



March 28, 2010 -
April 11, 2010

Calendar

Sunday, March 28

- 9:00 Worship Service
- 10:00 Women's Spirituality Group
- 10:30 Psi Meditation & Prayer
- 11:00 Worship Service
- 12:30 VIA Action Team
- 12:30 Spirit in Creativity SGM

Monday, March 29

- ***** Zen (Call office for time)
- 9:00 Newsletter Deadline
- 9:00 Mondays at Martha's
- 7:00 Council Meeting
- 7:00 Executive Board/Assisant Minister Relations Committee

Tuesday, March 30

- 10:00 Seekers & Sprouts SGM
- 12:00 Staff lunch
- 5:00 Interviews for Youth Position

Wednesday, March 31

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

Thursday, April 1

- 9:00 Newsletter Crew
- 6:00 Practicing Your Faith SGM

Friday, April 2

- 10:30 Women's Alliance Meeting
- 5:00 UU Dungeons & Dragons
- 6:30 AA Men's Group

Saturday, April 3

- 10:00 Wise Together SGM

Sunday, April 4

- 9:00 Worship Service
- 10:30 Psi Meditation & Prayer
- 11:00 Worship Service

Monday, April 5

- ***** Zen (Call office for time)

Tuesday, April 6

- 10:00 Seekers SGM
- 12:00 Staff Lunch
- 5:30 Vegan Outreach Potluck

Wednesday, April 7

- 9:00 Staff Meeting
- 3:00 UU Psi Symposium
- 6:30 RE Committee Meeting
- 7:00 Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, April 8

- 10:00 SGM Steering Committee

Friday, April 9

- 6:30 AA Men's Group
- 7:00 Returning to Our Senses Workshop

Saturday, April 10

- 9:00 Returning to Our Senses Workshop
- 6:00 Second Saturday Potluck

Sunday, April 11

- 9:00 Worship Service
- 10:00 Women's Spirituality Group
- 10:30 Psi Meditation & Prayer
- 11:00 Worship Service
- 12:15 Farewell Committee
- 12:30 UU Burlington Animal Ministry
- 12:30 Spirit in Creativity SGM
- 12:30 UU World Discussion with Rev. Elaine
- 2:00 Returning to Our Senses Workshop
- 6:00 YUUth Group Meeting

Current Notes

The theme of this year's Stewardship campaign is "Let's Dream Together." The First Unitarian Universalist Society is your congregation. It is the manifestation of your dream, the manifestation of our dreams. We dream as individuals, and as a community. When we dream together with intention, we are strengthened.

Let's dream together here in Current Notes. I suggest we dream "in the best of all possible worlds" (Leibniz). In this dream world, First UU Society is the manifestation of what you seek, hope, and work for in a faith community. Envision our beacon-like meetinghouse at the head of Church Street. In your mind's eye, in the best of all possible worlds, "dream" yourself walking up to the place, walking the grounds, perhaps pausing in the memorial garden, and entering the building. Go in by whatever door feels right - the one down to RE, the Sanctuary doors, the office door. What do you find inside, what are you looking for? Take a moment, if you will, to dream....Take up reading again when you're ready.

An invitation to dream poses questions: What do we wish to create? What do we wish to pull from our dreams and manifest on this earthly plane? Do we have the depth of dedication to turn wishes into intentions, and intentions into action? This year's Stewardship campaign is all about these questions. Members and friends, one and all, are called to participate in the conversation. The more who participate, the stronger we will be.

And once we have shared our individual dreams, and shaped a collective vision, how will we manifest it? Dreams of justice, fairness, beauty, education, hope and compassion...How do they play out in the local level of our faith community? How do we bring a dream of "the best of all possible worlds" into being, or a workable approximation thereof?

In this world, and for this Society, it takes cash. It takes many other things, some of which are more important than money, but it also takes money. Pledge your Fair Share; participate; dream strong dreams.

Blessings,

Elaine

Upcoming Sundays

Sunday, March 28, 9am & 11am

"Palm Sunday" Exaltation, jubilation, challenge and courage in the midst of oppression come to life in the story of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. Reverend Elaine revisits the narrative to find its relevance for contemporary times and the patterns of our own experience. The Adult Choir will sing.

