



March 15, 2009 -
March 28, 2009

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

Calendar

Sunday, March 15

All Day UU Art Show
9:00 Worship Service
10:00 Women's Spirituality Group
11:00 Worship Service
12:30 Social Action Forum
12:30 6th Grade Boston Trip Pasta Lunch

Monday, March 16

***** Zen (Call office for time)
All Day UU Art Show
9:00 Newsletter Deadline
6:00 ARAC Meeting
7:00 Writing Small Group Ministry

Tuesday, March 17

All Day UU Art Show
10:00 Wisdom Wanderers
12:00 Staff Lunch
7:00 Board Meeting

Wednesday, March 18

All Day UU Art Show (after 10:45am)
9:00 Staff Meeting
6:30 UU Knitting Group
7:00 Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, March 19

***** Zen (Call office for time)
All Day UU Art Show
9:00 Newsletter Crew

Friday, March 20

6:30 AA Men's Group

Saturday, March 21

9:00 New UU
2:00 Yuuth Group Worship Service Rehearsal

Sunday, March 22

8:00 UU Art Show
9:00 Worship Service
9:30 OWL Parent Session
10:00 Women's Spirituality Group
10:00 Forum on Ministerial Staff Performance
11:00 Worship Service
12:15 Forum on Ministerial Staff Performance
12:30 Small Group Ministry
7:00 Young Adult SGM

Monday, March 23

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

Tuesday, March 24

12:00 Staff Lunch

Wednesday, March 25

9:00 Staff Meeting
7:00 Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, March 26

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

Friday, March 27

6:30 AA Men's Group

Saturday, March 28

9:30 COTS Quilt-a-Thon

Current Notes

It is a pleasure for me to return to Burlington and the First UU Society after time away in February. Whilst on vacation, I had quiet days puttering about the house and reading by the woodstove (P.D. James' latest, *The Private Patient*, was marvelous, as anticipated); Keith and I went snowshoeing on the lake by his house and on paths through the woods.

We also traveled. We took a train to Flagstaff, Arizona, where we rented a car and drove north to stay and volunteer at the Best Friends Animal Sanctuary in Kanab, Utah. The Sanctuary was also our base for exploring the extraordinary surrounding countryside. There was quite a bit of snow in Angel, Zion and Bryce canyons. The sun shone with steady strength through the clear, cold, sage-scented air. The light seemed to penetrate into my bones and warm my body and soul from the inside out.

The day we walked in Bryce canyon, I was aware that this was one of the most beautiful walks I would take in my life. Do you know the feeling of having an experience, and even while it is happening, imagining yourself already remembering it days, months or years later because it is such a wonderful time and place? Bryce was like that for me. I savored every step. Well, almost every step....

At the beginning of the walk, the path we descended from the rim of the canyon was icy and narrow, with drop offs on the side of five hundred feet or more. Yak Trax for traction notwithstanding, I am NOT good with heights. For many of you, this path would have been a piece of cake, but I wasn't sure I could do it. I found myself thinking "How is it I can sing in front of hundreds of people and not break a sweat, but I am afraid to walk down this trail?"

At one precipitous turn, with a large rock leaning into the trail on the right and nothing but air and a distressingly clear view of the "hoodoos" waiting to impale me far below on the left, I stopped. My feet would not move. Keith stood quietly in front of me, knowing better than to whisper encouraging platitudes. I was so scared, I cried. I stood on that path, a fifty-something woman with multiple degrees, and wept like a little kid for no reason at all except my fear of taking the next step. After a few moments, and some "deep cleansing breaths," I moved on.

The beauty of the walk in Bryce that I took away in my memory was all of it - nature's magnificence, the joy of companionship, the christening of tears, and the gift of a little wisdom.

