



October 7, 2007 -
October 20, 2007

Calendar

Sunday, October 7

9:00 Worship Service
9:00 Social Action Committee
11:00 Worship Service
7:00 Building Your Own Theology

Monday, October 8

***** Zen (Call office for time)
9:00 Newsletter deadline
9:00 Joyful Parenting SGM
12:00 Living Fully & Dying Well

Tuesday, October 9

10:00 Small Group Ministry
7:0 Book Discussion Group

Wednesday, October 10

9:00 Staff Meeting
6:00 Music Committee Meeting
7:00 Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, October 11

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

Friday, October 12

6:30 AA Men's Group

Saturday, October 13

Sunday, October 14

9:00 Worship Service
9:00 Membership Committee
11:00 Worship Service
12:15 Denom. Affairs Forum on Peacemaking
12:30 Small Group Ministry Kick-off
7:00 Building Your Own Theology

Monday, October 15

***** Zen (Call office for time)
12:00 Living Fully & Dying Well

Tuesday, October 16

10:00 Wisdom Wanderers
10:00 District Administrators Mtg.
7:00 Board Meeting

Wednesday, October 17

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

Thursday, October 18

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

Friday, October 19

10:30 Women's Alliance Meeting
6:30 AA Men's Group
7:00 District Youth Conference

Saturday, October 20

District Youth CON continues
5:00 BUUC Ritual

Newsletter News

The next deadline is Monday, October 8th @9am. That issue will cover October 21- November 3, 2007. You can view the newsletter and this year's newsletter schedule on our website: www.uusociety.org.

On My Mind

When Bill McKibben stepped into our pulpit to talk about global warming last month, he confessed to a personal malady he called “pulpit envy.” Having spent years as a Sunday School teacher, usually confined to church basements, he warned the audience that he might be dangerously long-winded with a microphone and a church filled with captive listeners.

McKibben is never long winded and always full of information. Did you know, for example, that the amount of corn needed to fill the gas tank of one SUV with ethanol could feed a Third World peasant for a year? Or that the price of tortillas in Mexico has skyrocketed because the U.S. harvest is being siphoned off into gas guzzlers? One more reason for the world to hate us.

As a world renowned author and activist, Bill McKibben has done as much as anyone to alert citizens to the planetary melt down in the making. But my question for him was: with so many crises impending, why does he still spend his time and energy teaching Sunday School?

Because faith communities are the only institutions on the scene inculcating non-material values, he said. Government is obsessed with increasing GNP. Higher education is grooming technocrats to take their place in the global workforce. Who besides the churches and synagogues are teaching that sharing, neighborliness, charity and friendship might actually be central to human happiness? That net worth and personal worth are two different animals?

He's teaching Sunday School, too, because its not enough to care about future generations in the abstract. Saving the world means you have to actually get your hands dirty, occasionally wipe a runny nose.

We still have lots of opportunities to save the world—one kid at a time—in our own Sunday School. Call Martha to get involved. In a world that's overheating, you'll get the right kind of warm inward glow, while the polar bears will thank you.

Gary

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 7, 9 & 11 am

“Sex And Violence” One year has passed since Michelle Gardner-Quinn was kidnapped in Burlington, one year since five Amish school girls were murdered in a Pennsylvania school house. Gary Kowalski and Spectrum Director Mark Redmond share thoughts on the responsibility men bear for saying no to a culture that brutalizes women, as UU Ron Redmond (Director of Church Street Marketplace) enlists support for the “white ribbon” campaign.

Sunday, October 14, 9 & 11 am “The Van Gogh Cafe”

Our Society celebrated its first Coming Out Sunday in 1987, and the tradition has continued annually. Reverend Keith Kron, Director of the UUA's Office of Bisexual, Gay, Lesbian and Transgender Concerns, will be our guest speaker. An elementary school teacher before entering the ministry, Keith teaches a course on children's literature for the Starr King School for the Ministry. A special collection will be taken this morning supporting the growth of the UUA, to establish new congregations that welcome and affirm people of all races, ethnicities and sexual orientations. The choir will sing.

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.

