



March 9, 2008 -  
March 22, 2008

## Calendar

### Sunday, March 9

*Daylight Savings Time Begins*

- 9:00 Worship Service
- 9:30 Adult Programs Committee
- 10:00 Women’s Spirituality Group
- 11:00 Worship Service
- 12:30 Interweave Potluck
- 12:30 Coming of Age Meeting
- 2:00 Ministerial Search Committee

### Monday, March 10

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

### Tuesday, March 11

- 10:00 Small Group Ministry
- 5:30 Property Committee Meeting
- 6:30 Ministerial Search Committee
- 7:00 Executive Board Meeting
- 7:00 Book Discussion Group

### Wednesday, March 12

- 9:00 Staff Meeting
- 5:00 Administrator Relations Com.
- 6:00 Music Committee Meeting
- 7:00 Choir Rehearsal

### Thursday, March 13

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

- 9:00 Newsletter Crew
- 10:00 SGM Steering Committee
- 12:00 Root Yoga Community Class
- 6:00 Mysticism Sm. Group Ministry

### Friday, March 14

- 6:30 AA Men’s Group

### Saturday, March 15

### Sunday, March 16

- 9:00 Worship Service
- 9:00 Membership Committee Mtg.
- 9:15 Care Network Ministry
- 10:00 Women’s Spirituality
- 11:00 Worship Service
- 12:30 Social Action Forum

### Monday, March 17

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

### Tuesday, March 18

- 10:00 Wisdom Wanderers
- 7:00 Board Meeting

### Wednesday, March 19

- 9:00 Staff Meeting
- 6:30 RE Committee Meeting
- 7:00 Choir Rehearsal

### Thursday, March 20

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

### Friday, March 21

- 6:30 AA Men’s Group

### Saturday, March 22

- 6:00 Kid’s Night Out

## On My Mind

The subject of economics mystifies me. Headlines make no sense, like the “sub-prime crisis.” Why would bankers, who are supposed to be cautious, give huge mortgages to millions of home buyers without checking their credit worthiness? And why would millions of home buyers sign loans with ballooning interest rates they knew they couldn’t afford over the long haul?

The answer seems to be that housing has become so expensive. People with average incomes are trying to buy into homes that are astronomically costly. Ordinary folks can no longer afford safe, 30 year fixed rate loans, so they’ll sign anything that puts a roof over their heads. Banks started peddling Ponzi schemes, betting that cash-poor purchasers could “flip” their investment or re-finance, based on perpetually accelerating home prices. The result is that a two room bungalow in some cities now costs close to a million bucks. (Hurray, rising real estate valuations have made us all rich, scream the headlines!) The bad news is that no one can afford that bungalow. (Yikes, we’re all on the edge of being homeless as the economy heads south!)

Vermont Interfaith Action is striving for more sensible solutions by increasing the stock of reasonably priced shelter. Thanks to VIA, Burlington’s new zoning ordinance will require developers to create affordable units every time they construct new luxury condos and McMansions—or pay into a city fund to make up the difference. Two hundred fifty people (including dozens of UU’s) showed up for a VIA action last month to hold elected officials feet to the fire, making sure they kept their promises.

“Market forces” alone are not addressing the housing shortage in our country. “Faith forces” are needed as people of goodwill come together to envision an economy that works for all Vermonters.

How much is it worth to be part of a spiritual community like this one, that’s making a real difference in people’s lives? To have this spiritual home, where the doors are always open, to families of every income? As you consider your financial pledge to our Society, remember that, unlike Wall Street, we have no fancy accounting schemes to pay our bills. In a fickle, smoke-and-mirrors economy, this Society just keeps on delivering old-fashioned, rock solid values---year after year.

**Gary**

## Upcoming Sundays

### March Worship Theme:

#### Religious Community

What communities have informed and sustained you on your spiritual quest? What are the marks of healthy and unhealthy communities? How does our individualistic tradition balance the need for independence and human connection? And what are our dreams and aspirations for our religious home?

### Sunday, March 9, 9am & 11am

**“Our Legacy of Caring”** What will be the legacy of the First UU Society? Members of the congregation will speak to this question using their stories of support and caring. This will be a lay led service coordinated by the Worship Committee.

### Sunday, March 16, 9am & 11:00 am

**“Home Economics”** This is our Celebration Sunday, marking the formal conclusion of our annual stewardship campaign. Reaching our goal of \$412,000 depends on friends and members turning in their pledge cards. Don’t procrastinate. Please do your Fair Share (and don’t make our hardworking volunteers send out another round of letters, make another blitz of phone calls, and another). Gary will be speaking and, in keeping with our theme “Now Let Us Sing,” there will be special music at both services. Come join your energy to the chorus.