Elaine

Upcoming Sundays

March Worship Theme:

"Unitarian Universalism"

How do we explain ourselves to others? Is there a center to our theological diversity? Do our seven principles need revision or updating? And what insight does our faith offer to a world fragmented along religious lines? *"Unitarian Universalism is a fierce belief in the way of freedom and reverence for the sacred dignity of each individual. With Jefferson we "have sworn eternal hostility against every tyranny over the mind." Unitarian Universalism is cooperation with a universe that created us; it is a celebration of life; it is being in love with goodness and justice, it is a sense of humor about absolutes. Unitarian Universalism is faith in people, hope for tomorrow's children, confidence in a continuity that spans all time. It is trust in growing and conspiracy with change. It is spiritual responsibility for a moral tomorrow."* (Ed Schemp)

Sunday, March 15, 9 & 11 am

"Religion and the Arts" Eloise Beil (Director of Collections at the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum, Tango Instructor and Landscape Artist!) and Greg Giordano (a.k.a. "Flameape"), whose edgy comic book illustrations can be viewed at <http://flameape.org/blog/>, join Gary in musing on the links between artistic expression and spiritual aliveness. Accompanying the service, our annual every-member art show will be on display in the Parlors.

Sunday, March 22, 9 & 11am

"Happiness" What makes you happy? Where do you find your bliss? Members of our high school Yuuth Group share music, poetry and original reflections on joy. What better time than the equinox to experience a big dose of teenage exuberance? Come revel in the energy of what is always an upbeat and inspiring morning.

Sunday, March 29, 9 & 11 am

"S Wonderful, 'Connective 'S Transformative," Songs and reflections celebrating our community and faith kick off the 2009 FUUSB Stewardship campaign. Steve Rainville, Rev. Elaine Bomford, Joe Pepper and congregants. This is the first of four very special Sunday celebrations featuring fantastic music and extraordinary messages from our ministers, meant to highlight our annual stewardship campaign. During the window of March 29-April 19, we invite every member and friend to make a financial pledge for the support of our Society in the coming year. Plan to be present!



Message From Martha



Last month, Lucy and I took a mini vacation to southern Vermont, to a farmhouse that has been in my extended family since my mother was a girl. From the house, you can walk through the meadow to wooded streams and ridges. Here, summer after summer, my love for hiking and exploring grew.

One favorite destination was "the camp." Dad would lead my sisters and me out behind the house and into the woods. At some point, he'd need our help to find it: "Keep your eyes open... it should be up here somewhere to our left..." And then, one of us would spot it by some kind of clue: a rotting board nailed to a tree; a corner of rusty corrugated metal peeking out from under the leaf litter; a rusty pot in a clump of ferns. Yay! There it was! Again my imagination would run wild, wondering who once lived there and what their rustic life must have been like. We would stay awhile and poke around, opening the doors on the rusty cookstove, looking for clues, finding old bottles and curled box springs in this quiet, wooded spot.

By the time I was in my teens, our summer vacation pattern changed and we didn't go to the farmhouse much. As an adult, I've returned a number of times, and leaning on verbal directions from my father, tried to find "the camp" on my own, always without success. I tried again last month. As if trying to bring a possibility into a focus of reality, I pulled hard at the memories in my child-mind's eye, attempting to merge them with what I was seeing here and now. It must be somewhere on this little knoll, I thought, tromping this way and that in my snowshoes... then gradually reasoning that the rotted boards I remembered as a child were surely completely decomposed by now, and any corners of corrugated metal rusted away deep below the snow. Again, I failed to find it, and headed back to the house.

My repeated search for "the camp" is like a personal pilgrimage. Every opportunity I have, I can't resist another attempt to touch a time in my life that was filled with special mystery, wonder, excitement, and imagination. It's like trying to find a rivulet of groundwater to sustain a very deep spiritual taproot. Like a dowsing trying to wet my own spirit, I can't help but believe these purest of waters are still somehow running deep within me.

These deep roots are precious. All of us have them and they reach down to the child who still resides in us somewhere. We do well to drink from these waters that fed our childhood spirit at its truest and best: we are nourished and eased every time we draw into ourselves that freedom, curiosity, and imagination. And when our spiritual thirst is quenched so, the curious child inside us shines gracefully through: what a wonderful blessing!

