



June 7, 2009 -
Entire Summer

Calendar

Sunday, June 7

9:00 RE Stewardship Appreciation
Breakfast
9:00 Social Action Committee
9:00 Worship Service
10:15 Annual Meeting
10:00 Women's Spirituality Group
10:15 Annual Meeting
12:30 VIA Meeting
12:30 Small Group Ministry

Monday, June 8

***** Zen (Call office for time)
5:00 Membership Committee
6:00 Anti-Racism Action Com.
6:30 Yoga!
7:00 Advanced Directives
Workshop

Tuesday, June 9

10:00 Wisdom Wanderers
12:00 Staff Lunch
12:30 Library Committee Meeting
5:30 Property Committee Meeting
6:00 Assistant Minister Relations
Committee

Wednesday, June 10

9:00 Staff Meeting
5:00 DRE Relations Committee

Thursday, June 11

***** Zen (Call office for time)
10:00 SGM Steering Committee
11:30 New Orleans Benefit Lunch

Friday, June 12

6:30 AA Men's Group

Saturday, June 13

7:00 The Search for Justice:
Clarence Darrow Event

Sunday, June 14

10:00 Women's Spirituality Group
11:00 Worship Service
12:30 Small Group Ministry
7:00 Young Adult Group

Monday, June 15

***** Zen (Call office for time)
6:30 Yoga!
7:00 Advanced Directives
Workshop

Tuesday, June 16

12:00 Staff Lunch
7:00 Board Meeting

Wednesday, June 17

9:00 Staff Meeting - Offsite

Thursday, June 18

***** Zen (Call office for time)
7:00 Planned Giving Committee

Friday, June 19

6:30 AA Men's Group

Saturday, June 20

Sunday, June 21
10:00 Worship Service

Monday, June 22

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

Tuesday, June 23

10:00 Wisdom Wanderers
12:00 Staff Lunch

Wednesday, June 24

Thursday, June 25

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

Friday, June 26

6:30 AA Men's Group

Saturday, June 27

Current Notes

Lately, I have been more conscious of "affirmations." To affirm something is to bring it center stage in awareness, hold it in focus, and take in its truth. The more we appreciate what we affirm, the more effect our affirmations have upon us. I find that affirmations I keep in mind help me to keep my words and actions in line with my intentions, enable me to see directions and signs I might have missed otherwise, and keep me centered in a positive mindset. Of course, this is all a work in progress for me! As for all of us.

In his Letter to the Philippians, the apostle Paul wrote: "...Brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable - if anything is excellent or praiseworthy - think about such things."

So many things demand our attention, and many of them are saddening and depleting. This seems to be the nature of being in the world with our minds and hearts engaged. Still, I surmise it is possible in every circumstance to find a noble, true, lovely aspect of life to affirm. Victor Frankl told the story of the young girl in a concentration camp who focused her attention on a tree outside the window of the barracks. Thich Nhat Hanh wrote of the beautiful blue Viet Nam sky arched serenely over scenes of devastation. Folks experiencing hard times often affirm the deep and loving connections which are revealed when the going gets tough.

Affirming what is true and good is not a sentimental activity, and it doesn't mean we turn away from genuine difficulties. I think it simply means we move hardships off to the side; don't worry, they will still be there when you get back to them, as the saying goes. Affirmation gives air time to the positive things that are equally present at any given time: the things we care about, the things we know for sure, something that is beautiful, what we find meaningful, the general direction we want to move.

This is my personal standard daily affirmation: "I am grateful to be alive one more day." Nothing fancy. I often find other things to tack on, such as "My body is inherently perfect" (courtesy Deepak Chopra). When I hear the "Writer's Almanac" poem on the radio, I take Garrison Keillor's comforting sign off as worthy of an affirmation's central role in my day: "Be well, do good work, and keep in touch." I love Gandhi's words quoted in our hymnal "It is possible to live in peace."

What are your affirmations? How do they work in your life? How could they work? We have the full, affirming light of summer to ponder!

Upcoming Sundays

Sunday, June 7, 9am

"Meeting Ground" Reflections on life in community with Reverend Elaine preceding the Society's Annual Meeting.

Sunday, June 14, 11am

"Wheel of Life" Birth, Coming-of-Age, Marriage, Death are the recurring cycles of human existence. This morning we pause on the cusp of a new season to celebrate and commemorate the transitions of the past year. The Children's Choir and Senior Choir will sing for this intergenerational gathering, with Gary, Elaine, and Martha presiding.