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

**“The Green Blade Riseth”** The weather may still say winter, but the equinox occurs and Easter arrives this week, invoking a celebration of spring and rebirth. There will be no Sunday School classes this morning. Instead, we have planned two identically inspiring intergenerational gatherings: music, poetry and ritual that will warm the spirit, whatever the thermometer may say.

## Easter Flowers

If you wish to remember someone on Easter Sunday by contributing to the Easter Flower Fund, please bring or send a check made out to The Women’s Alliance to the U U Society office. Please include the name(s) of the person(s) you wish to remember and your name(s). Gifts to the Memorial Garden are appreciated, as well. The plants, used at the Easter Service, will be distributed to our homebound by members of the Care Network Ministry.



## Religious Education News



My job title here is Director of Religious Education, but I'm also a member of this UU Society. I would be a UU even if I wasn't a DRE. As a part of this community, I do different tasks as needed, doing my best to be a team player to help this Society and all its activities function well.

On a recent snowy morning, I grabbed a shovel and helped clear the sidewalks. I visited briefly with the newsletter crew and helped them stuff newsletters. I sometimes take minutes at staff meetings or brew the coffee. And recently, when an emergency arose and neither minister could fill the pulpit, I joined Christina, our Administrator, David, our Property Manager, and Kathleen, our Administrative Assistant, to share in planning and leading worship on Sunday. I am grateful to be part of a staff that can immediately re-prioritize, cooperate, and step up, in love and teamwork, to do what needs to be done!

While our paid staff all play important roles here, there is a broader, much more important level of teamwork that involves *everyone else!* We are *all* needed here -- at the very least, we need one another. And I would add that the world beyond our doors, as well as the world of future generations, deeply needs us too.

We're in the midst of our annual stewardship campaign. What's needed right now is your promise to share some of your money! This time each year, we invite *everyone* to make a pledge of financial support to this UU Society, to fund next year's operating budget. It doesn't matter whether you're a member or not. If for you, this place and these people give you hope and inspiration, one job you can do is to participate financially. *Your* money becomes *our* historic building, *our* worship services, *our* educational programming, *our* social action. The greater your generosity, the bolder, the deeper, the *more* we ALL can be. Lucy and I increased our pledge by 50% this year. It was a big stretch for us, but I want to help us grow in BIG ways!

If you're a dreamer and a team player too, please join me and make your generous pledge. Thank you!

Martha

## ARC Gallery

Our new exhibit is: *Glimpses of Viet Nam*, a photographic journey by Tom and Becky Peterson. You will have until mid May to view this delightful and colorful visit to Viet Nam. Becky and Tom were there last summer for a family wedding. Enjoy.

## Stewardship Matters

Our Society is financed through the generous contributions of members and friends. We receive no tax dollars or subsidies from our denomination.

Weekly worship, soulful music, progressive education for youth and adults, Small Group Ministries, support for VIA and JUMP, and maintaining the historic meetinghouse that provides space for HIV/AIDS support groups, AA, and other non-profits at minimal cost all depend on you. Your pledge is voluntary and confidential, but the UUA suggests giving 1% to 4% of adjusted gross income depending on your personal circumstances. (See the Fair Share Guidelines below.) Please plan to complete a pledge form for 2008-2009 and return it by Sunday, March 16. Your support and cooperation are vital to our ability to continue to provide services, to our own congregation and the wider community. Thank you,

*The Stewardship Committee*

## Book Discussion Group

Please join us for any or all of our discussions. On Tuesday, March 11 we will discuss *A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier* by *Ishmael Beah*. "-- a haunting lesson about how gentle folks can be capable of great brutalities as well as goodness and courage " -- Walter Isaacson. On Tuesday, April 8th we will discuss *Disgrace* by J.M. Coetzee. The book was awarded the Booker Prize in 1999. Meetings will be held at 7pm at the First UU Society. Please call Bud or Alison Etherton at 658-4126 with questions.

## Newsletter News

Next deadline: Monday, March 10, 2008 @9am covering March 23 - April 5, 2008. You can view the newsletter and this year's schedule on our website: [www.uusociety.org](http://www.uusociety.org).

## Two-Services Forums

A two-service forum will be held at 10 am and 12 noon on April 6. What is working for you and/or what's troubling you about the format we are now using? What changes would you suggest? Please join Doug Facey and Linda Gross to voice your thoughts and ideas. Child care will be offered and we hope to see you there. If you are not able to attend, please speak to Doug or Linda individually, or email us at [lgross@together.net](mailto:lgross@together.net) or [dfacey@smcvt.edu](mailto:dfacey@smcvt.edu). There will also be a manila envelope on the bulletin board where you can place written suggestions.

