



October 21, 2007 -
November 3, 2007

Calendar

- Sunday, October 21**
9:00 Worship Service
9:15 Care Network Ministry
11:00 Worship Service
12:30 Social Action Forum
7:00 Building Your Own Theology
- Monday, October 22**
***** Zen (Call office for time)
9:00 Newsletter deadline
9:00 Joyful Parenting SGM
12:00 Living Fully & Dying Well
4:00 Roddy's Com. on Ministry
- Tuesday, October 23**
10:00 Small Group Ministry
- Wednesday, October 24**
9:00 Staff Meeting
7:00 Choir Rehearsal
- Thursday, October 25**
***** Zen (Call office for time)
12:00 Root Yoga Community Class
6:00 Mysticism Sm. Group Ministry
6:00 Council Meeting
- Friday, October 26**
6:30 AA Men's Group
- Saturday, October 27**
9:00 New UU Program
- Sunday, October 28**
9:00 Worship Service
11:00 Worship Service
7:00 Building Your Own Theology
- Monday, October 29**
***** Zen (Call office for time)
12:00 Living Fully & Dying Well
- Tuesday, October 30**
10:00 Wisdom Wanderers
- Wednesday, October 31**
9:00 Staff Meeting
7:00 Choir Rehearsal
- Thursday, November 1**
***** Zen (Call office for time)
12:00 Root Yoga Community Class
- Friday, November 2**
10:30 Women's Alliance Meeting
6:30 AA Men's Group
- Saturday, November 3**

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!

In My Heart

As we drove up the circular driveway of Marymount, my old religious home, I saw in the dark three deer grazing placidly on the front lawn. At first, I thought they were statues, part of the recent renovation that transformed an academy into a home for retired and aging sisters. When the does began to move, I felt blest by their ease and gracefulness.

Bill and I were escorted to a guest room fit for royalty. The space was referred to as the tower room, previously used as an infirmary for students. Out the window, the light of the Tappan Zee Bridge reminded me of my former teacher, Sister Peter. Ever the poet, she saw the lights as a necklace that adorned the Hudson River.

In the elevator that took us to our tower room, the first thing I saw was a "whiteboard" with the word "pusillanimous" printed across the top. The message, which I learned changed daily, could not have been more synchronistic. Pusillanimity is a fault I've struggled to overcome ever since I learned that the word means "small-souled." I have found that community is the best antidote for people like me; it has a way of stretching the soul. How providential that "pusillanimous" should have been on the board the one day that we happened to be visiting.

The company at breakfast the next morning was the best, filled with welcoming hugs and warm reminiscences. After breakfast, I visited with a few of the more infirm sisters. One spoke of a scheduled meeting that morning to review her Life Plan, something she does routinely with a group of twelve other sisters. It's never too late for a Life Plan!

We left being assured of the prayers of the community for Bill's blood disorder. The purpose of our trip to New York was to see if he might qualify as a subject for a study being done on his autoimmune disease. We won't know for a while.

Our marathon trip was facilitated and enhanced by the visit to my religious sisters. I'm reminded of the lyrics of Joni Mitchell's song from the '60s, "Both Sides Now," which I understand from my son, Tom, has just been newly recorded by Herbie Hancock. "I've looked at love and life from both sides now," and am happy to say that the joy of community is no illusion. It's alive and well, both at Marymount and in our own society. I give thanks!

Roddy

Upcoming Sundays

October Worship Theme: Sex

What defines healthy human sexuality? Are there distinctive modes of spirituality that differentiate the sexes? How can religion reclaim the erotic as an affirmative life force? What does it mean to be a Welcoming Congregation? *"Urge and urge and urge, Always the procreant urge of the world. Out of the dimness opposite equals advance, always substance and increase, always sex."* From Walt Whitman, *Song of Myself*

Sunday, October 21, 9 & 11am "A Fascinating Pair: God & Sex"

Here are two subjects that never seem to lose their attraction. Theologian and therapist Thomas Moore describes them both as being *"tremendum et fascinans."* Interestingly, God and Sex are what contributed to the split between Jung and Freud. What role do these subjects play in your own relationships? Do they draw you together or drive you apart? This morning, Roddy considers the mystery and power contained in both and why they continue to fascinate us.