Sunday, June 21, 10am

"Father's Day" Celebrate Father's Day at our annual Summer Service. Julia Kimball will reminisce about her father and Ron Bernard speaks about his fathering experience. Coordinator: Bridget Meyer

Calling Flower Folks, Singers and Readers for Summer Services

Please speak with Reverend Elaine if you would like to join in any of the following Summer Service activities:

June 28 Flower Communion
FLOWER FOLKS: Helpers of all ages sought who would like to collect, arrange, and disperse blossoms brought in by parishioners Sunday morning.

July 5 Freedom Pick-Up Chorus
SINGERS: Celebrate freedom in song with the engaging musical duo, "Keith and Elaine." Kindly RSVP, then come early on Sunday for a chorus rehearsal, 8:15 - 9:30 a.m.

July 12 Unitarian Universalist
Voices: Celia Thaxter
READERS: 3 or 4 folks sought to read Celia Thaxter's poetry and tell the story of her life. One preparatory gathering to read through (time to be determined). Young readers to Sages welcome.



Message From Martha



Welcome to the last newsletter of the 2008-2009 church year! (Note to the RE Community: I will send out my weekly enews - with reminders and practical items - through mid-June, and then will scale back to monthly or so until late August.)

The last newsletter deadline always signals to me that my door to summertime is beginning to open just a crack.

In my professional life, I've mostly worked in schools and churches, so annually, this giddy feeling comes over me about now as I anticipate all of summer's activities and associations. Even when I work during the summer, as I do in this job, the pace slows markedly and my priorities shift. Many of my regular responsibilities are suspended between mid-June and mid-August, allowing me to step back, take a wider view, and be more thoughtful and reflective about my work and our religious education program. Summer work feels in many ways like a blend of work and rest. I find it wonderfully relaxing and renewing.

Many years ago, I read a book by Parker Palmer, called, The Active Life. The most memorable "take-away" from it was the idea that in order to be meaningful and relevant in our actions, we must be mindful to balance *action* with *reflection*. Palmer wrote that, if you are full of thoughts, ideas, prayers, meditation, and wonderings - yet you never *do anything* in the wake of this - then ultimately you've accomplished nothing. Likewise, if you are a busy bee, doing this and that, checking off To Do lists, filling your waking hours with accomplishments - yet you never rest and reflect on what it is you should most truly do in the moments of living you've been gracefully given - then, too, you have not lived as fully and meaningfully as you might have.

Before us is summer, a life-filled gift, given in graceful mystery! Ahead lies a season of opportunity for rest, for play, and for slow, reflective time. May we all drink long and deeply at summer's reservoirs, so that we've imbibed the wisdom to guide our actions, both individually, and collectively, when September greets us at the far end of summer.

Friends, it's been another wonderful year at First UU. I will look forward to strengthening the web of our community, adding new connections, and deepening the old ones. I'll look forward to new discoveries, challenges, and adventures with all of you. But for now, I'll gratefully rest and reflect.

Happy summer, everyone!

Martha Dallas,
Director of Religious Education

Advance Directives for Healthcare Workshop

Please note change of dates!

On June 8, 2009 from 7- 8:30 pm, an Advance Directives for Healthcare Workshop will be presented by Dorothy Seale-Brown at the First UU Society. This is an opportunity, to create documents that direct your family and medical providers with your clear directions about your medical care and care related to your death. On June 15, from 7-8:30 pm Dorothy will be available to assist with the required legal witnessing of your document . Your document must be witnessed by people not related to you. Please sign up on the bulleting board if you plan to attend either or both of these events.

Sponsored by the Care Network Ministry.

Loose Plate for Charity

On April 26th and May 3rd we collected for the Vermont Center for Independent Living and will be sending them a check for \$504.27. On May 10th we collected \$921.75 and will giving half of that to our own Choir Sheet Music Fund. We can all be proud of the difference we're making in our own community. Which agencies are next on our list? On May 31st we will be collecting for the Healthy City Gleaning Project. On June 7th and June 14th we will be collecting for the Joint Urban Ministry Project (JUMP). Please come prepared to be generous!

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.

Plant Sale

The fund-raising committee seeks donations of perennials, vegetable seedlings and plants, bulbs, herbs and gardening related items for an end of the year sale. This sale will take place at our annual picnic on June 14 after the service. Come out and support your church and purchase a plant! Call or email with any questions or donation information to: Hope Swanson: 862-0928, hope.swanson@myfairpoint.net or Carolyn Munger: 652-4609, carolynellis@juno.com.

Hymnal Purchases

Singing the Living Tradition hymnals are available for \$28 each directly through the UUA bookstore: 800-215-9076 and www.uua.org/bookstore. Unfortunately, we do not stock hymnals for sale in the office.

