



The First Unitarian Universalist Society of Burlington, Vermont
*"We gather to inspire spiritual growth, care for each other and our community,
 seek truth and act for justice."*

May 23, 2010 -
 June 6, 2010

Calendar

Sunday, May 23

- 9:00 Worship Service
- 10:00 Women's Spirituality Group
- 10:30 Psi Meditation & Prayer
- 10:30 Meet the Budget
- 11:00 Worship Service
- 12:30 Meet the Budget
- 12:30 Spirit in Creativity SGM
- 12:30 VIA Action Team
- 12:30 Peacemaking Statement of Conscience Discussion
- 7:00 UU Psi Symposium: Crop Circles

Monday, May 24

- ***** Zen (Call office for time)
- 9:00 Newsletter Deadline
- 9:00 Mondays at Martha's
- 12:00 Care Network Committee
- 3:00 UU Psi Meditation
- 5:00 Celebration Committee
- 7:00 Council Meeting

Tuesday, May 25

- 10:00 Sprouts SGM
- 12:00 Staff Lunch

Wednesday, May 26

- 9:00 Staff Meeting
- 6:00 Sapere Aude SGM
- 7:00 Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, May 27

- 9:00 Newsletter Crew
- 11:30 Volunteer Luncheon

Friday, May 28

- 5:00 UU Dungeons & Dragons
- 6:30 AA Men's Group

Saturday, May 29

- 10:00 Wise Together SGM
- 6:00 YUUh Group Overnight

Sunday, May 30

- 10:00 Worship Service
- 10:00 Women's Spirituality Group
- 11:30 Book Talk

Monday, May 31

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

Tuesday, June 1

- 10:00 Seekers SGM
- 12:00 Staff Lunch

Wednesday, June 2

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

Thursday, June 3

- 6:00 Practicing Your Faith SGM

Friday, June 4

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

Saturday, June 5

- 6:00 Second Saturday Potluck
- 7:00 Tammy Fletcher Concert

Sunday, June 6

- 8:30 RE Classroom Clean-out!
- 10:00 Worship Service

Newsletter Deadline

Monday, May 24, @9am covering June 6 - the entire summer! Please submit items directly to Kathleen, office@uusociety.org. **This will be the last issue until late August!**

On My Mind

Last month I spent a week painting at the Vermont Studio Center. On rainy days, when I couldn't go outdoors, I went to the life drawing sessions. The model started out with several short poses, where we had just ten minutes to sketch the entire human figure. And when I surveyed the results later, I saw that my drawings from those short poses were better than the ones where I had a whole hour to work.

Fewer erasures, bolder strokes, bigger shapes, better art. You sketch faster, looser and more creatively the less time you're given.

Mistakes are part of the process. But don't worry. It's all in pencil.

I'm thinking the same rule may apply to congregations. For the next two years, Reverend Olivia Holmes will be serving as the Interim Minister here in Burlington. With a career in the U.S. Agency for International Development before entering ministry, Reverend Holmes served our church in Keene, New Hampshire from 1992-1998 and worked with the UUA in Boston for six years, in addition to two interim stints in Concord, New Hampshire and Paramus, New Jersey. (You can read more about Olivia in this newsletter or by visiting www.revholmes.org.) She was our search committee's first pick for the talent and track-record she brings.

Meanwhile, I'm headed to a twelve month assignment with the UU Congregation of Santa Fe. That's not a lot of time to get acquainted, find a focus or fill in the canvas. A brief window, over before you know it. But perhaps the time limit gives both the minister and congregation freedom to experiment and a requirement to concentrate on the essentials. Fewer distractions. More clarity.

I'm getting warmed up, ready for a quick study. You also need to get your pencils out, to start outlining your future. Remember, it's just preparation for the more serious effort ahead. But if together you and Olivia make a beautiful line or two, you'll have achieved your goal.

Gary

Bicentennial Headgear

Do you have a First UU Society Bicentennial Baseball Cap? Scott Gardner distributed these colorful creations at an annual meeting in 2005 -jumping the starting line of our 200th Birthday by five whole years. My cap is frayed and hole-y (if not holy), but I've seen several others wearing theirs in better condition. If you've got a cap hiding in your closet, please scout it out and wear it to our final service on Sunday, June 13. What fun! Gary

Upcoming Sundays

Sunday, May 23, 9am & 11am

"Our Society's Reaction and Engagement to the 1960's" This Lay Service will be coordinated by Mary Ellen Manock of the Worship Committee.

