



November 2, 2008 -  
November 15, 2008

## Calendar

### Sunday, November 2

*Daylight Saving Time Ends*  
9:00 Worship Service  
10:00 Women's Spirituality Group  
11:00 Worship Service  
7:00 YA Building Your Own  
Theology

### Monday, November 3

\*\*\*\*\* Zen (Call office for time)  
9:00 Newsletter deadline

### Tuesday, November 4

12:00 Staff Lunch  
7:00 Executive Board Meeting

### Wednesday, November 5

\*\*\*\* Zen (Call office for time.)  
9:00 Staff Meeting  
6:30 RE Committee Meeting  
7:00 ARAC Post Election Gathering  
7:00 Choir Rehearsal  
7:00 American Humanist Assoc.

### Thursday, November 6

9:00 Newsletter Crew  
12:00 Menu for the Future

### Friday, November 7

10:00 Women's Alliance Meeting  
6:30 AA Men's Group

### Saturday, November 8

6:00 Second Saturday Potluck

### Sunday, November 9

9:00 Worship Service  
10:00 Women's Spirituality Group  
11:00 Worship Service  
12:30 UFETA Meeting  
7:00 YA Building Your Own  
Theology  
7:00 YUUth Group Meeting

### Monday, November 10

\*\*\*\*\* Zen (Call office for time.)  
5:00 All Committee Night

### Tuesday, November 11

10:00 Wisdom Wanderers  
12:00 Staff Lunch  
5:30 Property Committee Meeting  
6:00 Assist. Minister Relations Com.  
7:00 Book Discussion Group

### Wednesday, November 12

\*\*\*\* Zen (Call office for time.)  
9:00 Staff Meeting  
6:15 Music Committee Meeting  
7:00 Choir Rehearsal

### Thursday, November 13

10:00 SGM Steering Committee

### Friday, November 14

6:30 AA Men's Group

### Saturday, November 15

## Consuming Kids Film

Please join Suzie DeBrosse for a pre holiday season look at our American culture of consumption and its effects on kids. "Consuming Kids: The Commercialization of Childhood" will be shown on Sunday, 11/23 @ 12:30. See the Social Action board for more info.

## On My Mind

Chatter and talk. The old joke still seems *apropos*---faced with a fork in the road, the Unitarian Universalist would rather go to a bull session on heaven than head straight for the pearly gates. We do love verbiage.

Maybe that's why the UUA Commission on Appraisal has proposed a revision of our Purposes and Principles that would replace our current 298 word statement with a 974 word dissertation. Where the language of faith is concerned, more is not always better.

Do we place too much emphasis on words---multiplying them endlessly? Bill Cleary thinks our obsession with verbal formulas is typically Protestant and suggests that we might jettison our "principles" altogether and think about our "commitments" instead. That would shift the focus from words to actions. Perhaps we could take a cue from 12 Step Groups that have helped so many attain sobriety. Rather than the Seven Principles, religious liberals could practice the Seven Steps:

- 1) We admitted our lives were broken and needed healing.
- 2) We came to believe that only a fearless spiritual search could restore us to health and sanity.
- 3) We made a thorough investigation of the world's great religious teachings.
- 4) We realized the answers had to come from within.
- 5) We experienced a sense of lifegiving purpose through connection to a reality larger, older and more lasting than ourselves.
- 6) We joined a community where we could be strengthened in our sense of kinship with this greater whole through meditation and service to others.
- 7) We carried this awakening into the world.

There you have it---my Big Book approach to liberal religion. Instead of being a denomination with buildings of our own, we could be a mass movement---meeting in church basements of all denominations, throughout the country. We could still drink coffee! And instead of lighting the chalice, we'd begin each meeting with a ritual opening:

Hi, my name is Gary and I'm a Unitarian Universalist.