Sunday, October 28, 9 am & 11 am

"Spooks" Gary says, "Maybe I'm showing my age, but three weeks of sex is enough. I'm ready for November's theme, autumn's passage. In honor of Halloween, this morning's service will be about ectoplasm: those poltergeists, ghosts and spectral visitations that sometimes visit even the most rational Unitarians. Our fascination with ghost stories (and the goosebumps they inspire) may or may not say anything about the great beyond. But they do say something about us." *If you have personal experience with spooks to share, email your tales to gary@uusociety.org.* The choir will sing, featuring the song "Breaths."

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!



Religious Education News



Expectations. Recently, I've been thinking a lot about expectations and how they relate to people's involvement here at First UU, and especially their involvement in religious education.

I've been thinking this especially since having read and discussed a little booklet by the Rev. Marilyn Sewell, called, "Unitarian Universalism: the Present and the Promise." In it, she argues that this moment in history is perhaps especially ripe for UUism to flourish, yet our tiny numbers are barely holding steady. "Why?" she asks, and then suggests some answers. She points out, for example that the downside to our tolerance is that we put up with each others' behaviors, choices, and decisions when sometimes we shouldn't.

In this UU community, should we have expectations of one another? Should you have expectations of me? Should I have expectations of you? What if we don't? What if we do? What difference does it make to the promise of Unitarian Universalism?

I was reminded that in recent years, when someone signs our membership book, they are asked to consider, every day: "What have I done for myself? What have I done for First UU? What have I done for the wider community?" By officially joining us, they learn something crucial about this community: that our care, concern, and commitment must be balanced and distributed among these three ever wider circles of identity. *This is who we are.*

At a recent RE Committee meeting, I was asked to report on the number of committed RE stewards. There are lots. There are currently about 110. But sharing a large number like that suggests that we must be in fine shape, when in truth we aren't. So we briefly discussed the term, *expectations*, as it related to teaching in RE. It is clear that we can't have a "one size fits all" formula for teaching or other volunteer commitments to RE. What, then?

Perhaps what we need is to develop a covenant that we intentionally enter into with one another – a statement of purpose and commitment that reminds us that *together* we learn and grow as UUs, and as UUs we give out to the world as well as in to ourselves. And I believe the more this giving grows in depth, breadth, and frequency, the more we will find ourselves living in ways that we had previously merely dreamt. May it be so!

Martha

Assistant Minister Search

We have been charged by the Board to recommend candidates (probably three) for this full-time position. The final decision and job offer will be the Board's.

Simply because it cannot be done, it is not our intention to *replace* Roddy.

Roddy O'Neil Cleary has faithfully served our congregation for twelve years, and we will forever remember and thank the divine intervention that made that possible. She will remain in our hearts, and after the transition period, hopefully she will become an active member of our congregation.

As the search committee, it is our plan to fill the position of Assist. Minister by:

1. researching the UUA guidelines (In general, an Assistant Minister, anxious for his/her own congregation, does not remain beyond a few years.)
2. consulting with Gary Kowalski; this person will be working closely with Gary and will regularly report to him.
3. getting feedback from the congregation as to its needs and desires. This will be done by visiting the Council, which represents all the committees of the Society, and by administering a congregational survey. If at this point we need more input, we will hold an open forum and possibly make a suggestion box available.

Input also arrives in the form of informal chats. Please feel free to approach any of us with help in this important task. Coffee hour is an ideal time, and we will try our best to remember to wear our name tags! *John Byer, Gary DeCarolis, Lynn Foster (chair), Aimee Hutchins Cronin, Merl Grossmeyer, Barbara Heeter, Bridget Meyer*

Memorial Garden

The Memorial Garden, installed in 1980, is available to members and friends of the Society who wish to have their ashes or the ashes of their loved ones buried within the circle of our Unitarian Universalist Community.

