



September 9, 2007 -
September 22, 2007

Calendar

Sunday, September 9

11:00 Worship Service
12:00 Welcome Back Picnic

Monday, September 10

***** Zen (Call office for time)
9:00 Newsletter deadline
9:00 Joyful Parenting SGM
6:00 Anti-Racism Action
6:45 RE Steward Orientation

Tuesday, September 11

10:00 Et tu Small Group Ministry

Wednesday, September 12

9:00 Staff Meeting
7:30 Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, September 13

***** Zen (Call office for time)
10:00 SGM Steering Committee
12:00 Yoga
6:00 Mysticism Sm. Group Ministry
7:00 Film: Mickey Mouse Monopoly

Friday, September 14

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

Saturday, September 15

5:15 BUUC

Sunday, September 16

9:00 Worship Service
9:15 Care Network Ministry Mtg.
11:00 Worship Service
12:15 OWL Parent Orientation

Monday, September 17

***** Zen (Call office for time)
9:00 Yoga

Tuesday, September 18

10:00 Wisdom Wanderers
7:00 Board of Trustees Meeting

Wednesday, September 19

9:00 Staff Meeting
6:00 OWL Parent Orientation
7:30 Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, September 20

***** Zen (Call office for time)
12:00 Root Yoga Community Class

Friday, September 21

6:30 AA Men's Group

Saturday, September 22

9:00 Run for the O.N.E.
5:00 BUUC

Welcome Back Picnic

It will be great to see everyone again on September 9th at the annual Welcome Back Picnic to be held right after the 11:00 service in the Memorial Garden (weather permitting). Once again, bring your favorite finger food to serve yourselves and about eight other people. Beverages will be provided. Another wonderful church year awaits us all!

On My Mind

Are you ready for a new year? Or still lingering in the afterglow of August? Sooner or later, September will catch up with you. Here's a little preview of what to expect and changes in store.

New times for our two services, now scheduled for 9:00 and 11:00 am. Kids will be joining us in the sanctuary for the first portion of each service. This will not only give youngsters a chance to experience what "worship" means to their elders, but also help bridge the perceived gap between "upstairs" and "downstairs," hopefully enticing larger numbers of families to choose to attend the later session, which is necessary if we are to avoid overcrowded Sunday School classrooms.

New sounds are on order. Wayne Schneider, with long experience as a university organist and church musician, wants to help us bring even more musical diversity to our celebrations. This is in response to a very strong directive from a survey conducted by the Music Committee indicating a desire to branch out beyond classical music into gospel, jazz, pop and other genres. Wayne will also be bringing increasing numbers of guest musicians to feed our spirits.

New programs are also planned, including Our Whole Lives for adults, a Dream Group, and more.

But some things will remain the same. Ours will still be the congregation that's been on record in support of marriage equality for all Vermonters since 1997—ten years before the conversation began in the current state legislature. We'll still be hosting cutting-edge speakers like Bill McKibben (Sept. 7) and Frances Moore Lappe (Nov. 2). Ours will remain a faith that challenges and inspires us to realize more of the world's goodness and beauty in our own lives and to share our gifts with others.

Bring your hopes, your dreams, your high expectations, your passion for life's depths. See you on September 9th.

Gary

Upcoming Sundays

September Worship Theme:

Unitarian Universalism

What is our distinctive message and mission as religious liberals? Where is the unity in our theological diversity? What hope does our faith offer to a troubled world? And how must our Principles & Purposes adapt to serve the needs of the twenty-first century?

Sunday, September 9, 11:00 am

"How Are The Children?" Unitarian Universalists are committed to caring for coming generations. What do children give us in return? As our Society reconvenes for the start of a new season, we will honor and dedicate the stewards who lead our religious education program as kids and adults reflect on the bonds that connect ancestors and descendants yet to come. Please bring a small container of water from your summer travels. Dr. Wayne Schneider, our new Music Director, will lead the choir.

Sunday, September 16, 9 am & 11 am

"The Power of Dreams" No one yet understands why human beings (and other mammals) dream each night. But research shows that deprived of dreaming, the mind unravels. What dreams give energy to our waking lives, and what visions beckon us forward as a faith community? Gary Kowalski shares his thoughts, and invites your own imaginings.