Sunday, April 4, 9am

Rev. Elaine & Martha Dallas will lead this service and the Children's Choir will sing.

Sunday, April 4, 11am

"The Tao of Easter" Tai Chi instructor Janet McKaris joins Gary in reflecting on the symbols of being and becoming embodied in Christian myth and Taoist philosophy, from the dancing Jesus to the moving meditation of old Lao Tze. The Adult Choir will sing.

Sunday, April 11, 9am & 11am

Gary speaks.

Fun Events This Week

This week is the kickoff of our annual Stewardship Campaign; this year's theme is "Let's Dream Together." If you have not done so already, please e-mail to rsvp@uusociety.org by Monday night, March 22. You can choose between the Thursday, March 25 dinner, or the Saturday, March 27 brunch - both at the church. Dinner is at 5:30 PM, and brunch is at 10 AM. Enjoy conversation, some singing, and some discussion of the immediate future opportunities here at First UU. See you there!

The Stewardship Committee

Haiti Benefit Results

Thank you for your generous support of the Haiti Bake & Craft Sale Benefit. We will be sending a check for \$731.96 to the UUSC!

Message From Martha

Once, nearly twenty years ago, when I was living in New York City, something special happened while I was waiting on a subway station platform. God spoke to me. Well, that's how I originally looked back at what happened. Perhaps now I'd say I had a flash of powerful insight. What I remember most about what happened is that I "heard" a clearly worded message:

Go where the fear is.

I don't remember what I was thinking about at the time, though I suspect it was something that scared and challenged me. Because now, when I'm faced with something that I'd much rather avoid – something that makes me sweat, makes me shake, and turns my stomach in knots -- the message comes back again. Going where the fear is, means going straight into uncertainty, but surely it also guarantees growth that would not otherwise happen. If we play it safe and avoid the times and places that are fearful, we won't ever discover our potential.

There's often fear in giving our money away, especially in giving lots of it away. What if we don't keep enough for ourselves? What will happen to us then?

Not long ago, when I pledged to First UU, I pledged separately from my partner, Lucy. I was afraid of giving too much to the Society, but my conscience told me to give according to the Fair Share guidelines. So I got clever: by pledging based only on my own income, I could pledge a lower amount and keep more of my money to myself, since the recommended pledge percentages increase according to one's adjusted gross income.

A few years ago, that clever tactic that allowed me to play it safe financially didn't sit well any more. Scary as it still feels, Lucy and I now pledge our fair share based on our combined income. We now give a lot more of our money to this congregation.

I believe that because Lucy and I went into that scary, but far more generous place together, not only have we grown as individuals, but we are doing our part to bring this congregation closer to realizing its potential.

I shared about the Religious Education Program's dreams at the recent stewardship campaign events, and I hope you were present to hear about them. This congregation could see its way into more of its dreams, if more people could go where that fear is and take a real leap in their financial generosity toward First UU.

It is scary to go where you've never gone before. But since First UU's life is part of yours, then its vitality is fueled by your generosity. Come with me and go where the fear is!



Martha Dallas,
Director of Religious Education

Annual UU Family Camping Trip

Sign up now for a fun, easy, kid friendly camping trip! Come swimming, hiking, picnicking and more with UU families June 18-20 at Lake Elmore State Park. Registration forms are downstairs on the RE Welcome information table. Questions? Please contact Beth Griffin (802) 865-1774, beth@burlingtontelecom.net.

New UU Class

Want to know more about Unitarian Universalism? If you are a newcomer or even if you've been here a while – the key is that you have lots of questions - we have such a deal for you! Come to the New UU class, in two parts, on Sunday, April 18 and Sunday, April 25 from 12:30 PM – 1:30 PM and we will strive to fill you up with information about the UU movement and First UU Society of Burlington in particular. Child care will be available and a light lunch will be served. Please be sure to sign up on the sheet posted on the bulletin board. Questions? Call or email Jeanne Lynch at 658-0006 or jbl05403@yahoo.com.

General Assembly, Anyone?