Sunday, May 30, 10am

"The Mundane Magic of Ministry" There will be only one worship service today at 10:00 a.m. But what a service! Our Senior Choir will sing as Gary and Elaine join in an unscripted dialogue from the pulpit, discussing the joys, frustrations, job hazards and myths that surround the professional ministry. Obviously, the conversation won't have a written transcript. So you need to be present to be part of this unrepeatabe experience.

Sunday, June 6, 10am

Youth Sunday!

Animal Ministry Tip & News

TIP: Here is a simple thing those of us who eat eggs can do to help chickens - perhaps you already do this! If you are fortunate enough to have your own flock of Chicken Ladies producing eggs for you, congratulations. If you know a humane farmer who provides your eggs directly, great! If you buy eggs at the supermarket, buy Cage Free eggs with the "Certified Humane Raised & Handled" logo. (Word has it there's a new iphone app which shows an up-to-date list of all "Certified Humane" products in our local stores. If you procure this app, please let us know!)

The collection of pet food to be distributed through the Chittenden County Foodshelf is ongoing. Thank you for your generosity, FUUSB! Meow, ruff, keep it coming!

If you would like to be a part of the Animal Ministry team, please speak with a member, among whom are the Beck family, Rosanne Greco, Rev. Elaine, Rebecca Anderson.

Partner Church News

Zoltan Kopandi, minister of our Partner Church in Lupeny, Transylvania, extends to our congregation his warmest good wishes and thanks us for the financial support we provided his congregation and family this year through the Christmas offering. He is hoping to see some of us visit our Partner Church this coming fall. He also sends good luck wishes to Gary as he leaves our congregation.

Message From Martha

Why are you reading this column? ...
Really -- *Why?*

I attended a keynote address recently, delivered by the Rev. Mark Stringer, at the UUA's Northern New England District Spring Conference. His remarks included this advice about congregational life: "Keep asking 'Why?' till you can feel the vibrations in your soul." I take him literally here. We need to ask "Why?" until we are *moved*. We need to keep asking "Why?" to always recover that sense of purpose which starts to sprout and unfurl inside us, causing us to respond with action.

I figured that your reading this column -- a relatively small piece of our shared UU life -- seemed as fine an example as any, to which to apply the question "Why?"

A couple years ago, the Religious Education Committee revisited its mission, its sense of "Why." In our work, we first shared our vision for First UU: a place where children and youth know others and are, themselves, known. In our collective mind's eye, we saw a scene of happy young people arriving and exchanging greetings with each other and with adults -- and knowing many others' names. We pictured a congregation where each of us, of every age, had more connections, and greater depth in our relationships here.

And this picture, our vision, was clear because we were instructed to first imagine that the children and youth were excited to come to First UU! Their excitement was a "symptom" of adults' understanding of WHY they come here. The families' participation was fueled by a strength and a clarity of purpose.

Among my favorite ideas Rev. Stringer suggested was about the meaning of membership: *We truly become members when we get disappointed, but we stay anyway.* It seems to me that members such as these have a vision in their sights of who we are becoming, a vision which ultimately transcends our human fumbblings. I believe that an authentic response to the essential "Why?" question will bring with it a sense of *belonging* in this community. Another way of putting it, is that *intimacy* and *ultimacy* come together. Relationships and a sense of purpose are linked.

If this is all true, then I'll close by asking *Who? Who* is part of your *Why?*

May their faces guide you on.



Martha Dallas,
Director of Religious Education

Fun and Games Picnic

Come and join together for this all ages event. We will be meeting at Oakledge Park (near the pavilion by the tree house) in Burlington on May 23rd from 12:45-3:00 for a picnic lunch as well as lawn games and bicycling. Bring your own picnic lunch, favorite games (Frisbee, croquet, bocce, kickball etc) and bicycles. We will eat first and then spend time playing together. For those interested we can take a bike ride north on the bike path to Burlington Waterfront park and get a creamy before returning to Oakledge (about 4.4 miles round trip). If arriving by car there is a \$5 (\$8 non res) parking fee. Rain will cancel. Please contact John Grimm vtgrimms@comcast.net or 863-2672 with any questions.

Sponsored by the RE Committee

Small Group Ministry

Creative Spirits has changed its meeting time to 4:30 to 6:30 PM and will be meeting at the church on the first and third Monday of the month. The group is still in its formative stages, so join us if you would want to explore your own creative spirit with others who have similar desires. *Susan Raimy*

Signatures Requested

The Denominational Affairs and Social Action Committees are asking members and friends to sign a petition regarding the Issue of Torture Tactics in this country. Look for our table in the Parlors on Sundays for more information.

