



November 4, 2007 -
November 17, 2007

Calendar

Sunday, November 4

9:00 Worship Service
9:00 Social Action Committee
11:00 Worship Service

Monday, November 5

***** Zen (Call office for time)
9:00 Newsletter deadline
7:00 BUUC Business Meeting

Tuesday, November 6

6:00 Ministerial Search Committee
7:00 Executive Board Meeting

Wednesday, November 7

9:00 Staff Meeting
6:30 Religious Ed. Committee
7:00 Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, November 8

***** Zen (Call office for time)
10:00 SGM Steering Committee
12:00 Root Yoga Community Class
6:00 Mysticism Sm. Group Ministry

Friday, November 9

6:30 AA Men's Group

Saturday, November 10

9:00 Sacred Places Workshop

Sunday, November 11

9:00 Worship Service
10:00 Women's Spirituality Group
11:00 Worship Service
7:00 Dream Group

Monday, November 12

***** Zen (Call office for time)
9:00 Joyful Parenting SGM

Tuesday, November 13

10:00 Wisdom Wanderers
10:00 Small Group Ministry
7:00 Book Discussion Group

Wednesday, November 14

9:00 Staff Meeting
5:00 Admin. Relations Committee
6:00 Music Committee Meeting
7:00 Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, November 15

***** Zen (Call office for time)
10:00 Women's Alliance Exec. Com.
12:00 Root Yoga Community Class

Friday, November 16

6:30 AA Men's Group

Saturday, November 17

5:00 BUUC Ritual

JUMP

Please remember that our congregation is responsible for keeping the JUMP shelves stocked with formula (Similac and Isomil, specifically) and baby food. It is important to buy these brands as these are the brands that Moms get from WIC, and baby's need consistent formula. The small powdered size (Shaw's has it for under \$15). is the best size for JUMP). Baby Food in Stage 1 and 2 is the most needed. Pick up a lavender shopping list from the pew rack the next time you are in the Sanctuary for more information. Many thanks!

On My Mind

Hospitality is an ethic deeply rooted in the Biblical tradition. We are told to be gracious toward the stranger in our midst because our ancestors were once "strangers in a strange land," and also because our guests might in fact be angels, whom are entertaining unawares.

How do we receive the strangers and visitors who venture into our meetinghouse each Sunday? Do we welcome them as warmly as we would guests in our own homes?

Unitarian Universalism has never been a proselytizing faith. We don't want to thrust our opinions on others. But it seems to me that when others come knocking on our door, stepping with trepidation into an unknown congregation, our claim to be "intentionally inclusive" demands that we do more than give them a blue name tag.

Who are these visitors? New parents, wondering where their child can receive a moral education? Gays or lesbians, cast out of the churches they grew up in? Nearly every one is in crisis or transition—new to the area and seeking friends, grieving and in need of comfort, spiritually adrift and in need of mooring.

Why don't more of us take a minute or two each week to greet these newcomers? Are we too busy socializing with old friends? Too shy ourselves to make contact? Or do we mistakenly suppose that being friendly is some committee's job? Whatever the reason, we are missing an opportunity for ministry—to make ourselves emotionally available to others (as we would have others acknowledge the humanity in us).

Please consider taking at least five minutes at the conclusion of our worship service to say hello to someone you don't know—perhaps someone visiting our Society for the very first time. Make the extra effort, even if they dress a little funny, or seem older (or younger, or just different) than you. You may or may not discover an angel. But I can guarantee you'll encounter a unique individual, with a story to tell and gifts to share.