Religious Education News



Have you ever played with one of those simple hand-held toys: a mini maze with a clear plastic top – and inside are several tiny metal balls – and the object is to tip and tilt the maze and direct each ball to roll land where it's supposed to? The game is engaging (or frustrating!) because you can't direct each ball separately. You have to keep an eye on where all of them are rolling, while you focus on moving just one. Subtle moves can have huge consequences. Practice and patience go a long way toward reaching the game's goal.

This time of year is somewhat like one of those games. Life is full of moving balls and you're just trying to get things leveled out so that each piece can land where it needs to. Perhaps more balls keep appearing in the game, too! You think you've got things nearly settled and then there are new factors to contend with. I certainly have been feeling this way as we launch this year of UU RE! Yet I know that with time and patience, most of those balls will nestle into where they belong.

But with that busy balancing work I've also been feeling so excited – especially by the many new families who have come to find out about us the first few weeks! Some of them are your friends and neighbors: you told them something about Unitarian Universalism that sparked their interest, so they took action and showed up. Others are new to all of us. They arrive as brave, eager strangers. Most, I would guess, have discovered they have an appetite, or even a deep hunger for the community that we create, week in and week out. They were drawn to come see if we might be just what they're looking for.

So I invite you – especially those of you who aren't so new – to look up from your efforts with those tiny balls that just keep rolling their own way. There are opportunities each Sunday to grow this great thing we love called Unitarian Universalism. It grows when you reach out and introduce yourself to someone you don't know. It grows when you take extra time in class to meet, greet, and welcome a new child. It grows when newcomers leave our meetinghouse with a kind of smile they've never smiled before, because they caught hope from the sparks of enthusiasm and possibility that we throw off whenever we are our best UU selves.

Martha

NH/VT District Youth Conference

The District Youth Council will be leading an overnight (2 nights) conference, or "CON", called "Costume CON," here at our UU Society, from Friday evening, October 19th to Sunday morning the 21st. It is open to youth ages 14-22, and the registration fee is usually \$20-30. We expect it to be a large event, with 50 or more UU youth from NH, VT, and possibly ME, in attendance. For more information, contact Martha Dallas (862-5630 x 28 or Martha@uusociety.org) or these webpages: <http://nhvt.uua.org/youth.htm>, <http://www.dovesoft.com/>.

Hang on to Your Bags!

Please remember to keep your purse and any personal items of value with you while you're at the Meeting House. Do not leave your tote bag on the pew to save your seat and do not leave your iPod in your coat pocket hanging in the hall. Over the years there have been several incidents of items being stolen from an unattended bag or coat. And just last week some people were charged with credit card theft that had been in our building the past two Sundays. Although we do our best to make our Meeting House a safe place, it's best to exercise caution and keep your valuables with you at all times.

New UU Class

Want to know more about Unitarian Universalism? If are 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.

Jesus Seminar

Hear world renowned Biblical scholar Marcus Borg lecture on "The Split Personality of Religion: Promoting Peace or Inciting Violence?" on Sunday, October 21, 4 p.m. in the Champlain College Gymnasium in Burlington. Free admission, but tickets are required, obtained by calling 862-1898. Co-sponsored by Champlain College and Christ Church Presbyterian.

UU Directory

Last chance to let us know of any changes before we publish the 2007-2008 Directory! Please contact the main office at 862-5630 x21 or office@uusociety.org with any changes. Thank you.

Calling All Singers

People of all ages and races are encouraged to join the "World Unity Choir" led by songwriter, recording artist, music teacher; Dawna Hammers. Lend your voice and spirit to the CD she is producing and planning on selling at the United Nations! You do not have to read music but must be able to sing "on pitch." Our next rehearsals are scheduled for Sunday, October 14th, 28th and November 11th from 6:30 - 8 pm here at the UU meetinghouse. For more info please call Dawna at 985-2074 or visit her website at www.dawnahammers.net.

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. You are invited to the opening on Sunday, October 7, @ 10am.

Second Saturday Potluck

Do you enjoy good food and wine, conversation, new friends, or singing old songs? We would be happy if you would join us in the UU Parlors for the Second Saturday Potluck on Saturday, October 13, at 6pm. Please contact Richard Kemp at 862-4418 to let us know you are coming. Also, please say if you are bringing an appetizer, main course, or dessert, how many people we can expect in your party, and if you need child care. Bring your own dishes or use ours. Hope to see you there.