**Gary**

## Upcoming Sundays

### November Worship Theme:

#### Compassion

Jesus said, "Be compassionate as God is compassionate." (Lk 6.27) The Dalai Lama has said, "If you want to be happy, practice compassion." And our own UU Principles recommend "justice, equity and compassion in human relations." But how do we balance the goal of mercy with the demand for justice? How do we avoid compassion fatigue? Can we really love everyone?

### Sunday, November 2, 9am & 11:00am

**"Can we prepare for Change?"** This service, presented by the Worship committee will be two days before a momentous national election. We realize the opportunity and do not want to speak to politics but to the idea of "Change." This is an ever present challenge which we all face in many facets of our lives. Three speakers from the greater UU/Burlington community will talk about their experience with change.

### Sunday, November 9, 9 am & 11 am

**"Reverence for Life"** At the age of thirty, Albert Schweitzer abandoned promising careers in Biblical scholarship and music to begin the study of medicine, devoting the remainder of his life to service and sacrifice to others. Gary reflects on the spiritual journey of an extraordinary humanitarian, scientist and theologian. The choir sings.

### Sunday, November 16, 9 am & 11 am

**"There but for fortune..."** songs and words of poverty and compassion.

## Leadership Congregation

The First Unitarian Universalist Society of Burlington has been named a "Leadership Congregation" by the UUA for 2007-2008 based on our congregation's financial support, placing us among the fifty top givers to the Annual Program Fund. Our contributions to the UUA help fund the development of Religious Education materials for children and adults, guarantee building loans for growing congregations, keep our Washington Office and Office of GLBT Concerns working for justice, support ministerial training and certification, and help start new congregations. Gary



## Message from Martha



Unitarian Universalism is growing in Burlington, especially among families. September attendance in our RE program has grown 37% in a year and 54% in three years. While our congregation has been growing steadily over the last 20 years, RE's rate of growth has shot up, somewhat like Al Gore's climate change graph!

As congregations grow, so does their staff. But while our RE program has grown so quickly, the amount of staff dedicated to religious education has yet to catch up. As a consequence, I have had to ask for more help from members. How difficult that can be for me to do! I take pride in my skills and abilities. I take my responsibility as DRE seriously. I fear that I will be judged negatively if I admit that I can't do something. Yet I've had to admit to myself that I can't do it all (certainly not well!). I've had to take a deep breath, and ask families: "Can you help me?"

I stumble sometimes in this dance of the staff-volunteer relationship. Especially as one whose salary is funded largely by your pledges, I can fall into the simplistic and inaccurate perception that churches (especially in our consumerist culture) are places where congregants pay -- with their pledges -- for a service provided largely by ministers and staff.

But finding myself asking for your help reminds me how *wrong* that perception of church is!

In truth, we learn a deep wisdom in asking for help: Asking for help is humbling (we are only, and always human!). It is liberating for the Asker and empowering to the Helper. It opens a door to let in fresh air and new energy. It creates an opportunity to build leadership. The fabric of a community is strengthened with every member who says Yes to a request for help. Sharing the work; delegating the tasks is wise, healthy, and Good!

We come to First UU seeking ways to be more fully human, more truly ourselves. We join this community not to watch what goes on, but to take part. We seek belonging; we yearn to know others and to care about them, and in return to be needed and more fully loved, ourselves.

May we all have the wisdom to remember that asking for help is truly the offering of a gift.

Martha

## New Orleans Rebuilding Volunteer Trip

The Anti-Racism Action Committee is organizing our second annual volunteer group to assist in post-hurricane Katrina rebuilding in New Orleans. This program, once managed by the UUA-UUSC and the coalition of New Orleans UU churches, is now under the stewardship of the coalition's New Orleans Rebirth Volunteer Center. Even three years after Katrina, there is still an enormous need for volunteers. Our group is looking to spend a week volunteering in later March or early April as part of this program. Since we need to sign up for the week in advance, we like to hear now from people who may be interested in participating. If interested, please email Susan Schoenfeld at [central4@burlingtontelecom.net](mailto:central4@burlingtontelecom.net) or leave a message at 863-6299. More information about the New Orleans Rebirth Center is available at the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee website: [www.uusc.org](http://www.uusc.org)