Would you like to hobnob with UUs from across the country, be inspired by beautiful music, justice-filled words, the camaraderie of kindred spirits? Are you interested to attend workshops and bring new, enriching ideas back to the Society? Would you cast votes on behalf of our congregation on issues of conscience and governance? All this, and more, will take place at the Unitarian Universalist General Assembly. This year's GA will be in Minneapolis, MN, June 23-27. For more information, speak with Gary Kowalski or Reverend Elaine, and check the GA brochure on the Denominational Affairs bulletin board.

New Small Group Ministry Forming

Have you always felt creative but never knew how to take that thought to another level? Do you feel a need to bring more creativity into your life? Join a small group of committed people to explore the subject. On March 28, at 12:30 PM after the second service, there will be a gathering of those interested in studying creativity in a small group setting. The Spirit of Creativity still has space for new members. For details, call Barbara Heeter at 864 - 4622, sign up on the bulletin board, or e-mail bbheeter@aol.com.

Discuss UU World

Would you like to discuss provocative articles in the current (Spring 2010) issue of UU World with Reverend Elaine and others? Would you enjoy hearing various perspectives on issues like Alzheimer's, the Jericho Road project that links UU professionals with non-profits in struggling cities, and the challenges of multiculturalism for Unitarian Universalists?

In "Finding spirit in the sundown," Laura Randall writes that Alzheimer's challenges us to question our ideals of rationalism, self-reliance, and productivity. Michelle Bates Deakin argues in "Transforming the Jericho Road" that this seven-year old effort affiliated with several UU congregations creates a new avenue for social justice. Paul Razor observes that our UU tradition has always been responsive to the needs of its time, but are we ready to adapt to our increasingly multicultural society? UU minister Rosemary Bray McNatt claims that Unitarian Universalism has a specific, sometimes alienating culture, and that we must change it. What do you think of some of these ideas?

Join Reverend Elaine on Sunday, April 11 at 12:30 PM in the Meetinghouse for lively discussion on articles like these. In the Spring issue of UU World you will also find short articles like "Who owns your congregation?", "Congregations benefit from camp experience," and "Clara Barton: Resourceful Faith in Action," so there will be plenty to talk about on April 11.

This third and last discussion of the year on UU World is sponsored by the Denominational Affairs Committee, and everyone is warmly invited to attend. Child care will be provided and refreshments served.

Next Newsletter Deadline

Monday, March 29, @9am! Early articles gratefully accepted!

Summer Camps and Conferences

Come on down to the Sophia Fahs Community Room and take a look at the new bulletin board showcasing 2010 camp and conference offerings! Many thanks go to Mona Martin and Lini Wollenberg who made this display possible! Please feel free to take a brochure or two with you.

First Unitarian Universalist
Society
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*Elaine Bomford,
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*Linda Gross,
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Book Discussion Group

Please join us on Tuesday, April 13, 7:00 at the UU as we discuss Nothing to be Frightened Of by Julian Barnes, in which the author converses with us about our most universal fear. This book is both a memoir and an essay about dying, and has been described as funny, sad, informative and earnest. Barnes doesn't have firm answers, but he has great questions which will engage any reader. *Gerry Quinlan*

Vegan Outreach Potluck

Jon Camp of Vegan Outreach will join us for a potluck dinner and presentation in the parlor on Tuesday, April 6, from 5:30 – 8:00 p.m. Vegan Outreach distributes free literature across college campuses educating young people about the health, humanitarian and environmental benefits of eliminating animal products from your diet. Whether you are a straightedge vegan or just exploring cutting back on red meat, you are welcome to learn, share recipes and be inspired. Please bring a suitably yummie dish to share.

*Sponsored by
Burlington UU Animal Ministry*

Celebration Committee

Time to gear up for the next series of events that we will be organizing. Hope you have enjoyed the short vacation and thank you for all your help on the party and hanging the stars (don't they look great?). Next meeting will be April 12 at 5:00 at the First UU Society. Our agenda will include a tour of the church building on June 12. Also, we will discuss events for June 13---parade, ice cream social, time capsule, etc. Hope you can all be there. *Susan Raimy*

Animal Ministry News

Thanks to you, there is now a source of free pet food for low income families in our area; so far, our congregation has donated over 100 lbs. of food to the Chittenden Emergency Food Shelf. The donations are much appreciated and go very quickly. A donation of a bag of food (10 lbs. or less) or canned food can help keep a dog or cat at home with their folks in these difficult economic times. Please continue to bring your donations, as the Animal Ministry team looks to expand our pet food project by working with other congregations and area grocery stores. Place your donations in the bin located in the stairwell going downstairs to RE. If you would like to get involved contact Reverend Elaine or Rosanne Greco (rosanne499@aol.com). Meow, Ruff, Thank You!