## New Members

*Karen Brawley* is Assistant Director of Activities at Birchwood Nursing Home. She has a son -- Harry. She likes UU because of our strong family values and our intelligence and warmth.

*Mary Kehoe* is a practicing attorney who moved to Burlington in 1983. She shares her life with her children -- Libby and Peter.

*Marianne Burke* is the Director of the Medical Library at UVM. She embraces the UU blend of independent thinking and religious traditions, and has become active in the Society.

*Herman Hoffman* is retired from I.B.M. He, and his wife Judith, have three children. He enjoys cross country skiing.

*Hillary Holmes*, a Burlingtonian for two years, is now a returning college student, studying biology at UVM with an ultimate goal of a career in the healing arts. Hillary especially appreciates the sincere dedication that she finds evident in the members at FUUSB.

## Loose Plate for Charity

February 10th & 17th we pledged to contribute 50% of our Sunday cash collection to the Chittenden Emergency Food Shelf. We will be sending them a check for \$584.53. We can all be proud of the difference we're making in our community.

On February 24th & March 2nd we will be collecting for Outright Vermont; on March 9th & March 16th we will be collecting for Vermont Refugee Resettlement and on March 23rd & 30th we will be collecting for Spectrum One Stop. 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:xina@uusociety.org)

## JUMP Donations

Did you know that when we don't bring formula in for the JUMP box at our church that there is NO FORMULA AT ALL at JUMP? FUUS is the only church that provides formula for families seeking assistance from JUMP. There is currently no formula at all at JUMP, so please help to restock their shelves the next time you are grocery shopping! Thank you!

**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,  
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*Kathleen Ingram,  
Administrative Assistant*

Email: [office@uusociety.org](mailto:office@uusociety.org)  
Web Page: [www.uusociety.org](http://www.uusociety.org)

## Needed: A Ride To Church

Long-time member of the Society, Bunny Wilkening, has recently moved back to the area. Bunny can no longer drive, but truly craves the community of coming to church on Sunday mornings. Bunny lives at the Shelburne Bay Retirement Community off Route 7. If you would be able to offer her a ride on Sundays (preferably to the 11 a.m. service) please give Bunny a call at 846-9264.

## 2nd Saturday Potluck

Enjoy good food, wine, conversation, new friends, or singing old songs? Want to have a 'cheap date' with free childcare? Please join us in the UU Parlors for the 2nd Saturday Potluck on Saturday, March 8 at 6pm. Call Pat Allen at 864-9799 to make reservations. Please let us know whether you are bringing an appetizer, salad, main course, or dessert and how many adults are in your party. Bring your own dishes and we can save on the use of paper plates. Need childcare? Call early so we can make arrangements. Hope to see you there.

## Book Talk

Gary will have an author's talk and book signing at Barnes & Noble in South Burlington on Thursday, March 6, at 7 p.m. He'll be autographing and discussing his new book *Revolutionary Spirits*.

## Ministerial Search

We are nearing the end of our search and will present one name to the Board for approval at their meeting on March 11. Roddy has said that several questions continue to fly amongst the congregation: will this person be an Interim Minister? An Interim Minister has been previously trained to fill in, generally for two years, while the congregation adjusts to the change and agrees beforehand not to stay permanently. As the Search Committee, our mandate came from the Board, and we were not directed to find an Interim Minister.

Another question is: will the congregation hear the candidate give a sermon before he/she is offered a contract? According to UUA guidelines, this is not done with Assistant Ministers, who work under the senior minister of the church. (Roddy is an Affiliate Minister and has more of a co-ministry with Gary.)

At this point we, as the Search Committee, have read many of the candidates' previous sermons and will hear a brief service during the interview process.

Fortunately, many highly gifted ministers applied for this position. The individual we recommend to the Board will be the very best available. Of course, they will bring a different style, personality and skill set than Roddy to the ministry, and a Transition Team will be appointed to help us all get acquainted and learn to work together. Change will come—please think about how you can be a positive contributor to the success of this new ministry.

*The Search Committee, Gary DeCarolis, Lynn Foster, Meryl Grossmyer, Barbara Heeter, Bridget Meyer, Jonathan Sands*

## Oldies Sing-a-long Group Forming

Area residents are welcome at the first gathering of a new informal singing group, which will focus on rock and folk oldies, gospel, Broadway show, Irish, and traditional American songs.

The group, tentatively called "the Croonin' Boomers", will meet on Tuesday, March 25th, 6:30pm at the Unitarian Universalist Society in Burlington, at the top of Church Street.

Books with the lyrics of hundreds of favorite songs will be provided. Guitars and other instruments are welcome, as are all levels of singing ability. Reading sheet music is not required—only enthusiasm and love of singing.