Summer Office Hours

During the summer we go down to a skeleton crew. Those of us that work through the summer like to take vacation time. Therefore, please note our reduced summer hours. For the most part, these are the hours that the building will be open. However, if you are making a special trip to the meeting house, please call ahead as there may be times when the staff is on vacation and the building closed. Beginning on Monday, June 22, the building will be open Monday through Thursday from 9am - 2pm. If you come during these hours and the door is locked, please ring the bell. If a staff person is alone in the building, they will keep the door locked. We return to normal business hours (M-Th, 8:30 - 4) on Monday, August 24.

Planned Giving

Your input is desired for the Bicentennial Planned Giving Survey. Many thanks to all who have turned in a Bicentennial Planned Giving Survey. If you have not yet done so, we want to hear from YOU. Completed surveys may be mailed to: Bicentennial Planned Giving Committee, First UU Society, 152 Pearl Street, Burlington, VT 05401. To complete the survey via email, send a note to Marla Emery at marla.emery@uvm.edu. Thanks! *Bicentennial Planned Giving Committee*

Dear UU Members and Friends,

As you might be aware, Vermont recently made history this spring in passing a Gay Marriage Bill without any requirements from the state supreme court and did so despite our governor's veto. This year's pride events mark not only this monumental decision, but also the fortieth anniversary of the "Stonewall Riots" of 1969, and the twenty-sixth celebration of LGBT Pride in Vermont. Because of this, the Pride Vermont Committee would love to help create a memorable pride on July 25th and are inviting all UUs to attend this year's parade. Parade attendees can walk with a banner or t-shirts identifying their cause or group or can prepare a float. We just ask that you R.S.V.P. to this invite by June 30th either by email [indigoboys@hotmail.com] or directly through the PrideVermont.com website. Thank you, Christopher Vaccaro, (on behalf of the Pride Vermont Committee)

The Big Payoff!

It's that time of year, time to pay off your pledge. This year's pledge total was \$387,064 and so far we have collected \$322,600.00. That means we need to collect \$64,464 by the end of the fiscal year. In a perfect world, we would collect this money by the end of May, so that we have enough money to pay all our bills before June 30th. If you are unsure of the amount you have left to pay on your pledge or if you would like to pay the remaining amount with a credit card, please contact Christina at 802-862-5630 ext. 22. Thank you so much for your generosity!

**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,
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*Christina Fulton,
Society Administrator*

*Kathleen Kemp,
Administrative Assistant*

Email: office@uusociety.org
Web Page: www.uusociety.org

Baby Food Needed for JUMP

On June 7 there will be a special summer baby food collection for JUMP. As always, Infant Baby Formula (Isomil w/iron) or Similac powder (w/iron), Baby Food Stages 1 and 2 and cereal is always greatly appreciated. Because formula is expensive, you might want to share the cost with a friend. Many thanks for your generosity.

Lois Holbrook

Newsletter Publication

Our bi-weekly publication goes on hiatus for the summer with this issue. Please stay tuned to our UU website, for next year's schedule to be posted in August: www.uusociety.org. The first fall deadline will be Monday, August 24, 2009 @9am. Have a wonderful summer!

Summer Services

Summer Services will begin on June 21 with our annual Father's Day Service. We'll celebrate Summer on July 12 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. Look for the complete list of Summer Services in this newsletter. If you'd like to coordinate a Summer Service, (we need coordinators!!!), contact Bridget 879-5409 or email bmeyer1038@aol.com.

Blue Books

All Committee Chairs and Board Members: Please bring your Blue Book to the Annual Meeting on June 7. Updates and changes to the Blue Books are made during the summer and so that they are ready to hand out to the Chairpersons in the fall. If you will not be at the Annual Meeting, please drop off your Blue Book in the main office as soon as possible. Thank you!

Services Available on CD

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 and we can either mail you a CD or a written copy of the sermon while you are away. Also, most all sermons are available on our website www.uusociety.org. Questions? Call the main office at 862-5630.

Jambalaya Fund Raiser for UU Katrina Team

For the past 2 years we've sent re-building teams to New Orleans sponsored through our Anti-Racism Action Committee. Next year we hope to send more workers to a region that remains devastated almost four years after the hurricane. You can help! On Thursday, June 11, we'll be serving Jambalaya and cornbread on our front lawn. We'll invite the crowds listening to the Jazz Fest that afternoon to enjoy a taste of the Big Easy and raise money for flood relief & reconstruction at the same time. Can you help cook or serve? Please contact Bridget, 879-5409 or bmeyer1038@aol.com, today to volunteer. No time for volunteering? Come by for a filling lunch or make a donation. Thanks!