Sunday, September 23, 9 & 11 am

"To Believe or Not to Believe" How free are we to choose? Do nature and nurture play any role in our decision? In this morning's sermon, Roddy explores the meaning of belief and how sometimes a leap of faith may land you outside the box.

"Conversations on Living Fully & Dying Well"

This group will meet on Mondays at noon, from September 24 – October 29, 2007. Bring your reflections, stories, insights, concerns, and favorite readings. We will be using the work of fellow UU, Stephen P. Kiernan, author of *Last Rights: Rescuing the End of Life from the Medical System*, and Dr. Ira Byock's *Dying Well*. Bring a brown bag lunch; drinks provided. Sign up on the bulletin board. Be in touch with Roddy at 862-5630 (ext. 25) for further information and suggestions.

**Religious Education
News**

Welcome back, UU friends!

I hope you had the kind of summer you love, whether it involved travel, staying home, high-speed adventure or slowing w-a-a-y down, visitors or visits. I hope you had a summery kind of summer!

I had some time off in June and mid July, which I really enjoyed, but the last several weeks I've been back in my office, preparing and planning for our families and children! Planning is important. It makes future situations more predictable. It helps to minimize chaos and confusion, which is a responsibility I have towards you and your children! Yet, as my partner Lucy will attest to, as a general rule, planning doesn't come naturally to me. I have to work at it. I adore days which are plan-free. I take them one instinct at a time.

This summer, when some friends were visiting, something unplanned happened. We were swimming in Bristol on a beautiful sunny afternoon. We were playing on the rocks and swimming in the pools and gentle currents, when one of our visitors fell and broke her hip. The planned picnic and swim that we were enjoying stopped abruptly and we all groped our way into the "who-knows-what-next" time that followed. Life, and the accident it delivered, swept us into its current, so we followed where it went.

Neither was I planning to make the acquaintance of several astonishing bugs this summer! There was the monarch with mismatched, tattered wings. Slowly and deliberately, perched on my bee-balm, it fanned them up and down. Was she trying to recover from some kind of attack? There was the huge dragonfly that alighted on Lucy's head one afternoon. I watched it lick its forelegs (arms?!) and then thoroughly wash its head, gently drawing its "hands" over its oversized eyeballs, like a cat washes its face. And there was the neat little lime green bug that buzzed like a mini helicopter through my livingroom and landed on the floor. As I gingerly tried to pick it up to take it outside, it suddenly sprang, like a corn kernel in hot oil, about three feet into the air, making me screech and then burst out laughing! Each bug welcomed me into a gloriously unplanned moment and the real, present feelings that came with it.

The planning I and our other RE stewards do is critical to whatever "successes" we may wish to claim as we raise children in this UU community. But how we respond to life's accidents and surprises is just as critical as the planning we do. When life tugs us or tosses us around, we can find strength to hold on by giving in to the greater powers. Flexibility, adaptability, and pliability will see us through.

I hope you join me in looking forward to all the possibilities this new UU year holds!

Martha

Upcoming Religious Education Events

RE Steward-Volunteer Orientations

The first orientation will be **Saturday, Sept. 8th, 8:30-12:30**. This is for ALL RE steward-volunteers, including Teachers and Subs, RE Angels, Classroom Helpers, Way Cool Sunday School folks, and Youth Advisor & Youth Assistants! It is expected that everyone who works in any capacity with our children and youth attend a fall orientation, whether you've been before or not. Yes, there are reminders of important procedures, but there is new info and important time for meeting, troubleshooting, bridging, and planning. We will be offering a second orientation for those who cannot make the big Saturday one. It will be **Monday, Sept. 10th from 6:45-8:30** and with the shorter format, will concentrate on practical items and will not have time to meet in small groups for planning. Both will have food and both will be in the Sophia Fahs Community Room.

OWL parent orientations

We're offering two orientations for parents of this year's Our Whole Lives (OWL) participants. The first will be from **12:15-3:15 Sunday, Sept. 16th**; the second will be from **6-9 PM on Wednesday, Sept. 19th**. Both will take place in the OWL classroom off the Community Room. Parents must attend an OWL parent orientation in order for their child to participate in OWL.