Martha Dallas,
Director of Religious Education

Splinters from the Board

The board is pleased to report on several new developments that were discussed at our February meeting. First, several energetic members of the congregation have agreed to serve on a fundraising committee that will plan a fun congregational event this spring to help us balance this year's budget. Another twelve members of the congregation have accepted an assignment to serve on a Steering Committee for a Planned Giving Campaign to be initiated during our 2009-2010 bicentennial year. The campaign is designed to encourage our members and other friends to remember our Society through their wills and by other income-gift arrangements, and thereby become members of a newly-established "Legacy Society." In other welcome news, our summer services are growing to include programs for children and sermons by our ministerial staff. And not least, the Bicentennial Committee is planning visits to our Society this coming church year by distinguished UU speakers.

Jonathan Sands

Attention, Writers: New SGM

The focus of this small group ministry will be writing about our own spirit path. We will meet every other week (date and time to be decided by group). During the meeting, individuals will read what they have written during the week in response to a prompt. Do not worry...the emphasis will NOT be on the craft of writing, but more on the exploration of our own life's pathway. If you are interested and would like to know more, please contact Susan Raimy (872-9707) or e-mail me. We will meet on Sunday, March 16 @7pm at the First UU. Look for the a sign up sheet on the UU Programs bulletin board near the main office.

JUMP Bags

In the spirit of true Thanksgiving, our congregation created abundance in the donation of food bags for JUMP in November. We set a record of generous giving with over 130 bags of food and more than 40 bags of toiletries. Because of this large donation, JUMP has not run out of food bags for those in need. Thanks to all for your generosity!

*Ginger Hobbs and Lynn Douglas
for the UU JUMP committee*

Book Club

You are invited to join us on Tuesday, April 14th, 7:00 pm at the First UU Society as we discuss Snowflower and the Secret Fan, by Lisa See. Author See brings to life 19th century Chinese culture, telling the story of Lily, a woman shaped by suffering forced upon her from her early years, starting with the required practice of foot binding. Lily lives the insular, second class life of a Chinese woman of her time, but experiences a friendship that helps her survive. *Gerry Quinlan*

Wonder! Connection! Transformation!

Our annual stewardship drive is kicking off on March 29 with a Sunday morning musical extravaganza! This year the annual drive will begin later than in previous years, and will be only four weeks long. Like maple sugar season, our drive will be short, sweet and when it's over, it's over until next year! I hope you'll join us for this celebration of our wonderful and diverse community.

Tracy Titchner

6th Grade Lunch Fundraiser

Come one and all for lunch after service on March 15th. Turn the ides of March positive for our 6th Graders and share pasta & salad with your neighbors. Or, take home a quiche if you need to get going. Family rates too! Pre-order quiches for \$12 by contact Chip at 660-8903 or sunergy@burlingtontelecom.net.

UUA General Assembly

Registration and housing are now open for the UUA General Assembly to be held in Salt Lake City this coming June 24-28. Besides electing a new president and voting on revised Principles & Purposes, participants have a plethora of great programming at their disposal, from Compassionate Conflict Resolution to Small Group Ministry Success to Addictions Ministry to Dance As Spiritual Practice. Experience our continental UU movement! Complete information is available online at <http://www.uua.org/events/generalassembly/>. Please contact Gary Kowalski if you would like to be a delegate representing our Society.

**First Unitarian Universalist
Society**
862-5630

Rev. Gary Kowalski, Minister

*Rev. Elaine Bomford,
Assistant 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 Kemp,
Administrative Assistant*

Email: office@uusociety.org
Web Page:

Next Newsletter

Deadline:

Monday, March 30, 2009 @9am
covering April 12 - April 25, 2009.
Articles gladly accepted before this
deadline! You can view the newsletter
and current year schedule on our
website: www.uusociety.org.

Constantine's Sword

Explore the dark side of
Christianity—from holy wars to anti-
Semitism to the resurgence of the
Religious Right in our military
academies--in a documentary by Oren
Jacoby, following acclaimed author and
former priest James Carroll on a journey
of remembrance and reckoning. Gary
will moderate a discussion following the
video on Sunday night, April 5, from
7:00-9:00 p.m.