Social Action Committee

The Social Action Committee will convene for its summer gathering/planning session on Sunday, August 23, 9:30am at the home of Maggi Hayes. During the year, the SAC presents educational forums and movies, and sponsors other events. We welcome new members and ideas and cordially invite you join us for a day of lively discussion, event planning and a pot luck lunch (on my screen porch weather permitting). Please contact Maggi Hayes, SAC co-chair for further information and directions - 878-4418 or mehayes@uvm.edu. We all look forward to a productive and stimulating day, Maggi

Clarence Darrow's Search for Justice: LIVE on STAGE

Saturday, June 13, at 7 pm

**First Unitarian Universalist Society
of Burlington**

**Tickets: \$10 in advance in the main
office (Monday - Thursday, 9am-4pm)
or \$12 at the door**

Rated PG - 13

An award winning member of the Screen Actors Guild who has appeared on shows like "America's Most Wanted" and starred in PBS documentaries, Gary L. Anderson is the country's renowned portrayer of *Clarence Darrow*, the most celebrated attorney in American history. Darrow was famous for defending John Scopes in the "Monkey Trial." He fought against the death penalty, social injustice, racism, conspiracy laws, and civil liberties violations.

Not much has changed on our national landscape since his death in 1938. Creationism versus Darwinism in our schools, celebrity murder trials, civil liberty concerns during times of national fear, racial hate crimes, the death penalty and more—all these were representative of Darrow's cases between 1894-1925, cases which addressed both scandalous and national issues that captured the media on radio and won front page stories and headlines. This is not a dry lecture, but history come alive on stage, where the audience becomes the jury in every case.

**This is a fund raiser for our
Society—one half of ticket sales
support our own congregation's
ministries.**

One performance only, with seating limited to first 550 sold. [Note: This program is on track to be approved for Continuing Legal Education Credit for members of the Vermont Bar!]

"Holds the audience spellbound." San Leandro Times. "In the same league as Holbrook's Mark Twain." Eureka Times Standard. "One of the most moving experiences in the life of our church." Brian Griffin, DRE, Tennessee Valley UU Church (Knoxville)

Vermont Escape

Join us for the fifteenth annual B&B weekend offered by the UU Church of Rutland, VT, October 9-11, 2009. Enjoy the beauty of Vermont, UU hospitality, and a choice of guided activities: hiking, nature walk, kayaking, bicycling, antiques/arts, cider making historic tour, soaring tour, touring historic sites and quaint towns, and much more. Registration by August 15, \$275 (single) and \$475 (double). After August 15, \$325 (single bed) and \$525 (double bed). For more information contact uufoliagevermont@yahoo.com or (802) 353-7969.
<http://fallweekend.wordpress.com/> (for brochure/registration)
www.rutlanduu.org (UU Church of Rutland website)

First Unitarian Universalist Society
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What is there for children during summer services?

Summer services are at 10 AM and run from June 21st-Aug 9th. The nursery will be open during summer services for infants and toddlers. For older children who wish not to stay for the service, we will have fun, summertime activities available. We are looking for adults to sign up to co-lead these activities. A sign-up sheet is in the Community Room on the large bulletin board next to the camps and conferences display. Please sign up for one or two Sundays if you can spend an hour playing with a (likely small) group of UU kids! All supplies (for indoor and outdoor activities) will be provided for you; no preparation is needed! Just show up and have fun! Questions? Contact Martha Dallas: Martha@uusociety.org or 862-5630 x 28. Thank you!

Registration and Cooperative R.E. Stewardship for 2009-2010!

Our DRE, Martha Dallas, works most of the summer to prepare for the year ahead. You help immeasurably by completing your lime-green 2009-2010 form if you and your family plan to participate in programming next year. Forms can be found at the back of the sanctuary if you come to worship during the summer. They are also available on our website: www.uusociety.org. Go to "get involved," choose "religious ed," then click on the pdf of the '09-'10 registration form at the bottom of the page. Unfortunately, this web page and form is not yet interactive. You will need to print it, fill in all the blanks and either drop it off or mail to: First UU Society, 152 Pearl St., Burlington, VT 05401.

Grow yourself by helping to grow our children and youth!

Have you ever considered the wisdom and insight that children and youth can give us by their wonderings? Our religious education program has multiple ways in which you can be involved, if you aren't currently parenting young ones. We love the participation of members of the wider UU community; please indicate your interest in lending a hand by completing a lavender "RE Stewardship Opportunities" brochure, found in the pews and also in the pamphlet rack next to the main office. Questions? Contact Martha Dallas: Martha@uusociety.org or 862-5630 x 28. Thank you!