We Can Do Something About Racism!

A St. Michael's College and Peace & Justice Center sponsored workshop with the People's Institute for Survival and Beyond is scheduled for October 12th - 14th, 2007 (Friday: 6-9pm, Saturday: 8:30am - 8pm, Sunday: 8:30-12noon). Tuition is \$300: includes three meals and childcare. A limited number of scholarships are available. Space is limited to 40 participants. Register now to save your spot. Call 863-2345 ext.1.

Film Festival

The Vermont International Film Festival, the world's oldest human rights and environmental film festival, will run from

**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,
Facilities Manager*

*Wayne Schneider,
Music Director*
wayne.schneider@uvm.edu

*Christina Fulton,
Society Administrator*

*Kathleen Ingram,
Administrative Assistant*

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

October 11-14, 2007, at Burlington's Waterfront Theatre and other venues. The 18th annual festival includes narrative and documentary films from Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America, and North America as well as the Vermont Filmmakers Showcase. For a film schedule and ticket information, visit www.vtiff.org or call 660-2600.

Adult Program Committee Seeks Members

Help us decide what events and speakers to bring to the Society this year. We're a low-key group looking for a few more heads to put together. The more the merrier! Contact Jill Allen at (802) 660-9316 or allenjillm@yahoo.com.

Book Discussion Group

Join us on Tuesday, October 9, at 7pm at the UU meetinghouse when we'll discuss Suite Francaise by Irene Nemirovsky. (available in paperback) Written by a young French Jewish novelist as she was trying to escape from being caught by the Nazis (her manuscript was not discovered for 64 years), this book follows diverse characters--the well-to-do, shopkeepers, the poor--as they become deeply affected by the Nazi occupation of France. She is fair-minded and perceptive, even as she writes of young German officers billeted in French homes. "By turns funny and deeply moving"... *Time*. "It rivals the story of Anne Frank's diary"... *The Nation*.

Please call Gerry Quinlan at 893-7587 if you have questions.

Building Your Own Theology

Do you believe in God (and if so, what kind of God?) Where do you experience the sacred? What is the difference between religion and spirituality? Have you ever wondered how others answer these questions, or wished for an opportunity to think through your own doubts and affirmations? Join Gary Kowalski in creating a personal credo statement as part of Building Your Own Theology, starting Sunday, October 7 at 7 p.m. Sign up on the bulletin board or contact gary@uusociety.org. All are welcome.

Speaking of Faith

Where else will you hear an intelligent discussion of Charles Darwin's religious ideas, except on National Public Radio's "Speaking of Faith" with Krista Tippett? Our congregation helps keep this exceptional program on the air, weekly on FM 88.1, North Country Public Radio. Our yearly contract to underwrite "Speaking of Faith" costs just \$650. So far, our members have contributed \$400 toward that goal. If you support "Speaking of Faith" and want to keep our liberal message on the air, please channel your regular public radio donation through our UU Office. Contributions can be made any time—not just during Pledge Week---with a check made out to First UU Society and marked "public radio." Sorry no free mugs!

Positions Available

The First UU Society has openings for 1) a ceremonies coordinator, responsible for hosting weddings, civil unions and memorial services, 2) security staff to attend to the Meetinghouse on nights and weekends, and 3) someone to assist the facilities manager on Sunday mornings. These are part time positions that pay a livable wage. Please contact David McFeeters or Christina Fulton at 862-5630.

Small Group Ministry

After the 11 o'clock service on October 14, there will be a discussion of this program. The broad purpose of these groups is to deepen spirituality and give service to the community; they meet regularly about twice a month. If you have heard or read about them and would like to learn more and ask some of your own questions, please join us. Presently there are ten of them functioning in the Society with plans for new ones. Some of the groups have a theme and some do not....some have met for a limited time and some have no ending date.

Visitor Parking Permits

Many of these permits are missing! They are those temporary red and white plastic tags that are offered to visitors to the Society building for use while in a meeting or to help with a mailing, etc. during business hours. It is not meant to be used for long term or regular use of the oval for parking. If you held on to one in error, please return it to the office ASAP. Thank you.