Donations to cover site rental cost, and pizza and salad supper for those who wish to come at 6, will be requested. Future biweekly meetings will take place in participants' homes.

For more information, contact John Berkowitz of Saxtons River at 869-1778 or [johnberk@vermontel.net](mailto:johnberk@vermontel.net).

## Women in Transition

A 6 hour workshop led by Life and Career coach Marty Garrett, Saturday, April 5, 10am – 4pm. This interactive workshop will help you to find the courage, vision, and spirit to face the external changes in your life by making internal shifts. You will explore the three phases of transition: letting go, exploring the emptiness, and creating new possibilities. To sign up for this workshop, please call Marty at 865-3213. If you had signed up for this workshop in Feb., Marty should be calling you individually. Please bring a sandwich and \$10 to cover the cost of materials. The Adult Programs Committee is sponsoring this event and will supply nibbles and drinks.

## Vermont Family Hosts Needed

Waitsfield, Vermont, February 18, 2008 – From April 16 – May 6, 2008, Project Harmony will be hosting ten professionals from the Republic of Belarus who are participating in a Community Connections program sponsored by USAID and administered by World Learning. These visitors will be exploring the opportunities for and structure of volunteerism from a diverse array of organizations in the State of Vermont.

Project Harmony is now seeking willing families in Washington and Chittenden Counties to host one or more participants for all or part of the 18 days during which they are in Vermont. Host families will provide a comfortable and clean place to sleep, breakfast and dinner, minimal transportation to centralized pick-up and drop-off locations, and some weekend activities. Importantly, the program will offer Belarusians an experience of life in the United States and afford Vermonters an opportunity to establish new relationships while learning about the culture and history of this fascinating country.

For more information about this program, please contact Carol Chamberlin (802) 496-4545 (x105) or email at [carol@projectharmony.org](mailto:carol@projectharmony.org) or Renee Berrian (802) 496-4545 (x106) or via email at [renee@projectharmony.org](mailto:renee@projectharmony.org).

Project Harmony is an international nonprofit organization based in Waitsfield, Vermont. Additional information about Project Harmony and the Community Connections Program is available at [www.projectharmony.org](http://www.projectharmony.org).

## Kids' Night Out

Looking for a kid free night out on the town? Enjoy a three hour date with your sweetheart on March 22, from 6-9pm. Leave the children with the Youth Group teens for a night filled with movies, fun and games! The proceeds from the evening will be put toward Youth Group activities in the community. \$20 for the first child, \$10 for each additional child. Email [george.rutherford@uvm.edu](mailto:george.rutherford@uvm.edu), Youth Group Advisor, to sign up.

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

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## **First Unitarian Universalist Society**

### **Summary of Cash Activity**

### **January 2008**

<b>Cash Balance as of January 1, 2008</b>		<b>\$90,527.68</b>
Income	\$22,286.96	
Contributions	\$24,312.91	
Total Additions	\$46,599.87	
Expenses	\$394.78	
Payments	\$74,107.34	
Total Subtractions	\$74,502.12	
<b>Cash Balance as of January 31, 2008</b>		<b>\$62,625.43</b>

## **The Inner Workings**

Our Society is registered as a 501(c)(3), which just means that we are a non-profit organization and that as such we must abide by the IRS Guidelines to maintain that status. One such guideline is the guideline on advocacy, lobbying and elections. Like any government document, these guidelines are long and confusing; but I will try to boil down the rules by which we must abide.

1. Without limits on time, effort and expense, congregations may work publicly on moral and political issues by advocating positions in the media and to elected officials. Congregations can also perform certain activities to educate and register voters if done in a non-partisan manner.
2. Within narrow limits on time, effort and expense, congregations may engage in lobbying as an "unsubstantial" portion of the organization's activities.
3. There is a total limit on partisan political activity. Congregations can do nothing that advocates for or against candidates for public office or political parties. This includes fundraising on behalf of candidates and donating meeting space, among other things.

During this year of political campaigns and elections, I will be paying close attention to anything that may be considered to be in violation of these rules. It means we cannot have any partisan posters on the bulletin boards, we cannot allow people to campaign for a particular candidate on Society grounds, staff members may not wear buttons for their favorite candidate while working and the ministers cannot ask you to vote for a particular candidate.

Several people asked me last year how we could have allowed a candidate for the U.S. Senate to hold a rally here. The answer is this: If any candidate wants to hold a rally or event here at the Society, they are welcome to do so as long as they are willing to pay our full rental and security fee.

If you have any questions regarding our policy on this matter, please feel free to contact me at [xina@uusociety.org](mailto:xina@uusociety.org) or 802-862-5630 ext. 22. *Christina Fulton*