gary for them to be considered. We are giving an average of over \$1000 a month back to our local community, thanks to your support!

## Now Hiring

We are looking for someone to work in a paid Caretaker position. This is a full year, 16 hours per week position to assist with the care and cleaning of the church, building and grounds maintenance and snow removal. This person will work varied hours that may include weekends, evenings and holidays. They must have excellent people skills, the ability to lift 50 pounds and be able to climb up a ladder. This is to replace Kent Hesse who has been filling this position since the beginning of the year. If you are interested in this position or would like more information, please call me at 862-5630 x 23 or send an e-mail to [david@uusociety.org](mailto:david@uusociety.org).  
*David McFeeters, Property Manager*

## Soulful Summer

Looking for a way to tune up your spiritual life? Join the Summer Services Committee and become a vital part of designing alternative worship experiences. It's a great way to care for your own soul, build community, and meet fellow seekers new to the area looking for a religious home. Call Roddy (862-5630 ext. 25) if you are interested.

## Driving Teacher Needed

College student or retiree sought to teach me to drive. Your car or mine. I can offer \$25-\$35/hr. If interested, please call Aneca Corvo at 655-2501.

## Annual Grounds Work Party

On Saturday, April 30, from 8 am until 12 noon, the Property Committee has planned a work day to finish preparing the grounds and garden for the summer and to clean out the basements of some of the houses owned by the church. Everyone is welcome including parents with children. Bring gloves and a rake if you have one.

## Eckhart Tolle Study Group

There will be 3 more meetings of the Tuesday Eckhart Tolle Study Group, May 3, May 17 & June 7 from 6:45 to 8:45 PM Anyone can come anytime to one or more of these inspirational gatherings led by David McFeeters and Mara O'Connor. David will show videos of Eckhart speaking, we will discuss his book, THE POWER OF NOW and share our reactions to this remarkable teaching. He writes, "When I occasionally quote the words of Jesus or the Buddha, from 'A Course in Miracles' or from other teachings, I do so not in order to compare, but to draw your attention to the fact that in essence there is and always has been only one spiritual teaching, although it comes in many forms." Eckhart's teachings have helped thousands of people find inner peace and greater fulfillment in their lives. For more information call David at 862-5630x23 or Mara 860-5097.

## Green Up Our Neighborhood

The Old North End will be the focus of Burlington's community wide Green Up this year. If you would like to be part of a team from our congregation, please contact Gary. We will meet at Lawrence Barnes School at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, May 7. T-Shirts, snacks and good spirits provided.

## Welcoming Congregation Film Event

The WCC invites you to the event of the year! On May 15 @12:30, Meema Spadola, Director and Producer, will present her film *Our House: a very real documentary about kids of gay and lesbian parents*. This hour-long documentary is a frank exploration of what it means to grow up with gay or lesbian parents. It follows the highs and lows of children ages 9-23 from 5 very different families. This event is made possible in part by a Unity grant from the Samara Foundation. A viewer's guide is available online at <http://www.colage.org/documentary/index.html>. There is a link to the PDF file at the bottom of the web page. Printed copies will also be available on the WCC section of the bulletin board. Please join us on Sunday May 15 at 12:30 PM in the Community Room. Light refreshments will be provided. Childcare will be available if arranged for in advance. Please call Robyn Woodworth, Childcare Coordinator, at 985-3856 if you will need childcare.

# **First Unitarian Universalist Society**

**152 Pearl Street**

**Burlington, Vermont 05401**

**(802)862-5630**

**[www.uusociety.org](http://www.uusociety.org)**

**CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED**

## **Introduction to Sunray Teachings and Practice**

Sunray Basic Meditation Practice

&

Dance of the Directions

Taught by a senior Sunray Teacher

Resonate a song of peace and beauty. Explore ways to recognize the wisdom inherent within. Together we will clarify and energize the pathways connecting us with Earth and Sky through sitting and moving meditation.

Thursday April 28th, 6 - 7:30 PM

Thursday May 5th, 6 - 7:30 PM

Donations toward space rental accepted.

Please wear comfortable clothing and bring a cushion or blanket. Chairs will be available.

Sunray is an international spiritual society dedicated to planetary peace. Home fire of the Ani Yunwiwa Cherokee Band and a Tibetan Buddhist Dharma Center. Venerable Dhyani Ywahoo is founder and Spiritual Director of Sunray.

## **A Language of Connection**

Would you like to learn concrete skills to improve your communication, to help you resolve conflicts, or to help you connect better to yourself? These are just a few of the applications of Nonviolent Communication, which is a process of communication used in many different settings, including education, social action, interpersonal relationships, and parenting. The process teaches how to express yourself without blame, judgment, or criticism, and to empathetically listen to others. It is sometimes called a language of compassion. This two hour event will introduce basic principles of Nonviolent Communication. It will be informative and interactive, and there will be opportunities to practice different principles. It will be on Thursday evening May 12th in the parlors from 7-9. For more information about Nonviolent Communication visit [www.cnvc.org](http://www.cnvc.org). For more information about workshops and practice groups in the area, or if you have any questions about this event, e-mail me at [jasonmichaelkelley@yahoo.com](mailto:jasonmichaelkelley@yahoo.com).