Thanks, *Pat Allen for the Committees*

Warning of the 2010 Annual Meeting

The members of the First Unitarian Universalist Society of Burlington are hereby warned of the Annual Meeting to be held at the meeting house at **11:15 AM on Sunday, June 6, 2010.**

Among other business items, we will be voting on a by-law change that reads "*New budget items identified by congregation members must be submitted to the Board by April 30 of each year for consideration of inclusion on the agenda of the upcoming Annual Meeting.*" Please mark your calendars and set aside time to attend this meeting.

NING and Facebook

About two years ago we tried to launch a Burlington UU Social Networking site on NING. The going has been slow and we find that not many people are using it. And now we find out that NING will soon be charging a fee for their services. So we will be closing down our NING site at the end of the church year. I am looking for a member of the Society who may be interested in getting us set up on Facebook, as I do think it is important for us to have a social networking venue, and many of us are already using Facebook. If you think you might be interested in taking on this project, please contact Christina at xina@uusociety.org.

The Big Payoff!

A huge Thank You to each and everyone of you who have been paying on your pledge this year! As the fiscal year draws to a close, we rely on those pledges being paid in full to meet our budget obligations. At this point, 30% of you are current on your pledge payments. That means that the other 70% have fallen behind or haven't even begun to pay on this year's pledge. Please check your records and see if you need to catch up. Please contact Christina at xina@uusociety.org or 802-862-5630 ext. 22 if you'd like to talk about your pledge.

Crop Circle Film

PSI Symposium will screen "What on Earth? Inside the Crop Circle Mystery" Sunday, May 23, at 7 p.m. Members Jane Packard-Bryant and Gwendolyn Evans have experienced crop circles first-hand and will field questions following the program. "What on Earth?" is a 90-minute documentation of intricate designs that turn up in farmers' fields overnight. Edgar Mitchell, the 6th astronaut to walk on the moon, and others contribute to director Suzanne Taylor's film. Reviewer Jay Levin wrote "'What on Earth?' deals intelligently with the globe's most persistent and beautiful mystery, the crop circles. If you have an inkling of adventure and...curiosity, you will savor this lovely voyage...." Join us for a foray into mystery!

The UU 2060 Time Capsule!

A side-project of the upcoming UU 200 year celebration will be the creation of a time capsule, to include items YOU contribute! The UU Property Committee asks you and your family to create and submit items you think will be of interest to UU Society members and the larger Burlington community **fifty years from now** --when it will next be opened-- in the year 2060. Historians suggest that items which describe the daily lives of the people who created them, such as personal notes, pictures and documents, would greatly increase the value of the time capsule to future citizens. We invite participation from all aspects of today's UU diverse community -- LGBQT, pagans, YUUth, Buddhists, etc. We hope to archive a broad range of letters, personal life accounts, magazine and newspaper articles, photos, food packaging, recipes and other items you feel would be of interest to people fifty years from now; to chronicle and to collectively witness how UUs see the world today, and our involvement in creating a world we seek.

Physical size and substance are limited; **submissions are needed before June 13th Celebration Sunday.** For specific information, contact Mark Kuprych at markkuprych@burlingtontelecom.net or Martha Dallas at Martha@uusociety.org

Everyone Loves a Parade!

Come help celebrate FUUSB's 200th year with a multigenerational parade down Church Street before the service on June 13th. Gather in the Community Room between 8:30-9:30 to prepare decorations, music and signs, eat breakfast goodies and march at 10:00. Don't miss the fun! Suzie DeBrosse, sdebrosse1@gmail.com, 658-1677.

First Unitarian Universalist
Society
862-5630

Gary Kowalski, Minister

*Elaine Bomford,
Assistant Minister*

*Linda Gross,
Board President*

*Martha Dallas, Director
of Religious Education*

*David McFeeters,
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wayne.schneider@uvm.edu

*Christina Fulton,
Society Administrator*

*Kathleen Kemp,
Administrative Assistant*

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A UU Statement of Conscience on Peace

During the last few years the Denominational Affairs Committee has focused on the UUA Congregational Study/Action issue of "Peacemaking." The Committee has sponsored forums and panel discussions on issues like the peace tradition of Quakers and Mennonites, the realities of war, alternatives to violence, and the urgency of nuclear disarmament. A veteran shared his experience as a Marine serving twice in Iraq, and a film examined the human cost of war.

During this time, a draft of a "Statement of Conscience" (SOC) on Peacemaking was drawn up by the UUA Commission on Social Witness. Members of our First UU Society of Burlington discussed and critiqued several early drafts of the SOC, sending comments and suggestions to the drafting committee. Now the final draft has been completed and will be voted upon by delegates at the General Assembly in Minneapolis in June.

