



October 4, 2009 -  
October 18, 2009

## Calendar

### Sunday, October 4

9:00 Worship Service  
11:00 Worship Service  
12:15 Diogenes & Doggie Wisdom  
5:00 Yoga  
7:30 Religion in an Age of Science

### Monday, October 5

\*\*\*\*\* Zen (Call office for time)  
9:00 Newsletter Deadline  
5:00 All Committee Night

### Tuesday, October 6

12:00 Staff Lunch  
7:00 Executive Board Meeting

### Wednesday, October 7

9:00 Staff Meeting  
6:30 RE Committee Meeting  
7:00 Choir Rehearsal

### Thursday, October 8

9:00 Newsletter Crew  
10:00 SGM Steering Committee  
5:20 UUBF Zen Meditation

### Friday, October 9

6:00 OWL Teacher Meeting  
6:30 AA Men's Group

### Saturday, October 10

6:00 Second Saturday Potluck

### Sunday, October 11

9:00 Worship Service  
11:00 Worship Service  
12:30 Film: "Preacher's Sons"  
12:30 New UU Class  
5:00 Yoga  
7:30 Religion in an Age of Science

### Monday, October 12

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

### Tuesday, October 13

12:00 Staff Lunch  
6:00 VIA Action Team  
7:00 Book Discussion Group

### Wednesday, October 14

9:00 Staff Meeting  
10:30 VIA Press Conference  
7:00 Choir Rehearsal

### Thursday, October 15

5:20 UUBF Zen Meditation

### Friday, October 16

6:30 AA Men's Group

### Saturday, October 17

### Sunday, October 18

9:00 Worship Service  
11:00 Worship Service  
12:30 Film: "Sisters in War"  
12:30 Social Action Forum  
12:30 New UU Class  
5:00 Yoga

## On My Mind

Do we live on? No one knows for sure. Ben Franklin once said he found it hard to imagine the universe would bother to create minds like his, only to snuff them out forever.

He was more certain that he would survive in his deeds on earth. And one of his last acts was to invest \$2000 (the sum he would have earned as Governor of Pennsylvania, had he accepted any salary for the post), with the accumulated interest to be disbursed 200 years after his death.

At that point, the U.S. Constitution had only been in effect for three years. There was no guarantee the country would even last 200 years. But with his benefaction, Franklin helped make it so.

By 1990, his account had grown to over seven million dollars and was distributed to a variety of libraries, schools, fire fighting companies and other charities.

The little band that founded our Society in 1810 were similar visionaries. Burlington at that time was not the biggest town in the state; there hardly was a state. But with the magnificent meetinghouse they constructed-at a cost of \$25,000-our forbears established the top of Church Street as a center of liberal thought that would endure for two centuries.

As we approach our bicentennial in 2010, our congregation is launching a Planned Giving Campaign that invites each of us to reflect on what our own legacy will be. Determining how our financial assets are most prudently used during our own lifetime and beyond-these are practical matters. But as Ben Franklin and our own Unitarian founders realized, these are also spiritual concerns. Our decisions today have power to shape the future our descendants will inherit.

During the coming weeks and months, each of us will be asked to consider making a planned gift to insure that coming generations enjoy the religious heritage that was handed down to us.

When it comes time for the final "life review" (whether here or hereafter), be proud of the investments you've made.

## Upcoming Sundays

### Worship Theme for October: Diversity

Unitarian Universalists celebrate diversity. But do we also embody it? When does difference enrich the fabric of community, and when do we perceive it as a threat? Can diversity serve as a connecting principle, or do we need to affirm a core of values and aspiration that all people share? *"If we are to achieve a richer culture, rich in contrasting values, we must recognize the whole gamut of human potentialities, and so weave a less arbitrary social fabric, one in which each diverse human gift will find a fitting place."* Margaret Mead

### Sunday, October 4, 11am

**"Blessing of the Animals"** A celebration for animals and their people. Two-legged, four-legged, winged and finned beings of all ages are invited! Please be sure your companion animals are well-mannered and under your control for the safety and enjoyment of all. **Note: There is no service at 9:00 am.**

### Sunday, October 11, 9am & 11am "The Ghost in the Machine"

What are the marks of divinity? How do we recognize spirit? Will a machine ever be able to tell a joke, write a ballad, or experience grief or love? Gary's sermon this morning is augmented by the remarks of C. Roebuck Reed, the producer of a 90 minute documentary film titled "Preacher's Sons," the provocative story of UU minister Reverend Greg Stewart, his longtime partner (now husband) and their five sons, adopted from the California foster system, following the family as they encounter both racism and homophobia in their attempt to find a home. "Preacher's Sons" will be shown at 12:30 in the Community Room downstairs. This is our annual Coming Out Sunday.