## Our Election, Our Country, Our Future

Win or lose, Barak Obama has mounted an historic run for the presidency. Will it also be a breakthrough for race relations in America? Members of the community are invited to gather post-election on Wednesday, November 5, from 7-8 p.m. with a reception following as Hal Colston of Neighborkeepers, Dr. Fayneese Miller of UVM, and our own Rev. Bob Senghas who marched in Selma offer their perspectives on a potentially transformational candidacy. Music, food and excitement guaranteed. Please consider bringing a goodie or dessert for the party in the Parlors! *Sponsored by Anti-Racism Action Committee*

## Second Saturday Potluck

This month's Second Saturday Potluck is on November 8. We gather at 6pm 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 Deborah DeLadurantaye at 999-3464 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). Hope to see you there.

## Loose Plate for Charity

On October 5th and October 12th, our congregation pledged to contribute 50% of our Sunday Loose Plate Collection to Noyana Singers. I am proud to report that our congregation will be sending a check to the Noyana Singers for \$425.37. We can all be proud of the difference we're making in our community.

On November 2nd we will be collecting for the Burlington High School Emergency Needs Fund, and on November 9th 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](mailto:xina@uusociety.org).

## UU's for Ethical Treatment of Animals

UFETA exists to bring compassion for animals onto the agenda of our religious denomination, with hundreds of members in congregations across the country. On Sunday, November 9, at 12:30 p.m. Jackie Brewster invites those concerned with expanding our ethical vision beyond the human species to an organizational meeting. Gary Kowalski, a longtime board member, will describe some of the national activities of UFETA as we discuss how a local chapter of UU's for Ethical Treatment of Animals could be active in our own Society.

## Alternative Gift Registry

It's not too early to start planning the type of holiday you want to celebrate this year, and the Alternative Gift Registry from the Center for a New American Dream can help. Suitable for individuals, families, or offices, the registry lists the material, nonmaterial, and charitable gifts that will fill your season.

<http://www.alternativegiftregistry.org/index.php> Suzie DeBrosse

## Book Club

You are invited to join us on Tuesday, November 11, as we discuss The Tortilla Curtain, by T. Coraghessan Boyle. A highly engaging story in which the lives of two couples in southern California, one a pair of wealthy suburbanites, the other illegal Mexican immigrants, are interwoven, provoking questions concerning immigration, unemployment discrimination and social responsibility. We meet at 7pm at the First UU Society. Please call Gerry Quinlan at 893-7587 with questions.

## Stewardship Update

**First Unitarian Universalist  
Society**  
**862-5630**

*Gary Kowalski, Minister*

*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](mailto:wayne.schneider@uvm.edu)

*Christina Fulton,  
Society Administrator*

*Kathleen Kemp,  
Administrative Assistant*

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

The 700 billion dollar bailout of Wall Street has made money the topic of conversation at our dinner table. We worry about our budget, talk about strategies to cut expenses and discuss ways to make extra money. My company went out of business in June and 20 employees had to hunt for new jobs.

I'm on the Stewardship committee here at the UU, and we are already meeting and talking about money once a month on Monday nights. We worry about the church budget, and are discussing strategies to have a successful canvass this year. Many of us count on the UU to fulfill various roles in our lives, from spiritual inspiration to employment. The committee looks forward to keeping all of you updated on our goals, plans and progress from now until the Canvass kickoff in March.

*Tracy Titchner*

## **Cooking, Collaboration & Community!**

Please join our team of UUs who shop, cook, serve and clean, as we assist the UVM students with their Sunday suppers at the Food Shelf. Dates that the students need us to cover are November 23 & 30, December 21 & 28, and January 4 & 11. It's a fun and rewarding opportunity for stewardship right here in the Old North End. Contact Aimee at [ALHutchins@aol.com](mailto:ALHutchins@aol.com) or Suzie at [sdebrosse@verizon.net](mailto:sdebrosse@verizon.net) or sign up on the bulletin board.