For more printed information about the Garden and to obtain the form used for requesting interment, contact Christina Fulton, our Society Administrator or Mary Gade, Chair of the Memorial Garden Committee.

ARC Gallery

There is a new exhibit in the gallery by Karin Robinson, aka: Spike, showing photo/digital creations that will intrigue. You may recognize local vistas or find yourself aligned with a Taro character. The works are light and whimsical, yet complicated, deep, AND colorful. Come and see! On display 9/15 thru 12/1/07.

New UU Class

Want to know more about Unitarian Universalism? If you're a new comer or even an "old" comer – the key is that if you have lots of questions - we have such a deal for you! Come to the New UU class on October 27, 9am – 12noon, and we will strive to fill you up with information about the UU movement and First UU Society of Burlington, in particular. There will be activities for children at this program, and child care for the very young. Please be sure to sign up on the sheet posted on the bulletin board. Questions? Linda Gross, 872-9167, or lgross@together.net.

Women's Alliance Programs

The Woman's Alliance is planning a full roster of programs for their first Friday meetings. The November 2nd gathering in the Parlors will feature author Peter Kurth. Peter has written many books and articles for magazines and is a columnist for Burlington's own *Seven Days*. His book, *American Cassandra*, a biography of Dorothy Thompson, is of special relevance and interest to members and will likely be discussed. The meeting starts at 10:30 with Peter speaking around 11:30.

At the November meeting, we also hope to sign up folks to help with the Holiday Bazaar. If you are interested, call Lois Holbrook at 985-5924 or email her at lhobrook67@verizon.net.

Future programs will feature more authors, and community movers and shakers. Of special note is a combination luncheon and speaker program with local author, Annie Downey on February 1, 2008. It is hoped that members working nearby will plan to spend their lunch hour with us.

Get Your Receipts!

Our wonderful friends in Washington have added a kink to the ease of putting cash into the plate on Sunday mornings. As of January 2007, you now need to have a receipt if you want to claim any cash contribution on your taxes. You will find Cash Contribution envelopes in the pews on Sunday mornings. If you would like a receipt for your cash contribution, please complete the form on the front of the envelope, put your cash in the envelope and put the envelope in the basket. If you are in our data base, your receipt will come in the form of a Giving Statement which is mailed every quarter. If you are not in our data base, you will receive a letter as your receipt. If you are not interested in claiming your cash contribution on your taxes, just go ahead and toss your cash in the basket. No receipts will be issued for cash contributions not put in an envelope. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Christina 802-862-5630 ext. 22 or xina@uusociety.org.

**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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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.

Women's Spirituality

The Women's Spirituality group meets all but the first Sunday of each month at 10am in the Clarke Street building. This fall we are reading Practicing Resurrection: A Memoir of Work, Doubt, Discernment, and Moments of Grace by Nora Gallagher, 2003. Please join us.

Electronic Documents

Please be considerate of the office work flow and those who need and deserve access to information in our orders of service. Any inserts must be submitted in electronic form by 9am on Monday for inclusion in the OOS 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.

Dance Concert

Ohavi Zedek hosts a dance concert featuring the Starline Rhythm Boys, Saturday October 27, at 8 p.m. at the synagogue. All faiths invited to this fund raising event. Tickets are \$18 and up, purchased by calling 864-0218 or visiting www.ohavizedek.com/concert.

Are You a Member?