**RE classes begin on
September 16th!**

An Invitation

The Universalist Society of Strafford cordially invites You to the Ordination of Dr. M'ellen Kennedy
Sunday, September 16, 2007 at 4 PM
At our historic church
Route 132 and Justin Morrill Highway
South Strafford, Vermont.
Afternoon tea to follow.

RSVP: Dolores Wolfe, PO Box 134
Strafford, VT 05072
802-765-4295 dw134svt@yahoo.com

Mickey Mouse Monopoly

On Thursday, September 13th at 7pm, the Joyful Parenting Small Group Ministry will present a film "Mickey Mouse Monopoly: Disney, Childhood, and Corporate Power" to be held at the UU Meeting House. The film is an hour long with a brief discussion afterwards. We will be serving coffee and dessert. If you need childcare, please RSVP to Shanna Moyer at 316-4775 and let her know how many children you will be bringing and their ages.

Social Action Film

The Social Action Committee Presents "What a Way to Go: Life at the End of Empire, A Documentary for Those Who Will Look," Sunday, September 23, at 7p.m. Refreshments will be served. Stay tuned for room location.

Your Faith at Work

Thanks to the Unitarian Universalist Funding Program for a \$5000 grant to Burlington's Peace & Justice Center to continue study and advocacy to redress the economic plight of Vermont's low wage workers. In 2006, the Funding Program disbursed \$884,968 to 120 projects around the world putting our values to work for grassroots change.

New Music Director and Organist!

In early May, Jack Austin announced that he was leaving us at the end of June. Jack had been organist since 1999, and choir director since 2001. Jack's wisdom and enthusiasm guided us over the past three years through the process of rebuilding our organ, and we owe him many thanks for that effort. The resulting instrument will for many decades sound a testament to his work. Jack has relocated to Ithaca, New York, and we wish him all the best in the future.

In May, the Board authorized a search and hiring committee be formed to find a successor. The committee consisted of Rev. Gary Kowalski, Martha Dallas, Deborah DeLadurantaye, Mary Lana Anderson, and Woody Fulton. We met often, May through August, and our first task was designing the survey we asked you to complete in June, then tallying and analyzing the results. This guided us in our search. We placed ads in Seven Days, the UU Musicians Network website, and the American Guild of Organists website, plus as much word-of-mouth as we could muster. We had seven people indicate interest, and interviewed the most promising two.

We are most pleased to announce that we have selected Dr. Wayne Schneider as our Music Director and Organist. Wayne is an Associate Professor of Music at UVM, and I am sure he is known to some of you. He comes highly recommended by some very trusted people: professional associates, church associates, and observers.

Wayne comes to us from the Congregational Church of Middlebury, VT, where he was the organist. Prior to that, he was for 13 years organist and choir director at the First Congregational Church of Essex, VT.

He received his B. M. in piano from the University of Colorado, and his M. A. and Ph. D. in musicology from Cornell. Wayne has served as University Organist at Brown University, and at UVM. Among others, he has published much about George Gershwin. He enjoys bird watching and horseback riding, and fitting right in with UUs, aspires to be "...a fine scholar, a respected educator, and a compassionate human being."

Wayne and his wife Paula reside in Burlington.

**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

Women's Alliance Meeting

The first meeting of the year will be on Friday, September 14, at 10:30am in the Parlors. Everyone is welcome to attend and assist us with planning activities for this church year.. We welcome new ideas!! (In October we will resume our regular schedule of meeting on the first Friday of the month), Looking forward to seeing you.

Parking in the Oval

Dear Members,

Member parking passes for this year will be on sale starting Sunday, September 16th after both the 9:00 AM and 11:00 AM services. The pass allows a member to park in the oval during weekday business hours, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Monday through Friday, for a maximum of 3 hours at a time. For members, there are no restrictions for parking either in the oval or in the lots north of the church outside of weekday business hours.

The cost of a parking pass is \$30, or two for \$50. Sixty (60) passes will be available this season.