## **Jump Bags Are Coming!**

FUUSB's annual filling of the JUMP bags is coming up in November. The empty bags will be available soon at the November 9 church services. They will need to be filled -- by you -- and returned at the Intergenerational Thanksgiving Service on November 23.

Some of you may be unfamiliar with this annual ritual...FUUS is a member of a consortium of churches -- called the Joint Urban Ministry Project or JUMP -- that staff a daily food bank and counseling service that is housed at one of our neighboring churches, the First Congregational Church on So. Winooski Ave. This program is open to people in the greater Burlington community who need assistance in a myriad of ways: money to pay part of a utility bill; a voucher to buy clothing at one of the local church thrift stores; a bus pass to get to doctor's appointments; a listening ear to the many problems that poverty creates; a bag of food to take home to the family.

Each church is responsible for providing different household items each month to be given to the JUMP clients. For example, one church provides shampoo, another provides laundry detergent; FUUS provides Similac baby formula and baby food on a monthly basis.

In addition to these donations of goods, each church provides as many food bags as it can throughout the year. Each church provides them for a specific month; the FUUS month is always November and then the bags are donated to JUMP at Thanksgiving.

We will be asking you to take a bag and fill it either with toiletries, canned food items or foods for African refugees. A list of items to be included will be attached to each shopping bag so that you will know exactly what to buy. If you can take and fill more than one bag, that would be greatly appreciated.

If you have any questions about JUMP or this particular project, you may contact Ellen Wollensack at 864-5523. Thank you for your generosity!

## **Holiday Bazaar** **Saturday, December 6, 2008** **10:00am to 2:00pm**

Beautiful live greens. Gorgeous homemade crafts. Gifts from around the world. Attic treasures, toys, books and one-of-a-kind finds. Our Annual Holiday Bazaar is the ideal place to shop for your holiday gifts this year! The fresh scent of holiday greenery, the great variety of baked goods and the delicious hot lunch -- all combine to make a wonderful shopping experience. You can order your greens in advance -- there is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board. Plus, you can contribute to our success: Please contribute your treasures, crafts and baked goods to the sale. You can drop off your donations between Monday, December 1 and Thursday, December 4. -- bring in your food items on the day of the sale. See you there!

*Elizabeth Hems*

*for The Women's Alliance*

## **Got Goals?**

Yes we do! We have Mission, Vision, and Goals!

On Saturday, October 11th, a large number of people from our UU Society gathered at Charlotte Senior Center to set goals for our next three to five years. The session was facilitated by Robin Scheu, a skilled organizational planning consultant from our UUA District. With her assistance we now have the materials to formulate a Mission Statement and Goals Statement. We all came away from the day tired but highly energized!

The Goals Committee is in the process of sorting the large volume of ideas gathered to condense it down and make it accessible and manageable. Your input is still welcome!

Are you interested in helping to craft some statements that will help to guide us? If so contact one of us to join the sessions we are organizing for this purpose. We intend to work through this ASAP and will publish the results for all to consider and comment on. If you want to participate in the editing, contact any of the following: David McFeeters (after November 4), Sharon Leach, Linda Gross, Brian Haas (802-658-4747).

## **Young Adult Building Your Own Theology**

The early adult years have historically been a moment of spiritual challenge and awakening--it was so for Jesus, for Buddha, for Francis, and others. *Building Your Own Theology* offers participants an opportunity to clarify their religious beliefs and reflect on the spiritual journey. Starting on Sunday, November 2 from 7-8:30 p.m., Gary will begin a four session course designed especially for those aged 18-35. We will meet 11/2, 11/9, 11/23 and 11/30. Please contact Gary at [gary@uusociety.org](mailto:gary@uusociety.org) if you'd like to participate.