Gary

Upcoming Sundays

November Worship Theme:

Autumn Passage

Autumn stands for many things: aging, loss, separation and death. But also for ripening, wisdom, fullness and harvest. Inevitably, the season recalls time's passage, with the distinctive beauty that belongs to things ephemeral and transient. *"My sorrow, when she's here with me, thinks these dark days of autumn rain are beautiful as days can be; she loves the bare, the withered tree; she walks the sodden pasture lane."* Robert Frost

Sunday, November 4, 9 am & 11 am "Gaia, Mother Earth and the Oneness of Everything"

Over the past 20 years Jim Scott has brought his music to over 400 UU congregations across the US, Canada and the UK. Jim's songs are included in the UU Hymn book ("Gather the Spirit"), and in the new hymn book supplement. Formerly the Co-Chair of the UU Seventh Principle Project, Jim helped create the "Green Sanctuary" program. As a member of the Paul Winter Consort, he was co-creator of the monumental choral work *Missa Gaia/Earth Mass*. His list of published choral works continues to grow and his musical creativity includes soundtracks for PBS, a stage musical, and many recordings. Today we welcome him to Burlington!

Sunday, November 11, 9 & 11am "A Lover's Quarrel with the World"

What better season than autumn with its yellow woods and fallen leaves no step has trodden black to explore the poetry and spirituality of Robert Frost, who called his verse "a momentary stay against confusion?" Gary leads the service and the choir sings. New members will be introduced.

Sunday, November 18, 11 am "Local-Vores and Home-Cooked Faith"

Recent historical research indicates that the ingredients for first Thanksgiving may have been homegrown, and that, without knowing it, the Pilgrims were actually localvores! In this celebration for all ages, Gary and Martha suggest that, along with homemade cranberry relish, a locally grown faith tends to be more zesty (and healthier) than the store bought kind. The Children's Choir with Dawna Hammers will sing. *[There will be no Sunday School and no early worship service this morning.]*



Religious Education News



Growing up, my sisters and I had to do chores to help with household maintenance. We used a chore chart, kept on the refrigerator, to keep track of the weekly rotation of responsibilities. There were six chores, and each of us was responsible for two of them at a time. They were: feed the cat and bring in firewood; fold the laundry and sweep the kitchen floor; do the dinner dishes and collect the trash on Saturday for the dump.

It was a good system in many ways. We worked out the pairings of the jobs so that heavier responsibilities were spread out. Since it rotated weekly, we always had a measured dose of both those chores we didn't like and the ones we didn't mind. The system's weakness was the fact of my mother's seemingly incessant nagging at us to do our chores. Were we really as flaky and unreliable as her nagging suggested? Clearly I had the skills to carry out these tasks. But would I remember before the day was done and time was out? Mom's nagging told me: "I doubt it." And what a frustrating drag it was to be pre-empted with a reminder to do something that I fully intended to do! "Just trust me, mom!" I wanted to scream!

Now I find myself empathizing with mom (a little). Had we blown it, the whole family (cat included) would have suffered the consequences (if mom had ever let the consequences play out!). While that's not fair, it is *real*.

As in a household, there are regular chores needed to keep RE running smoothly too. And we have a new policy with clear consequences if teachers don't sign up: *classes may be cancelled*. With the threat of cancelled classes, people have responded like heroes, immediately stepping in where needed! When it comes down to it, we all want to avoid the consequences of a cancelled class, and your heroic actions demonstrate that. *You* know that our UU chores include contributing volunteer time in the classrooms on Sundays so as to create, every week, that community where our children come to learn and grow. Deep down, you are committed to doing your chores!

And I don't wish to nag you. Instead, I aim to inspire you, to support you, and to extend to you my trust that as UUs, you believe deeply in the goodness of raising children in this community. And in that deep belief, you will, on a regular basis, like an everyday hero, and with your own initiative, do your UU chores!

Martha

RE e-news

Martha sends out a weekly "e-news" every Wednesday to everyone in the RE community. This newsletter is of a practical nature, with info for parents, teachers, other RE stewards, and the general RE community. A few paper copies are printed each week and are available on the RE Welcome table on Sundays in the Community Room. If you would like to receive the e-news, please let Martha know at 862-5630 x 28 or Martha@uusociety.org. Thank you!

Simplified Holidays

This year, your Religious Education Committee has decided to rename former Way Cool Sunday School days "Activity Sundays" to better reflect what we do on these non-teaching RE days. Our first Activity Sunday will be held on November 25th and our theme is "Simplified Holidays."