### Sunday, October 18, 9am & 11am "Pillars and Windows"

The architecture of our historic meetinghouse says a good deal about our Unitarian Universalist values, serving as a starting point for Gary's thoughts on leadership and community. This Sunday marks the official launch of our Society's Planned Giving Campaign, designed to help our congregation navigate confidently toward its third century. The Choir will sing.

**Gary**



## Message from Martha

Spaces and places are teachers. Yes, we learn a lot from the world around us! First UU's meetinghouse gives us messages and teaches us things. When we move through it, we're learning both about *it*, and about *ourselves*.

In educational circles, sometimes you will hear talk of *explicit vs. implicit* curriculum. If the curriculum is understood as "the stuff you are learning," then some of what you're learning is explicitly, intentionally taught. Other stuff you learn is stuff you just pick up, whether or not someone intended for you to learn it. That's the implicit curriculum. What our building teaches us is often *implicit*.

BUT: Implicit and explicit messages can sometimes *clash*. Their teachings can directly contradict each other.

For example, consider the meetinghouse's north stairwell; in particular: the stairs from the first floor to the basement. The implicit message I feel this area has given is, "*You are descending into a basement and storage area. Never mind the grey concrete wall and floor; the relatively dim electric lighting; the signs, orange cones, and other items tucked to the side; the slight lumps under the rug covering access to our utility pipes in case the sewer backs up. I'm sure you don't mind. You'll pass through quickly. It's not a very important part of the building.*" Those who frequently pass through this space receive this message. And because most of our R.E. classrooms are housed in the basement, and because this is the main entrance to our basement, the primary receivers of this implicit message are our children, youth, and their parents. *Explicitly*, we proclaim – in spoken and printed word – the valued place of children, youth, and parents in this faith community. *Implicitly*, however, the message they get from this part of the building is something like, "*You are somewhat less important and valuable to us.*" Voilà: the implicit and explicit *clash*.

But there's reason to rejoice! Recently, David McFeeters and Myra Timmins have been working to spruce up this area. They painted the lower walls of the back stairwell, including the gray concrete foundation. They hung a poster of the Seven Principles at the bottom of the stairs. Soon they will install brand new treads on the worn stairs. With a little attention, a little effort to positively align the implicit with the explicit message, the space is now beginning to say, "*Welcome, families. You matter to us. You are an important part of this community, so we want you to feel special and valued when you move through this 'gateway' to R.E. We have cared for this space to show our care for you.*"

With deep gratitude and appreciation to Myra and David for their caring work, I too, bid you a repeating and hearty "Welcome!"

Martha Dallas,  
Director of Religious Education

## Drumming Circle

Come to a community drumming circle led by Dawna Hammers! Meetings are every Friday night from 7-9pm at Hammers Music Ed Studio, 9 Railroad Lane, Shelburne, VT 05482, (802) 236-2528. Suggested donation is \$10 per person / \$15 per family or equal food /work exchange/ barter possible. Go to [www.dawnahammers.net](http://www.dawnahammers.net) for more info. Call by 5pm Friday to confirm and hold a space in the circle! All are welcome, no experience necessary. It's fun! Park at the railroad station across the street.

## New UU Class

Want to know more about Unitarian Universalism? If you are a new comer or even an "old" comer – the key is that you have lots of questions - we have such a deal for you! Come to the New UU class, in two parts, on Sunday October 11 and Sunday October 18 from 12:30–1:30 PM, 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 for the very young, child care will be available. Please be sure to sign up on the sheet posted on the bulletin board. Questions? Call or email Jeanne Lynch at 658-0006 or [jbl05403@yahoo.com](mailto:jbl05403@yahoo.com).