September Splinters from the Board

The news of Roddy's forthcoming retirement as our Affiliate Minister hit the board with as much melancholy as it did, I'm sure, the entire congregation. Roddy's ministry will be deeply missed after next June. For the board, I send her and Bill every good wish for happy and rewarding days stretching far into the future.

Trustee Lynn Foster has assembled a committee to undertake the hard work of searching for a new minister to join our Society at the beginning of the 2008-09 church year. Although we can't be sure yet, we expect the new minister will come to us on an interim basis.

The board has canceled plans to adopt Policy Governance, the copyrighted Carver management system that we discussed at the June annual meeting. Instead, a new governance committee headed by Brian Haas will be working to clearly define our Society's goals and vital concerns for the coming years as well as studying ways to bring better decision-making methods to our board and administration.

Fine news: the Property Committee informed the board that plans are proceeding apace on replacing the plywood in the steeple with genuine glass!

Jerrold Packard, Board President

Newsletter Crew Members Sought

It takes quite a few hands to collate, tape, label and drop off our bi-weekly publication for mailing. The crew could use more help this year. We do not want to be forced to outsource this task as it is costly. If you think you might be able to help out, contact Kathleen Ingram, Administrative Assistant, at 862-5630 x21 or by email: office@uusociety.org.

Mature Rodent

Gentleman guinea pig seeks child for companionship and care giving. Comes with cage, carrier and all equipment.

Please contact Gary or Dori (862-6824) if you would like a quiet furry friend.

First Unitarian Universalist Society
152 Pearl Street
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www.uusociety.org

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Now Is the Time To Grow Our Faith

On Sunday, October 14th, our Society will join hundreds of others across North America in taking a special collection to support the work of the Unitarian Universalist Association.

Why is now the time to grow our faith? Because our denomination claims fewer adherents today than at the time of Unitarian Universalist merger in 1961. Because we have fewer African Americans in our pews than forty years ago. Because our faith is bigger than that—and we must do better than that.

One half of the funds raised will be used to create a national marketing campaign aimed at increasing our size and influence in the world. One quarter will go to recruit ministers of color and support the congregations they serve. One quarter will come back to our own district—Vermont, Maine, and New Hampshire—to promote local growth and outreach.

Please consider giving at least \$50 to this effort, or 5% over and above your regular pledge to our Society, whichever is greater. Checks payable to the UUA can be placed in an envelope inside our order of service on Sunday, October 14 or mailed to our Society office. Thank you for giving generously to this vital work!

Loose Plate for Charity

On September 9th and September 16th, our congregation pledged to contribute 50% of our Sunday Loose Plate Collection to Vermont Center for Independent Living. I am proud to report that our congregation will be sending a check to Vermont Center for Independent Living for \$540.45. On October 7th, we will be collecting for Women Helping Battered Women & SafeSpace; and on October 14th & 21st, one half of the Loose Plate Collection will be going to the RU12? Community Center. Please come prepared to give generously!

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.

Peacemaking Forum

The Unitarian Universalist Congregational Study/Action Issue (CSAI) for the next few years is "Peacemaking." All over the country UU congregations like ours are debating and discussing issues related to peace and the prevention of violence and war.

Last year our congregation had some stimulating discussions about nonviolence, sponsored a viewing of the powerful film "The Ground Truth" that focused on struggles facing veterans returning from Iraq, and hosted a panel that examined the historic peace witness of two denominations, Mennonites and Friends (Quakers).

You are invited to participate in a Peacemaking Forum on Sunday, October 14, @12:15 at the UU Meetinghouse that will focus on three central questions:

- 1.) Though we often hear it said that World War II was "the good war," can a future war ever be considered a "good war?"
 - 2.) What strategies or actions can First UU members and friends take both individually and collectively to help stop or prevent war and violence?
 - 3.) How can we further engage our First UU congregation in the issue of "Peacemaking" this year and beyond?
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Please join us on Sunday, Oct. 14 at 12:15 PM for lively discussion as we explore responses to these questions!
Refreshments will be served. *Dave Conrad, Denominational Affairs*