If you had a pass last year, but do not wish to renew it, could you please return it to the office. It will no longer be valid after September 30.

*David McFeeters,
Facilities Manager*

Forgotten UU History

Those who don't know "*Black Pioneers in a White Denomination*" may be condemned to repeat the mistakes and missteps our denominational forebears made who so often failed to practice the principles of racial equality and acceptance of diversity they preached. In keeping with this month's worship theme, our Anti-Racism Action Committee will show a 35 minute documentary outlining our mixed UU record on race on Sunday, September 23, at 12:15 p.m. What has changed and what work remains in this overwhelmingly white religious tradition? All are welcome to learn and share ideas.

9/11 Speaker

Dr. Bill Schulz, 2006-2007 fellow at the Carr Center for Human Rights Policy at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard and former Executive Director of Amnesty International, will be giving a lecture entitled, "Restoring America's Credibility: Human Rights in a 9/11 World." His talk is scheduled for September 11, in the McCarthy Recital Hall, @7:00 p.m. Reverend Schulz is a life long Unitarian Universalist and former president of the UUA

Anti-Racism Action Update

In May, our committee awarded one school grant, for use in anti-racism work, to Burlington's Champlain Elementary School.

On Sunday, June 3, ARAC hosted members of the Vermont Refugee Resettlement Project whose coordinator, Rio Holaday, spoke eloquently about the need for volunteers to help refugee families adjust to life in Vermont. Anyone interested may contact Rio at 338-4533 or rholiday@uscrvt.org.

On Tuesday, August 21, the ARAC committee along with the Greater Burlington Multicultural Center sponsored a forum on racial profiling and hate crimes. About 150 people attended, including several law-enforcement officers and members of the city's multicultural communities. Speaker Jack McDevitt, who heads the Institute on Peace and Justice at Northeastern University, stressed the need for a legislative mandate to collect data to help determine the extent of racial profiling.

The Anti-Racism Action Committee (ARAC) will meet on Monday, September 10, from 6:00 - 7:00 PM. For more information, please contact Susan Schoenfeld (863-6299). All are welcome to participate.

Newsletter News

The next deadline is Monday, September 10, @9am. That issue will cover events from September 23-October 6, 2007. You can view the year's newsletter schedule on our website: www.uusociety.org.

Airwave Alert

Each Thursday at 1:29 p.m. on North Country Public Radio (WXLU 88.1 FM), our congregation sponsors "Speaking of Faith," featuring thought-provoking interviews with people like Mariane Pearl, a Buddhist, who speaks of her husband Daniel Pearl's death at the hands of Islamic extremists, and Barbara Kingsolver, author of *Animal, Vegetable, Miracle*, reflecting on the ethics of eating. We invite you to help support this important programming by channeling whatever you might ordinarily donate to public radio through our Society's office. By pooling our contributions, we are able to add our own tag to each show, "This program brought to you by the First Unitarian Universalist Society, a voice for tolerance and religious freedom in downtown Burlington." But our yearly contract, in the amount of \$650, expires on September 10. We urgently need this amount in donations to keep "Speaking of Faith" (and our UU message) on the air. Please consider helping by sending a check made out to "First UU Society" and marked "Public Radio" to Christina Fulton, our Society Administrator. Thank you!

Join the Choir!

The Adult Choir is starting the fall with a new director (see separate article), new ideas, and new enthusiasm. If you have ever considered singing with us, now would be a great time to check it out. You don't have to be a great singer, just be able to blend well with your section, attend rehearsals and performances, and be prompt. So, set aside Wednesdays, 7:30 to 9:00 pm, and give it a listen. Contact Woody Fulton, jwfulton63@alumni.cmu.edu, or 879-1920. We hope to see you soon.

Bill McKibben to Speak

What is economic justice and how does it relate to our local food systems and global warming? Bill McKibben will explore this question and others on **Friday, September 7th from 7:30-9pm at the First UU Society**. The Peace & Justice Center's Economic Justice Program and Intervale Center are bringing McKibben to engage in a discussion that draws from the content of his newly published book *Deep End Economy: the Wealth of Communities and the Durable Future* which discusses the shortcomings of the growth economy and the potential for local enterprise.