Keep Us On The Air

Thanks to all those who channel their
regular support for Public Radio through
our UU Office. We are currently
underwriting several shows on FM 88.1
(North Country Public Radio), each
bearing the message "... this program
brought to you by Burlington's First
Unitarian Universalist Society, nurturing
the spirit, helping heal our world, online
at www.uusociety.org." Your
contributions support great news, music
and shows like "Speaking of Faith,"
while getting our web address out to a
wider audience. See Christina for
details on how to contribute.

Women & Religion Retreat

"Healing: Body and Soul"

Save the dates: May 29th-May 31st,
Rockcraft Retreat Center, Sebago
Lake, Maine. One of the workshops will
be an in-depth discussion of "The
Work" by Byron Katie. If this interests
you, please arrive having read: [I Need
Your Love-Is That True?](#) or any of her
other books. Her website
is: www.thework.com. Other
workshops will include: yoga, sacred
circle dancing, YogaDance, self-
acupressure, "Healing Through Grief,"
and re-storying ourselves. It is not all
about workshops though! Spend the
weekend any way you wish, whether it
be taking walks, making art, journaling,
making new connections...

Posters will be in churches late March
and the deadline is May 1st. To have a
registration form emailed to you directly
contact Leslie Bayers at
lifedancer1968@yahoo.com. If you do
not have online access please call
Leslie at 207-284-3394 to have a form
mailed to you.

Partner Church News

Copies of Volume 15, Number 3 of this
"publication of the Unitarian Universalist
Partner Church Council" are available
in the Parlors in a wall display near the
door to the back hallway. Please feel
free to take or borrow a copy as there
are only a few.

"Did you hear that sermon?"

For your convenience, you may check
out a CD of any worship service. If you
cannot attend services for any length of
time due to illness or injury, let us know
(862-5630, office@uusociety.org) and
we can either mail you a CD of the
service or a written copy of the sermon
while you are away. Most sermons are
available on our website, too.
www.uusociety.org.

Great American Meat-Out

Come to a veggie potluck on March 29
from 5 - 7 p.m. To experience a more
compassionate, environmentally
friendly way to eat. Did you know that
livestock agriculture is the biggest
cause of global warming, creating more
greenhouse gases than cars, trains,
planes, ships and all forms of
transportation combined (source: U.N.
Food & Agriculture Organization)? Be
creative, try a new meatless recipe to
share. Sponsored by Green Mountain
Animal Defenders and UU's for Ethical
Treatment of Animals. P.S. Please
bring a pet food donation for the
Emergency Food Shelf.

The Inner Workings

I have been faced with several
emergencies during my lifetime. A
friend's child falling through a glass
door, a neighbor having an allergic
reaction to medication, a battered
woman bleeding at my office door. I'm
sure you have also dealt with your share
of emergencies. As your Society
Administrator it is my job to make sure
our staff is ready to handle any
emergency that might come up. This is
why we have protocols in place to deal
with fires, intruders, missing children,
and several other possible incidents.
We want our members to feel safe when
they are in this building. This morning,
Martha Dallas, Jude Mulle, Myra
Timmins, David McFeeters and myself
all participated in the American Red
Cross CPR Recertification Course; and
you'll be happy to know all passed with
flying colors. This is just one more way
that the amazing staff here at the First
UU Society is serving it's members and
doing their best to keep you all safe.
Let's pray that we will never need to use
the skills we learned this morning, but
let's also feel secure in the fact that our
staff is ready to assist if ever needed.

*Christina Fulton,
Society Administrator*

Annual UU Family Camping Trip

Sign up now! Come join us over the
weekend of June 19th & 20th at Lake
Elmore State Park for a fun and easy
camping trip for kids of all ages! This is
a great way to kick off summer and build
UU friendships in a beautiful,
unstructured setting, with opportunities
for hiking, swimming, boating, singing
and making s/mores. Sign up now
through April 12th. Registration forms
and more information can be found on
the Welcome Tables in the Parlors and
in the Sophia Fahs Community Room.