## **"Consolations and Congratulations"**

Update: We are gradually gathering a quorum for the Small Group for folks who have recently gone through divorce or separation, or are currently in the midst of this transition. Together we will practice speaking our truths and listening with care, share insights, resources, laughs and questions. There is room for others who may be interested. If you'd like to learn more or join, please e-mail [elaine@uusociety.org](mailto:elaine@uusociety.org) or call Rev. Elaine at the Society, 862-5630 ext. 25.

## **Newsletter News**

Next deadline: Monday, November 3, @9am sharp, covering November 16 - November 29, 2008. Articles gratefully accepted before this deadline! We distribute more than 850 copies of the newsletter now? Want to help spread the UU word? Consider joining the crew that meets to collate, tape and label every other Thursday morning @9am. See our website for the schedule or give the office a call, 862-5630.

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

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## Property Corner - The Meeting House is Built

*This is the first in a series of historical sketches about the Church, brought to you by the Property Committee.*

The First Congregational Society in the Town of Burlington was organized January 29, 1810, to “adopt measures fully to promote and inculcate harmony, friendship, morality, Christian faith, religion and piety among its members and mankind at large.” There were 151 names on the list of original subscribers, a large majority of the male inhabitants and first settlers of the town. Services were held in the Court House until the church was built.

In the autumn of 1814 a five acre lot was purchased by the same group of men active in the organization of the Society, at a price of \$1000. In the spring of the following year it was voted to build a “Brick Meeting House,” and a subscription list was started. But when the final tally was made it fell far short of the cost (\$22,185.34 according to the old records). Whereupon, John Pomeroy, E. T. Englesby and Horace Loomis, interested and generous founders, held a conference, with the result that these three pledged the balance, a total contribution by these three men of \$10,000.

The meeting house was built in 1816 and in less than seven months was completed, painted and furnished with stoves, a town clock and bell. The timbers were cut in the valley of Brown’s River, the brick made near by, and the nails hammered by hand.

Our founders planned well, as witness the location of the church today. When built, thickets and rough pastures stretched to the north and west, and there were very few dwellings nearby. At the time the settled parts of the town were at the foot of King Street, around Court House Square (now City Hall Park) and at the head of Pearl Street. The population of Burlington was only 2,000. *Tom Patterson*

## General Fund Income & Expense Summary

### Treasurer's Report for September, 2008

	Year to Date	V% Bud YTD	Total Yr Budget	Last Year YTD	V% Last Yr
<b>Income</b>					
Pledge Income	\$114,985	20%	\$382,600	\$110,945	4%
Non-Pledge Income	\$70,595	(8%)	\$307,347	\$83,286	(15%)
<b>Total Income</b>	<u>\$185,580</u>	<u>8%</u>	<u>\$689,947</u>	<u>\$194,231</u>	<u>(4%)</u>
<b>Expenses</b>					
Benefits / Payroll	\$107,186	(9%)	\$469,080	\$86,736	24%
Operating Expenses	\$29,391	(2%)	\$119,600	\$27,249	8%
Buildings & Site	\$16,922	(18%)	\$82,520	\$13,593	24%
Programs	\$3,597	(59%)	\$34,840	\$3,650	(1%)
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<u>\$157,096</u>	<u>(11%)</u>	<u>\$706,040</u>	<u>\$131,227</u>	<u>20%</u>
<b>Net Income / (Loss)</b>	<u>\$28,484</u>		<u>\$(16,094)</u>	<u>\$63,004</u>	

For the first three months of the current fiscal year, our general operating fund income is running slightly higher than budget due to timing of pledge payments. Expenses are slightly under budget due to lower costs over the summer months. Despite the favorable results to date, we are still projecting a \$16,094 deficit in our operating budget for the year. This will bring our General Fund balance from \$63,209 at the beginning of the year to \$47,116 at year end – its lowest level since 2000. *Submitted by Bill West, Treasurer*

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