The idea of Activity Sunday is to gather all ages together, to share in the bigger place of RE beyond our classrooms. Simplified Holidays will be offered at both 9am and 11am with activities designed to intrigue, inspire and promote joyfulness among ourselves. We will have a variety of stations for children and their parents, including a place to make coupon books for non-material giving, a bird food-ball room for feathered friends, and an idea-sharing room for adults. All are designed to make our holidays more joy-filled and less stress-filled.

We hope you will join us for Simplified Holidays on Sunday, November 25th as we help our children and ourselves spend our holiday time among friends, sharing together. If you have questions or would like to help, please contact Ginger Williamson at 985-3010 or email her at campwestwick@verizon.net. Thank you!

Membership Matters

Ours is a religion based on the premise of covenant rather than creed. We do not all think alike, but pledge together to walk in mutual respect and forbearance with one another. In signing our membership book, you do not subscribe to a doctrine, but join yourself to a community committed to upholding the rights of conscience and freedom of the spirit. *On Sunday, November 11, our Membership Book will be available all morning in the Community Room downstairs. Martha, Roddy and Gary would be more than happy to meet with you to answer any questions about our congregation you might have. If you are ready to call yourself a Unitarian Universalist, we invite you to join us and ally yourself with the proud tradition we share.*

PJC Benefit

On November 6, from 5-9pm,

American Flatbread will donate \$4 from each flatbread you buy to the Peace & Justice Center.

Holiday Bazaar Planned for December 1st

Believe it or not, it's just around the corner! Beautiful greens and wreaths, books galore, knitted goods, wonderful baked goods and jellies/jams, attic Treasures, holiday decorations, toys, a silent auction and Lunch. Hours 10:00 to 2:00 with lunch available from 11:30-1:00. Help us make it a BIG success by recycling clean items in good repair (kids like to do their holiday shopping with us), baking your favorite bread/pastries and sharing your pickles, jams/jellies etc. Books and items for the Attic Treasures can be left downstairs in the Dorothea Dix classroom between Monday, November 26 and Thursday, November 29.

Thanks,
The Women's Alliance

Housing Opportunity

Roommate/caregiver needed in 2BR apartment in exchange for rent/some meals. Care is just 3-5 hrs/wk of light housekeeping + help w/ grocery shopping once/mo. Please be responsible, quiet, respectful, open-minded & cat-friendly, & able to contribute \$200/mo. for bills. Apartment has DSL, phone, off-street parking and is a 5 min walk to the First UU Society. E-mail tcdn2007@gmail.com.

Dream Group Forming

Sign up on the bulletin board to share in an exploration of our dreams and inner selves, starting Sunday evening November 11, and continuing for five weeks, facilitated by Gary Kowalski.

The UU Book Store is Back!

The book cart will be in the Parlors after each service on the first and third Sunday of the month. You can purchase books on UUism, meditations and prayer, poetry, books for children, social commentary, GLBTQ issues, other faiths, parenting, and several other topics of interest. You'll also find books by authors from our own congregation, including Gary Kowalski and Bill Cleary. Proceeds from the sales of books will benefit the Society. New books will be arriving soon so be sure to stop by the cart in the Parlor to take a look. If you have questions, would like to request a certain kind of book, or would like to volunteer to sell books, contact Elaine Sopchak at esopchak@mac.com.

Newsletter News

The next deadline is Monday, November 5th @9am. That issue will cover November 18 - December 8, 2007. You can view the newsletter and this year's newsletter schedule on our website:

**First Unitarian Universalist
Society**
862-5630

Gary Kowalski, Minister

*Roddy O'Neil Cleary,
Affiliate Minister*

*Jerrold Packard,
Board President*

*Martha Dallas, Director
of Religious Education*

*David McFeeters,
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*Wayne Schneider,
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*Christina Fulton,
Society Administrator*

*Kathleen Ingram,
Administrative Assistant*

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

www.uusociety.org. Deadline is firm.