The event will begin with a celebration (on the lawn) of locally grown food provided by; American Flatbread, City Market, and others at 6:30pm. Bill McKibben will follow from 7:30-9:00pm. There will be a small suggested donation for all food items as well as a suggested donation of \$10 at the door. All proceeds will benefit the PJC's Economic Justice Project and the Intervale Center. Co-sponsored by the First UU Society.

First Unitarian Universalist Society

152 Pearl Street

Burlington, Vermont 05401

(802)862-5630

www.uusociety.org

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Dear Friends,

This will not come as a surprise to most of you. As of the end of June 2008, I will be retiring as Affiliate Minister of our Society. It has been a privilege to share in your lives. I have loved being with you; you have been an ongoing source of revelation.

In the fall of 1995, I was surprised by a phone call from Martha Fitzgerald, inviting me to be interviewed by a search committee to fill in for Gary while he went on sabbatical. I could not have felt less capable or ready for such a position. It can only be likened to standing on the edge of a high diving board. By sheer grace, I took the leap and your indulgence has kept me afloat. You have confirmed my faith in the words of Rita Gross that "Community is the indispensable matrix of enlightenment."

There's a statement on the "Prepare/Enrich Marriage Survey," a survey I always recommend for couples preparing for marriage or civil union. Number 160 says, "I believe our marriage must include active participation in a place of worship." They respond on a scale of 1 to 4, 1 being "strongly disagree" and 4 being "strongly agree." Most often they disagree. I invariably tell the couple that I fully understand their negative response. Still, I feel compelled by my own experience to stress the importance of being part of a spiritual community, one that stretches you, one that addresses the ultimate questions, one in which you share each other's joys and struggles and one in which you are called to alleviate the suffering of others. Thank you for being this kind of community for me.

For those community members who are at all surprised by the news of my retirement, you might find meaning in the words of Vladimir Nabakov; I certainly resonate with them: "Life is a great surprise. I do not see why death (read 'retirement') should not be an even greater one." Thanks for making my years with you surprisingly rich and full of grace.

Love,

Roddy

2007 - 2008 Newsletter Schedule

Items are due in the office by 9am Monday morning.
Articles may be emailed to Kathleen at office@uusociety.org.

Deadline Date	Period Covered	Volunteer Crew Meets
August 27, 2007	September 9, 2007 - September 22, 2007	Thursday, August 30, 2007
September 10, 2007	September 23, 2007 - October 6, 2007	Thursday, September 13, 2007
September 24, 2007	October 7, 2007 - October 20, 2007	Thursday, September 27, 2007
October 8, 2007	October 21, 2007 - November 3, 2007	Thursday, October 11, 2007
October 22, 2007	November 4, 2007 - November 17, 2007	Thursday, October 25, 2007
November 5, 2007	November 18, 2007 - December 8, 2007	Thursday, November 8, 2007 (3 wk NL)
November 26, 2007	December 9, 2007 - December 22, 2007	Thursday, November 29, 2007
December 10, 2007	December 23, 2007 - January 12, 2008	Thursday, December 13, 2007(3 wk NL)
December 31, 2007	January 13, 2008 - January 26, 2008	Thursday, January 3, 2008
January 14, 2008	January 27, 2008 - February 9, 2008	Thursday, January 17, 2008
January 28, 2008	February 10, 2008 - February 23, 2008	Thursday, January 31, 2008
February 11, 2008	February 24, 2008 - March 8, 2008	Thursday, February 14, 2008
February 25, 2008	March 9, 2008 - March 22, 2008	Thursday, February 28, 2008
March 10, 2008	March 23, 2008 - April 5, 2008	Thursday, March 13, 2008
March 24, 2008	April 6, 2008 - April 19, 2008	Thursday, March 27, 2008
April 7, 2008	April 20, 2008 - May 3, 2008	Thursday, April 10, 2008
April 21, 2008	May 4, 2008 - May 17, 2008	Thursday, April 24, 2008
May 5, 2008	May 18, 2008 - May 31, 2008	Thursday, May 8, 2008
May 19, 2008	June 1 - Entire Summer	Thursday, May 22, 2008