## UVM Film Series: Race & Ethnicity

"Far From Home" - Kandice is an African-American teenager who participates in METCO, a voluntary school integration program in Boston. Ever since kindergarten she has been bused to the public schools of Weston, a predominately white and affluent neighborhood. She shares her conflicted feelings about traversing these two different worlds. This film showing is scheduled for Wednesday, October 14, @7:30 p.m. in 216 Living Learning Commons.

## Rides to First UU Needed

Hi, I want to help out with the Yuuth group this year from 10:45-12:15pm on Sundays. I seek people to drive my wheelchair-accessible van to and from church from my home in South Burlington so I can help advise the Yuuth group occasionally. I will train you how to strap down my chair. If you want to help, please contact me at [allenjillm@gmail.com](mailto:allenjillm@gmail.com)

## Help Spread the WORD!

Do you like books? Enjoy meeting new people? Attend services on a somewhat regular basis? Lauren Tronsgard-Scott, who is assisting with our UU Book Cart, would love to have a cohort. The Book Cart sells titles from our own UU Skinner House and Beacon Press publishers, along with books by famous UU authors like William Cleary, raising awareness about our liberal faith and raising a little money for the Society also. Please contact Gary Kowalski if you would like to help--no committee meetings required!

## Cohousing Experience

We have moved out of our home while we rehab it for Ben's needs, and while we miss our home and our wonderful neighbors, we are grateful to be experiencing the incredible community at Burlington Cohousing ([www.bcoho.org](http://www.bcoho.org)) off of East Avenue.

We have been welcomed so enthusiastically, and I am beyond impressed at the diversity, warmth, social and environmental ethic, and assets this group has to share. If you have ever been interested in cohousing or wondered about this group, I'd be delighted to share more or direct you to folks who can answer questions. Coming from the special UU community, I think this would be very appealing for some of us if our circumstances change someday.

Valerie Wood-Lewis

## Peace & Justice Center Celebrates Grand Opening and Fair Trade Month

During October, the Peace & Justice Center will be holding educational forums and sampling products from local and fair trade vendors as they celebrate the grand opening at their new location on the Burlington Waterfront. Highlights include "Why Buy Local/Why Buy Fair Trade" discussions, a member open house and a screening of the film "Black Gold." Please visit the PJC website for more information: [www.pjcv.org](http://www.pjcv.org).

## Book Group

COME ONE COME ALL. The book group will resume meetings on Tuesday, October 13, and will continue through the year on the second Tuesday of every month. We meet at the UU at 7pm, and would be very glad to have you join us. Our book selection for October 13th is *A Mercy* by Toni Morrison. This book tells the story of four women: one white, one Native American and two black, all enslaved in some way, struggling to maintain their life together on a small farm in the late 17th century. A reviewer from the Washington Post says "This rich little masterpiece is a welding of poetry, history and psychological acuity." Any questions, call Gerry Quinlan, 893 7587.

## Special House Concerts by Dawna Hammers!

Sunday afternoons from 3-5 pm at Hammers Music Ed Studio; 9 Railroad Lane, Shelburne, VT. Ballads, Bossa's & Blues, originals and covers. Come sing along or just relax and listen to Dawna's beautiful melodies and messages! Suggested donation \$10 per person / \$15 per family. Space is limited so please call by 3pm Sunday to reserve (802) 236-2528 or visit [www.dawnahammers.net](http://www.dawnahammers.net). Park at railroad station across the street.

**First Unitarian Universalist  
Society  
862-5630**

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*Elaine Bomford,  
Assistant Minister*

*Linda Gross,  
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*Martha Dallas, Director  
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Web Page: [www.uusociety.org](http://www.uusociety.org)

## Transitions

"Transitions," a group for people who are going through or have recently gone through divorce or separation, will be gathering for the first time this autumn on Monday, October 12 at 5:30 p.m. Meetings are planned for every other week, on Monday evenings and Saturday mornings. The second meeting of Transitions will be October 24 at 9:00 a.m. Childcare may be arranged upon request. If you would like to join this group for supportive, confidential sharing, facilitated by Care Network member Linda Ayer, please contact Linda or Reverend Elaine, [elaine@uusociety.org](mailto:elaine@uusociety.org).