In a Unitarian Universalist congregation, membership doesn't imply assent to any creed or doctrine. But it does affirm a bond of care and connection with others who make this their spiritual home. As a member, you recognize that the tapestry of community is woven of many reciprocal affections and obligations. You allow the thread of your life to be cross-stitched with the threads of others in a garment of mutual love and respect. This, at any rate, is our ideal, and we invite you to share it with us. Please speak with me, Martha or Roddy if you would like to become part of the living fabric of this Society. Gary

Come to the Table

A community potluck dinner & sing along concert, led by Dawna Hammers, is scheduled for Saturday, November 17th at The First Unitarian Society of Burlington, 152 Pearl St. The concert will be recorded "live!" Lend your voice! Dinner begins at 6pm, with the Concert to follow at 7:30pm. Donations gladly accepted to benefit the "World Unity Choir" CD project; a CD of Dawna's inspiring songs that she hopes to sell at the United Nations to raise money for innocent victims of war. All Welcome! For more info, call 985-2074 or go to www.dawnahammers.net. We are all one spirit!

Save the Date

The Movable Feast returns! Vermont Interfaith Action's own version of a progressive dinner, which many enjoyed last year, will be held again this fall on Saturday, November 10. We'll begin the evening at Ohavi Zedek synagogue with hors d'oeuvres and then move on to homes for the main course and dessert. There will be an opportunity to dine with people from other congregations if you're interested, or stay with close friends if you feel more comfortable. Details will follow soon.

Braille Hymn Organizing

We could use some help in organizing the braille hymns and readings used each Sunday morning. If you have a couple of free hours in the near future, please give the office a call at 862-5630, ext. 21. Thanks!

GoodSearch and GoodShop

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

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

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

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

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

Needless to say, we're really excited to offer you this new service and we hope you'll help spread the word!

Holly Near

Feminist folksinger Near will be appearing on Sunday, October 21, 7:30 p.m. at the Franklin UU Meetinghouse, 206 Central St. in Franklin, NH to raise funds for the congregation. Tickets are \$25 at the door, or \$20 in advance, available by calling Gail at 603-286-4596.

Staff Phone Numbers

We can be reached by calling 862-5630 and then choosing an extension:

Gary Kowalski x24
Roddy O'Neil Cleary x25
Martha Dallas x28
Christina Fulton x22
David McFeeters x23
Kathleen Ingram x21

Newsletter News

The next deadline is Monday, October 22nd @9am. That issue will cover November 4 - November 17, 2007. You can view the newsletter and this year's newsletter schedule on our website: www.uusociety.org.

First Unitarian Universalist Society
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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

See the Magic -- Become a Classroom Helper!

Have you considered helping out in RE? RE could use you. If you haven't, take a minute to do so. RE could use you.

With the second year of two service RE underway, second service classes are full! The ratio of children attending preschool through fifth grade (the classes we offer at both services) at second service to those attending first service classes is approaching one to one. Last year the ratio between the two services was one to six in favor of first service. Overall attendance in RE is up with opening day seeing the largest number of kids ever recorded on one Sunday. If a goal of two services was to grow our Society and accommodate more children, it is working!

What is not working as well is staffing two-service classes. Teaching teams are generally able to provide a lead teacher. What we have a big need for is more classroom helpers.

Take a moment to consider helping out in RE for a Sunday. Consider it a way to see what goes on downstairs. Consider it your holiday gift to an RE parent. Consider it a way to do something useful on a Sunday morning. Come see the magic happening in RE. In the process you might gain something meaningful for yourself.

For more information on helping in RE, see the lavender brochure in the church pews or contact Martha Dallas, our DRE, at martha@uusociety.org or 862-5630 x28. *Respectfully submitted by Pam Laser, RE Committee Chair*

Practicing Your Faith: Finding Your Truth **An Adult Religious Education Group**

Join us for a practical exploration of personal faith development drawing on the wisdom from the world's faith traditions. This group was offered last spring and if there's interest, we'll offer it again this fall and winter. It is open to anyone. You need not have participated last spring to participate this fall. We'll meet for eight sessions on either Wednesday or Thursday evenings. The facilitator is Rev. M'ellen Kennedy, a Unitarian Universalist community minister and community psychologist and member of the congregation. The course is free, limited to 10 participants, and pre-registration is required. Please register by adding Your name to the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board at the Society or by contacting M'ellen at mellenken@aol.com or 802-453-5469.

Summary of Cash Activity