Beth Griffin, 865-1774

"Archaeology, the Land, and Prospects for Peace: A Biblical Scholar visits Israel"

Professor Jeff Trumbower, Dean of St.
Michael's College, shares findings from
a recent tour of the Middle East on
Sunday, April 26, at 7 p.m. in the
parlors. After receiving his Ph.D. from
the University of Chicago for his
dissertation on the Gospel of John, Jeff
began teaching at St. Mikes, where he
published *Rescue for the Dead: The
Posthumous Salvation of Non-Christians
in Early Christianity in 2001* (Oxford
University Press). This remarkable
scholar also teaches Bible Stories in our
4th Grade UU Sunday School! Expect a
fascinating tour of history, culture, and
religion. *Gary Kowalski*

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The Early History of our Meeting House

The split of the Burlington Congregational Society between the Calvinists and the Unitarians in 1810 left the Unitarians with their own minister but no building to meet in. So, in 1814, a few prominent members of the congregation purchased a five-acre overgrown pasture on the edge of the village of Burlington and The Brick Meeting House - as it was called - was built in 1816. It was completed in less than seven months. The massive timbers came from the Browns River Valley, the foundation stone was quarried locally, the bricks were fired in Burlington and the nails were hammered by hand. The building cost \$22,185.34 and was designed by the well-regarded Boston architect, Peter Banner. (A receipt found in our archives from the more prominent Boston architect, Charles Bulfinch, raised the question of who truly was the designer, but the evidence now favors Peter Banner.) Furnished with stoves with pipes running the length of the sanctuary, a town clock (the first in the state), and a bell that had been cast in the Paul Revere Foundry, the building was dedicated on January 9, 1817, giving our Meeting House the distinction of being the oldest surviving church in Burlington.

Built in the Federal Style, popular at the time, the exterior of the original building was mostly what you see today, from the north wall of the Sanctuary to the front, though the roof was of painted wooden shingles and the north wall, then an exterior wall, had five windows, four of them in line with those of the side walls, and one within the archway. Each of the three exterior doors facing Pearl Street led into a separate vestibule, the side doors gave access to the "galleries" or balconies and the central door to the main floor of the "auditorium," as the Sanctuary was then called. The box pews had floors three inches higher than the aisles and doors that were fastened by latches which, when released after service, resounded like the report of small musketry. The pulpit at the north end of the central aisle was raised almost as high as the galleries and was reached by flanking curved staircases. The central part of the ceiling had a shallow groin vault (forming a cross) surrounded on four sides by a flat ceiling. A drawing (of which we have prints) of the church interior shows the high pulpit, but the barrel vault that it shows is incorrect; the evidence for the groin vault is in our attic where one can see the outline of the curved ceiling on beams.

Within a few years after the completion of the Meeting House, whether prompted by needed maintenance or simply to follow the fashion of the day, extensive interior and exterior alterations were made.

In 1845 the exterior was changed from Federal Style to Greek Revival, then the fashion, with the addition of brick pilasters at each exterior corner, new cornices and the installation of a deeper entablature - the broad wooden band just below the edge of the roof that surrounds the entire building. Though seemingly cosmetic, these were serious alterations as the pilasters required changes to the roof and the entablature required lowering the tops of all the upper windows. On the interior, the galleries were made narrower and lower and were fitted with pews. The upper columns that had gone from the galleries to the ceiling were removed, having been declared "useless encumbrances." The upper windows on the north wall as well as the one within the archway were bricked in and plastered over, though one of our ministers claimed that he could still feel the draft when he was in the high pulpit. And the original vaulted plaster ceiling was replaced by a flat one. *Tom Patterson*

GoodSearch and GoodShop

What if every time you shopped online a percentage of the sale went to the First UU Society?

Welcome to GoodShop! More than 100 great stores including Gardner's Supply, The Body Shop, Travelocity, Land's End, Target, Macy's, The Gap, Best Buy, PetSmart, and Staples have teamed up with GoodSearch to do just that.

The next time you're looking for a new book, computer, DVD, pair of shoes or clothing, go to GoodShop first.

It's simple. No username or password is required. Just designate your favorite charity (**First Unitarian Universalist Society of Burlington**), click on the store's logo from the GoodShop site and then shop as you normally would.

You'll get the same great prices, but every time you place an order, you'll be supporting the First Unitarian Universalist Society with donations that average around 3% of the sale but can exceed 20%!