Moveable Feast

On Saturday, November 10th VIA (Vermont Interfaith Action) is holding its second annual Movable Feast, a fund raising event with a flair. You have the opportunity to enjoy an evening of fun surrounded by like minded people from the seven faith-based congregations in the Burlington area that are involved with VIA's work. First, enjoy a variety of foods created by the good folks at Ohavi Zedek Synagogue on North Prospect St. from 6:30 - 7:45pm. Then attend a delicious dinner at a volunteer's home with your friends and other UUs. The host provides the fine food and your only requirement is a donation of \$30 to VIA. Where else can you enjoy your friends, meet new ones, enjoy a fine dinner, and benefit an organization on the move? And, the donation is fully tax deductible! See you there. Look for sign up sheets on the bulletin board at the First UU. Care to open your house to 6-8 people? Questions? Call Pat Allen at 864-9799 or email at pictallen@aol.com.

Evolutionary Faith

UU evangelist Rev. Michael Dowd's acclaimed, "Thank God for Evolution: How the Marriage of Science and Religion Will Transform Your Life and Our World" (endorsed by 5 Nobel prize-winners) is available as a free PDF download November 1: <http://www.ThankGodforEvolution.com>. Hardcover copies are also available from Amazon and Barnes & Noble: <http://www.thankgodforevolution.com/th-e-book.html>.

Celebrate UU Faith in Action!

Founded in 1939 to rescue victims of Nazi persecution, the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) is an independent human rights organization whose work is grounded in UU principles and made possible by the activism and generosity of over 47,000 members and supporters.

For more than 30 years, UU communities nationwide have participated in Guest at Your Table. They have come together for this special tradition to give thanks, celebrate UU values, and partner with UUSC to change the world.

Your generous Guest at Your Table support makes possible the work of UUSC and its program partners. Together, we strengthen workers' rights; protect the right to safe, affordable water; defend civil liberties and democratic processes; and preserve the rights of vulnerable people after disasters.

Our tradition of Guest at Your Table helps bring us closer to our shared UU principles, while celebrating our power to help change the world and sharing our blessings. On Sunday, November 18 we will launch Guest at Your Table in our First UU congregation. On the 18th we will hand out boxes during the service and we hope that you will welcome a Guest at Your Table this year. UU membership begins at \$40 (or \$20 for seniors, and just \$10 for students and youth). Gifts of \$100 or more from a family or individual are eligible to be matched dollar for dollar through a matching grant.

Thank you for helping to celebrate UU faith in action.

Book Discussion Group

Join us on Tuesday, November 13, to discuss Water for Elephants by *Sara Gruen*. "...this masterpiece of story telling is a book about what animals can teach people about love." On Tuesday, December 11, we will discuss The Omnivore's dilemma: A Natural History of Four Meals by *Michael Pollan*., named one of the 10 best books of 2006 by the New York Times. Both meetings will be at 7pm at the First UU Society. Please call Bud or Alison Etherton at 658-4126 with questions.

Electronic Documents

All half-page inserts must be submitted in electronic form by 9am on Monday for inclusion in the Order of Service for the following Sunday. If you add an insert at the last minute, we don't have the opportunity to proof, edit and/or

transfer the content to other formats in time for all to use on Sunday morning. Thank you.

Bazaar Wreath & Greens News

Orders

Sign up at the bulletin board to order your memorial wreaths and poinsettias which decorate our Sanctuary during December & January; also order plain or decorated wreaths for home or office. Wreaths are made on a 12" frame. To order larger sizes, built on rings of 14", 16", 18", 24" 30", or 36", please sign up, call, or e-mail Susan Alden **by November 14**, at 863-6585, or susanalden1@verizon.net. Prices will be listed on the sheets. Wreaths will be ready for pickup at the Bazaar on December 1.

Workers/Decorators

Helpers are needed to decorate wreaths and make swags, seasonal table decorations and bows, Thursday, & Friday, November 29 & 30. Sign-up sheets will be on the bulletin board. We also need people to sell wreaths at the Bazaar, and on Sunday, December 2. Please bring donations of milkweed pods, stems with red berries, nice pine cones, white pine, fir, and cedar with berries.