## Stories from Iraq

On Sunday, October 18th, at 12:30 p.m. journalist Christina Asquith will discuss her newly published book, "Sisters in war: Love, Family and Survival in the new Iraq." In this compelling and moving work, Asquith explores one of the major untold stories of the Iraq war: the challenges confronting women confronted as American soldiers try to introduce feminist ideals to the heart of the Middle East. She shares the interwoven stories of two Iraqi sisters, an American women's rights activist, and a U.S. soldier, as they struggle amidst mounting violence and religious fundamentalism to define what it means to be a woman in the new Iraq. The public is encouraged to attend. Gary

## Newsletter News

The next deadline is Monday, October 5, 2009 @9am covering events from October 18 - November 1, 2009. Articles welcome before that time!

## Keep Shelves Filled

Have you noticed the new shelves behind the last pew in the Sanctuary? They are for your donations to JUMP and the Food Shelf. We hope you will keep them filled with supplies for our needy neighbors. Every item you bring makes a difference in someone's life, a life that has become more difficult during this economic crisis. Pick up a shopping list from the back of any pew.  
*Ginger Hobbs*

## Flower Lovers Wanted

The Floral Committee is looking for additional people interested in making arrangements for Sunday services. We take turns depending on our schedules so you would only need to make an arrangement once every 6 or 7 weeks during the church year. Summers off! Grab a friend and work as a team! Use material from your own garden (or a friend's) or purchase locally. Flower costs reimbursed. Call Sarah Forbes at 872-8743 for more information.

## The Inner Workings

We're always working very hard here to be accessible to our members and friends who have special needs. We want everyone to be able to participate in our community in meaningful ways.

One way that you can help us is to make sure when you provide an insert for the order of service or a third page for the newsletter, to do so electronically. All written communication is emailed to members who are blind so that their computer can read the information to them. It allows them to know everything that's happening in our community and to choose if they'd like to participate.

Some other items available to our congregation are:

Large print hymnals - two large print hymnals are available in the Sanctuary on Sunday mornings. Please speak with an usher if you cannot find them.

Braille hymnal - Each Sunday there is a white folder located on the front pew nearest the north exit of the Sanctuary. This folder contains the braille pages of the hymns and readings for that service.

Sound enhancement devices - These devices are available in the main office. They will allow you to adjust the volume of the service as if you were listening on an ipod.

Seat cushions - Many people have conditions that prevent them from sitting on our slightly uncomfortable pews for any length of time. There are two cushions available near the front welcome table.

Ear plugs - For those of you who cannot handle loud music and/or crowd noise, we have small ear plugs available in a basket on the back table.

Page magnifiers - Forget your reading glasses? We have full page magnifiers available on the back tables. Just place the magnifying sheet over your Order of Service or Hymnal and you should be all set.

If there is something else that would be helpful for us to have, please let me know.  
*Christina Fulton*

## VIA Statewide Training

President Obama started as a community organizer working with parishes in south Chicago and look what happened! Learn the basics of faith-based organizing on Saturday, October 17th as Vermont Interfaith Action hosts a 10 am - 3 pm workshop at Bethany United Church of Christ in Randolph. \$10 includes lunch and registration. Our own minister Gary Kowalski will be attending and helping to lead the training. He'd love to have others from our Society come to share the ride and get involved in this grassroots, interfaith coalition working to turn ordinary citizens into effective agents for change.

## Didgeridoo Workshop

On Sunday, October 25, at 1:00, (following his morning worship services in our Sanctuary), Australian sound therapist Phil Jones will teach an interactive workshop on how to play the didgeridoo. Together we will explore the sacred power of breath and sound, and increase lung capacity with healing oxygen; shallow breathers, asthmatics and smokers particularly benefit. Phil has travelled the world with his music, has studied bhakta yoga, and given workshops at hospitals, universities, wellness centers and churches; he comes highly- recommended by fellow UUs. Rev. Charles Davis, of the UU Fellowship in Winston-Salem, NC says: "Phil Jones is a talented musician....He revealed a knowledge of Hinduism, feminine spirituality, psychology and physiology....My 12-year-old grandson was fascinated and engaged." Rev. Wayne Robinson from Ft. Myers, FL comments: "He is an absolutely top quality musician....He is a pro! He made everyone - old, young, musical or not - feel included. He had instruments for all." Tickets for the 2-hour workshop are \$15 in advance and may be bought from Reverend Elaine, or \$20 at the door.