Second Saturday Potluck

This month's Second Saturday Potluck is on April 10. We gather at 6 PM for wine, appetizers, conversation and the option of singing along with Bill Cleary. At 6:30, the music stops, we help ourselves to the great food that has shown up and the conversation continues. If this sounds like a good evening for you, we'd love to have you join us. Please call Jeff and Anya Byam at 802-399-2112 and leave a message. Questions to be answered: Are you bringing an appetizer, salad, main dish, or dessert? Do you need child care? How many adults? You may call up to the last minute unless you need child care. We ask for a \$2 donation to cover the cost of the beverages (wine, cider, soda, coffee). If you want to cut down on the use of disposables, please bring your own place settings. Hope to see you there.

Help Celebrate Married Gay and Lesbian Couples

Recently a web log was created to celebrate gay and lesbian couples who have been legally married around the world. RU12? is are looking to spread the word about our free blog site and encourage couples to submit their wedding information. The entire world should know there are many, many married gay / lesbian couples! Check it out:

<http://wearemarriedtoo.blogspot.com/>

Be a Parallel Justice Volunteer

Have your friends told you that you're a good listener? Do you hear a story about crime and your heart goes out to the victim? Would you like a concrete way to make the world a better place, and your city more neighborly? Support people in your community as a Parallel Justice volunteer. Contact victims of crime, see what they most need, and help connect them to resources provided by Parallel Justice and other community agencies. We need committed and compassionate individuals who are reliable and motivated to volunteer a few hours each week. We provide thorough training for all our volunteers, and a supportive environment to learn new skills. For more information contact Clark Sheldon at (802) 540-2394 or check out their website: <http://www.pjburlington.org/>.

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The Glebe Land Coffeehouse Marches On!

A Monthly Acoustic Music Session

Friday, March 26, 2010

Theme: Immigrants- Our journey into the New World

When:

The fourth Friday of each month- January thru April:
Doors open at 5:30pm; Music at 6pm to 9pm.

Where:

Top of Church Street, Burlington
UU Society Meeting House Parlors

Who:

Musicians and friends = you, your friends, and family;

What:

Structured live music sharing!

How does it work:

1. Each month we pick a topic: This Month: ***Immigration: Our journey into the New World***
2. You prepare up to three of your favorite songs on the topic (traditional, originals, covers) or just come and listen.
3. You can call the phone numbers below and get on the roster to perform!
4. A \$5 donation will be collected at the door. Proceeds from admission and refreshment sales (after expenses) will benefit a different non-profit each month. **Joint Urban Ministry Project (JUMP)** will benefit in March.

Be There! Call: 802-658-4747 or email bhaas@viscc.com
I'll see you at Glebe Land!

The Inner Workings . . .

My high school choir had 100 members. Each year, the director required us to know every person's name by the end of September. During the final week of September, each choir member would have to stand up and name every person in a particular section. "Christina, stand up and name every member of the Tenor section." Yikes! Talk about pressure.

What our director knew that I didn't know was how very important it is for people to know each other if they are truly going to be a cohesive group. This very unusual high school choir sang over 75 concerts during our school year. We traveled together twice throughout the year; a fall tour and a spring tour. We competed in our state music festival and also in a "Big 10" choir festival. There was no time to waste. We needed to become a family in order to perform at the expected level. And a family we were. In our school we were known as the "Choir Jocks." And many of us are still friends all these years later.

Our Congregation is not so different. We have so many things we want to accomplish. As our mission statement says: ". . .to inspire spiritual growth, care for each other and our community, seek truth and act for justice." There's no time to waste! We need to become a family in order to live up to our mission. Get to know your congregational family, make a point to meet a few new people each Sunday. Knowing everyone's name will not magically make us a family . . .but it is certainly a good place to start! *Christina Fulton*