VIA Local Organizing Committee Meeting

Find out what the VIA UUs have been doing by attending an open meeting of our Vermont Interfaith Action members. The meeting is planned for Sunday, November 11th at 12:15. Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend. Our meeting will consist of an update on our various projects including affordable housing at UVM and Westlake, Catamount Health Care, and plans for VIA to spread throughout Vermont. There will be plenty of time to answer questions about VIA. Hungry? Not to worry. We're serving bagels with cream cheese, cider, and fruit. Grab your coffee and join us. Look for our meeting place on the white board near the office. Questions? Call Pat Allen at 864-9799.

Thanksgiving Bags

Each year our UU Congregation collects bags of food and toiletries to keep the JUMP shelves stocked with staples for people who need them. This year we will add a list of items for immigrant families. This important collection will take place during our Thanksgiving service on November 18 at the 11 am service. Our contributions allow JUMP to be well supplied during the holiday season when things can be difficult for families and those who are alone. RE children will decorate the bags that will be available at both services on November 4th. Additional shopping lists can be found on the Social Action Bulletin Board. Thank you. Your JUMP volunteers.

Author, Author!

Congratulations to First UU playwright Maura Campbell on the premiere of her new drama "Wild Geese" playing at the Manhattan Repertory Theater in New

York City on November 14, 16 & 17.
For ticket information, call (646) 329-
6588.

First Unitarian Universalist Society
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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Joint Urban Ministry Project: Volunteers Needed

Would you like to join a dedicated group of volunteers who spend two week day mornings a month (8:30-12:30) assisting J.U.M.P. in meeting its goals of promoting the physical, emotional and spiritual well being of people in crisis?

Volunteers offer a warm welcome to a diverse group of people in the Burlington area. We offer direct assistance of personal and household needs, listen to their concerns and, with the co-director, offer advocacy and referral to other appropriate agencies. We have been working diligently to reach out to the African refugee community and would welcome volunteers especially interested in this endeavor.

The Joint Urban Ministry Project is actively seeking new volunteers from our sustaining and contributing churches. If you have questions or would like to volunteer, please contact one of the UU J.U.M.P. Board members: Lynn Douglas, Ginger Hobbs or Merl Grossmeyer

Just How Welcoming Are We?

In an effort to make our Society more welcoming to first time visitors, we have decided to increase our visitor parking. Beginning today, the entire oval will be dedicated to visitor parking on Sunday mornings. Also, please remember that the entire row of parking directly behind the back of the church is dedicated handicapped parking. Sunday parking is available to everyone in the remainder of the lower back lot, in the upper lot and in the city parking lot on Elmwood Ave. Cars parked in the lot on the corner of Clarke Street and Pearl Street will be towed on Sunday mornings. If you have an idea on how to make our Society a more welcoming place, please let us know! You can send your ideas to Christina at xina@uusociety.org.

Fall Cleaning?

The 6th graders are looking for clean, gently-used toys to sell at the Holiday Bazaar on December 1, 2007. The money raised by the 6th graders will go toward their Boston Trip in May, 2008. By decreasing clutter in your home, you can help the 6th graders reach their goal of Boston! Donations for the Bazaar will be accepted starting Monday, November 26, 2007 until Friday, November 30th. If you cannot donate items during that time, please contact Peggy at 658-3258 to make other arrangements.

Thanksgiving Grace

Need a prayer for your holiday meal? Try one of these:

Loving spirit, be our guest;
Dine with us, share our bread,
That our table might be blessed
And our souls be fed. (*G. Kowalski*)

For this new day with its light,
For rest and shelter of the night,
For health and food, for love and friends,
Giver of all, we thank thee.
(*adapted from R.W. Emerson*)

May the Four Winds of Heaven
Blow gently upon you
And upon those with whom
You share your hearth and home. (*attributed to Coahuila Indians*)