In order for potential delegates to General Assembly and other members of our congregation to become better informed about the Peacemaking SOC, Denominational Affairs is sponsoring a discussion of the final draft on Sunday, May 23 at 12:30 PM in the Meetinghouse. We hope that you will join us then to share your thoughts on the final draft. This will be our last opportunity to discuss the Peacemaking Statement of Conscience before it is voted upon in June. You can find the final draft online at: www.uua.org/socialjustice/issuesprocess/currentissues/peacemaking/121606.shtml.

Childcare will be provided for those who need it. Thank you.

Stewardship Campaign Falling Short of Goal

THANKS to everyone who pledged for the upcoming church year beginning July 1, 2010! Many of you, almost 60%, have increased your financial support for which we are extremely grateful. Unfortunately, we have not yet heard from over 80 active members and friends. As a result, we are \$50,000 short of our goal and without additional pledges or increased pledges from those who have pledged, we will be forced to implement substantial budget cuts across our organization.

If you haven't pledged yet or if you can increase your pledge, please do so IMMEDIATELY so we can finish the budgeting process for next year. Please return your pledge card to the office or email your pledge to Christina at xina@uusociety.org.

Our campaign goes beyond the hard business of raising money for our church. It is about supporting our faith community and sustaining our spiritual home where we enjoy the beauty of our music, bring our children for religious education, share in our joys and sorrows, seek truth and act for justice.

Please ACT NOW: make your pledge or, if you are able, increase your pledge. We can do this! There is great power in our numbers - if we ALL pledge and give a bit more. Thank you!
Your Stewardship Committee

Summer Services

Summer Services will begin at 10 a.m. on June 20 with our annual Father's Day Service. Would you like to share fathering experiences you've had with your children or your father? Stephen Rainville (343-9546 or stephen@stephenandburns.com) is coordinating this service. We'll celebrate Summer on June 27 with Summer Music and Poetry. Have you written a poem or short prose piece you'd like to share? How about reading one of your favorite summer poems? Do you play a musical instrument or sing? Welcome summer by sharing your writing, reading or musical talent. THERE WILL BE NO SUNDAY SERVICES IN JULY! Rev. Elaine will preach on August 1, member Ken Swearingen on August 8, and Keith Penniman, M.T.S. will speak on August 15; we'll again host Open Houses on August 22 and 29. If you'd like to coordinate a Summer Service (we need coordinators!!!) or want more information, contact Bridget 879-5409 or email bmeyer1038@aol.com.

Author, Author!

Our own Mark Pendergrast is the author of a fascinating new book titled *Inside the Outbreaks: The Elite Medical Detectives of the Epidemic Intelligence Service*. On Sunday, May 30 at 11:30, Mark takes us on a riveting journey through the history of this remarkable organization, following EIS officers on their globetrotting quest to eliminate the most lethal and widespread threats to the world's health. Over the years they have successfully battled polio, cholera, and smallpox, and in recent years have turned to the epidemics killing us now — smoking, obesity, and violence among them. Autographed copies will be available! Gary

Childcare for the 2010 Annual Meeting

There is only one service on June 3 which will be at 10:00 A.M. Since it is the annual youth service and there are no RE classes scheduled for that day, children ages Preschool and up will be with us in the sanctuary for the full service. Nursery care, however, will be available for infants and toddlers. The Annual Meeting will start at 11:15 and child care and supervised activities for older children will be available. If you will need childcare during the Annual Meeting, please bring your children to the Nursery after the service and check in with childcare staff who will need to know the names and ages of children in their care. They will also inform you where supervised activities will take place. The Annual Meeting will start in the Sanctuary promptly at 11:15. Questions? Call Linda Gross, 865-0038, or Martha Dallas at 863-2438, ext. 28.

Celebrating Gary's Ministry

As we move through May and into June Rev. Gary Kowalski's time in our midst grows short. Special recognition is planned to honor him during the "Wheel of Life" service on June 13. Part of honoring him will include presenting several of his favorite causes with funds contributed in recognition of Gary. Your check can be mailed to the Society, or placed in the offering basket over the next several weeks. Please make your check out to First UU Society and mark the cause to which you wish to contribute in honor of Gary. The Society will consolidate the funds and send one check to each group.

Groups for your consideration: Vermont Interfaith Action (VIA) and Green Mountain Animal Defenders (GMAD). You may be aware of others that Gary has worked with over his two decades of service in Burlington.