## LGBT March on Washington

Vermont LGBT community members and friends are invited. The chartered bus will be leaving Burlington on or near UVM Campus to Washington DC at 11p.m. on Saturday, October 10, returning approx. 6 a.m. Monday, October 12. Cost \$75 per person with some financial aid available. Sponsorships are welcome and an account has been established. Mail checks payable with notation: *March on Washington*, to James Ramey, 27 Conger Ave. # 4, Burlington, VT 05401, to reserve a seat and get on the list. Contact Phones: James Ramey @ 802-309-4824, Jaqi Robertson @ 802-310-6519, or Amanda @802-310-4168. Note: We have approx. 50 seats available. Contact James ASAP. We are considering a community speak out/panel forum/ art auction, dinner, fundraiser in early October; contact us at the numbers above.

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

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## **The Flu and You and Everyone Else**

With all the talk about Swine Flu, we thought we'd give you some tips on how to stay healthy. And if you can't stay healthy, how to keep from spreading the flu to others. There are everyday actions that can help prevent the spread of germs that cause respiratory illnesses like influenza. Take these everyday steps to protect your health:

- 1) Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze and throw the tissue in the trash after you use it.
- 2) Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze. Alcohol-based hand cleaners are also effective.
- 3) Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth. Germs spread this way.
- 4) Try to avoid close contact with sick people.
- 5) If you contract the flu, STAY HOME from work, school and church, and limit contact with others to keep from infecting them. *Christina Fulton*

## **September Splinters from the Board**

*"Splinters" is a summary of the monthly meeting of the Board of Trustees. If you would like more detailed information from the meetings, minutes are published and can be found in a binder in the parlor.*

The September meeting of the Board of Trustees was devoted largely to composing a new mission statement for our Society. Much lively discussion resulted in a new mission statement being tentatively developed. Watch this space next month to learn if it survives the test of further reflection and discussion.

In other business, Martha Dallas reported on her hopes of developing a larger and more enticing youth group program for students in 7<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grades.

*The Board of Trustees meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 7 PM. Society members are welcome to attend.*  
Submitted by Mary Gade, Property Committee Co-Chair.

## **Fundraising Committee News**

### **Dining for Dollars (D4\$) and Services for Sale (S4\$) Silent Auction**

The Fundraising Committee is now soliciting donations of all types of Services and Dining/Social experiences for the Silent Auction on November 8th, 15th and 22nd.

HOW THIS WORKS: D4\$- Members sign up to host a dining event, the size type and date is their choice- then other members bid to buy a "place at the table" for that particular event. S4\$- Members sign up to offer a service of any type- then other members bid to win that service offered.

**D4\$ sample ideas include:** a high tea, a meal with a musical theme, a sledding party with hot cocoa and popcorn, a summer solstice smorgasbord, pool party, "end of school" party, sailing expedition with picnic, a backyard barbecue, an ethnic meal, etc. Events for families as well as just adults are needed. Be creative and have fun planning an event!

**S4\$ sample ideas include:** yard work, snow shoveling, carpentry, sewing, knitting, a baked good, pet care, painting, child care, graphic design, tutoring, rototilling, a professional service, computer or musical lessons, the ideas are endless!

Look for the poster on the bulletin boards to SIGN UP NOW to offer a service or host a dining experience.

Your participation in D4\$ and S4\$ will not only help raise much needed funds for our society but will build community and friendships. Please consider what you can do to make this a grand success!

Questions can be directed to Sarah Forbes 872-8743, [sarahforbesdesign@comcast.net](mailto:sarahforbesdesign@comcast.net), or speak to any other fundraising committee member: Hope Swanson, Barbara Benton, Carolyn Munger or Kristin Kany. We look forward to hearing from you!

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