And, we are planning a **Fourth of July celebration**, at noon on Sunday, July 4, here on the church lawn. This will be an old fashioned holiday picnic with hot dogs (traditional and vegan), chips, and all the other picnic necessities. We hope for great weather so we can have some activities for the kids. All are invited to this family event to allow each of us to bid Gary farewell and best wishes in this new phase of his life. More on this will follow. Anyone willing to help organize this picnic please contact Woody Fulton, jwfulton63@alumni.cmu.edu. Thanks!

G A Train Leaving the Station...

This is the last call for the 2010 UU General Assembly in Minneapolis, June 23-27. Young adult members are especially invited to take advantage of this opportunity to connect on a continental scale with Unitarian Universalists. General Assembly is an enriching, perplexing, jazzing, inspiring experience, and our congregation would appreciate your representation (see Statement of Conscience elsewhere in this newsletter). Funds to cover registration are available for FUUSB members. Please speak with Reverend Elaine if you are moved to attend.

First Unitarian Universalist Society

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Meet the Interim Minister...

It is with great pleasure that the Interim Minister Task Force announces the signing of Rev. Olivia Holmes as the interim minister beginning in August. Olivia comes to us after finishing a very successful 2-year interim ministry with the Concord Unitarian Universalist Church in Concord, NH.

Rev. Olivia Holmes is a Unitarian Universalist minister who feels a special calling to the work of interim ministry. She says of the time of congregational transition, "It is a time for reflection, for celebration, for healing. It is a time for congregational re-visioning, and for working together to chart the course to a successful future settled ministry."

Holmes was born into the First Church in Chestnut Hill, MA; then a Unitarian and now a UU church. In her teenage years she discovered the church of the all outdoors through skiing and golf, tennis and swimming.

Her career began in advertising and shifted into market research; a field in which she and a business partner built a firm specializing in toys, high technology industries, and foods. Wanting to contribute something to the larger world, Holmes increasingly focused her work on social marketing programs in the developing world, sponsored by the United States Agency for International Development.

Olivia returned to the denomination of her youth, discovering and becoming deeply involved in the Unitarian Universalist Church in Westport, CT, near her home. With a strong sense of calling, she entered Harvard Divinity School, receiving the Master of Divinity Degree in 1991.

Since then Holmes has served as a settled minister, as an interim minister, and as the Director of International and Interfaith Relations for the Unitarian Universalist Association. Holmes retired from the UUA in 2006. After volunteering for the International Association for Religious Freedom in 2006, she became their interim Managing Consultant, charged with articulating options for their organizational transition. She then followed her passion for interim ministry by serving the church in Keene, NH, in 2007-2008 and is now finishing a 2-year interim ministry in Concord, NH.

Welcome Rev. Olivia Holmes!

Daniel Wilds, Chair, Interim Minister Task Force (This information and more can be found at www.revholmes.org)

Celebrate With Us

The First Unitarian Universalist Society of Burlington is 200 years old and we will mark this occasion with these final celebratory events on the weekend of June 12 and 13. Schedule of events:

June 12	Saturday	10-12	Tours of our historic building
June 13	Sunday	10:00	Intergenerational Parade up Church Street
		11:00	Wheel of Life service.
			Events following the service will include: Unveiling a brass plaque marking 200 years, Dedicating a time capsule, Ice Cream Social
		3:00	Organ Concert

Harvest the Power – Leadership Training

Looking for a inspiration to boost your meeting, group, or classroom? A new Unitarian Universalist Association program is coming this fall to help. Whether you are on the board, a teacher, a youth group member, or committee person this may be just the ticket for you.

I recently attended a training to teach *Harvest the Power* curriculum and look forward to sharing it with folks in our region. It takes a spiritual approach to helping us lead with better focus and connection to each other. A variety of learning styles are supported, to help us see our own strengths as leaders, and build on those skills to improve connections in our community. The end goal is to keep a wide vision and lead each other more effectively with a lighter heart.

This fall, our New England district will be coordinating the program with sessions to be held on two weekends. Dates for your calendar are October 29, Friday evening, & Saturday, October 30th, and two weeks later, November 12, Friday evening, completing on Saturday, November 13th. It is to be held in Montpelier and will be offered to those UUs in northern Vermont.

I am also willing to run this for our own congregation if we can get 20-30 people who are interested and available for a couple weekends. I believe it can help us as we transition to a new minister. I hope you'll plan on joining me for the class. Check out the UUA site at this link: <http://www.uua.org/religiouseducation/curricula/tapestryfaith/harvestpower/index.shtml> *Chip Patullo*