



THE FIRST Unitarian

VOL. 78, NO. 3 THE FIRST UNITARIAN SOCIETY OF MINNEAPOLIS OCTOBER 2005

From the Minister

Once upon a time, churches used to burn down with regularity; this was an unavoidable risk for large wooden buildings that could be unoccupied for days at a time, and whose tall steeples often attracted lightning strikes. When the early Universalist congregation in St. Anthony built what was then the first masonry church in the Minneapolis area, (now Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic church) it was in part to avoid the prospect of losing the entire structure in the event of a fire. The FUS facility of today continues that tradition of not-very-flammable building materials, but some level of risk always remains. In addition to fire, there are other scenarios that could make it imperative for us to evacuate the building, even on a Sunday morning. Recognizing that a crowded, three-level facility could be difficult to clear, and that confusion and panic would make matters worse, we have planned this year for a practice fire drill. This drill will take place on a Sunday during October, when we hope the weather will not be oppressive while we are all outside for a few moments.

Please read the following instructions, and imagine for a moment how they will apply to your personal situation, so that you will be able to participate in the drill effectively. Our goal is to get everyone, especially children, out of the building in an orderly way, so that all will be safe, and can be accounted for. Keep in mind that EVERY FLOOR OF THE BUILDING (except the balcony) HAS ITS OWN EXIT. No one needs to enter a stairwell to leave the building, and no one should do so except in very special cases, which involve the greeters, or people in the balcony.

Everyone on the upper floor, including those in the Upper Assembly Hall, offices, library, and classrooms, should exit toward the Mount Curve entrance. Anyone in the first six rows of pews should leave through the back door by the south hallway near the organ; this will help reduce the number of people needing to get through the main doors. Those in the balcony should come down to the main hallway, and exit through the main front doors. Adults should move away from the building at least to the sidewalk. Children will stay with their teachers and their class, and will cross to the park, where they will remain together and the teacher will take attendance to be assured that all children from that class have exited the building. USHERS have special responsibility for helping anyone with mobility constraints to be able to exit the building safely.

Everyone on the middle floor, in the Lower Assembly Hall, kitchen, bookstore, or classrooms, should exit through the glass patio doors in the Lower Assembly Hall. Anyone in the Chalice room could exit through the sliding glass doors in the Chalice room itself. Do not ever try to use the elevator during a fire or evacuation emergency. Children in second floor classrooms will stay with their teachers and their class, exit through the patio doors in the Lower Assembly Hall, and move down the back hill toward the sidewalk by the Groveland entrance. They will remain together and the teacher will take attendance to be assured that all children from that class have exited the building. GREETERS should proceed immediately to the middle floor classroom 210, where they will help carry babies from the nursery down the back stairs to the Groveland doors and out to the sidewalk near

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**October is
Fire Drill Month!**

**Retreat
to the
Woods
is October
21-23.
FFI: Audrey
Kingstrom or Jim
Tincher.**



Forum and Assembly Previews

Forums are at 9:30 a.m. in the Lower Assembly Hall. Assemblies are at 10:30 a.m. in the Upper Assembly Hall.

October 2

FORUM — *Humanism and the Environment*

Presenting: **Bob Tapp**

If ecology is the science, then dominionism, ecologism, “deep ecology,” sustainability, earth-centeredness, and ecohumanism are some of the ideologies it has spawned. Many mainstream religions, and even some evangelicals have awakened recently. What about humanists? Are they really so “human-centered” that they ignore nature? or? Robert Tapp is a member of FUS and professor emeritus at the Uof M for Humanities and Religious Studies.

ASSEMBLY— *Doing Peace*

Speaking: **Rev. Kendyl Gibbons**

The intellectual affirmation that a world at peace would be a good thing is easy; living out the value of peace in our own daily circumstances and relationships is more challenging. Does it really begin within each of us? How are strength, integrity, and strategic wisdom compatible with a discipline of peace? Is there such a thing as a commitment to peace that goes too far?

October 9

FORUM — *International Intervention*

Speaking: **Hyde Park Corner Format**

We'll use the Hyde Park Corner format to hear your views on this hotly debated issue. Let's take this opportunity to practice our elevator speeches on this issue. All FUS members will be invited to speak briefly and engage in discussion with the audience. If you prefer the audience can give feedback on the persuasiveness of your talk.

ASSEMBLY— *Sex and Superstition*

Speaking: **Rev. Kendyl Gibbons**

Once again, national Solidarity or Coming Out Sunday reminds us that human sexuality is a hugely anxious topic in culture. Much of our society's discomfort around such matters is focused by advice and opinions from several thousand years ago, as codified in various scriptures. How should these texts be understood, and addressed, as we strive for a cultural consensus that honors the role of sex in our lives as diverse people who share a common dignity?

October 16

FORUM — *Metro UU Social Justice Alliance*

Speaking: **MUUSJA**

Outside of Boston, the Twin Cities metro area boasts more UU congregations per capita than any other place in the U. S. This creates an important opportunity to organize together, develop a distinctly UU moral voice, and apply our UU values more powerfully in the public realm - where policy decisions are being made. The Metro UU Social Justice Alliance is made up of UUs from congregations throughout the metro area - a few of whom will be with us for a panel discussion about what they are working on and learning as they bring UU values into larger coalitions addressing some of our priority issues.

ASSEMBLY— *"The Limitations of Toleration" and "The Constructive Side of Freethought"*

By **Robert Ingersoll**, delivered by **Rev. Kendyl Gibbons**

On this Heritage Sunday, we celebrate the life and work of Colonel Robert Ingersoll (1833 - 1899), the immensely popular orator of the 19th century known as "the American Infidel." Ingersoll challenged the widespread religious orthodoxy of his day, and championed reform movements in education, labor, and women's rights. His outspoken agnosticism deliciously shocked many who flocked to hear him, and gave impetus to the chapter of humanist history known as "Freethought." His graceful and compelling rhetoric together with his clarity of mind regarding human ethics and well-being remain engaging to this day. We will also honor the incoming group of new Chalice Lighters at this Assembly.

October 23

FORUM— *U.N. Sunday*

Speaking: **Dr. Anil Mangla**

Dr. Mangla was born in South Africa, and as a child he was familiar with cholera, TB, and malaria. He decided early to devote his life to medicine and helping people. He is currently co-president of UNAA-MN, and an international expert on HIV-AIDS. He has been doing research at the U of M, but recently took a position at the University of Indiana. However, he agreed to return to address our UN Day here.

ASSEMBLY — *TBA*

Speaking: **TBA**

Watch the Sunday Order of Services in early October for more information. This Sunday is organized by the Sunday Assembly Program Committee.

Forum and Assembly Previews (cont.)

October 30

FORUM— *Confronting American Theocracy: An Atheist Perspective*

Speaking: **Marie Alena Castle**

This morning's Forum will be an examination of the ways and means by which the freethought community might respond to the religious right's theocratic agenda. Marie Alena Castle has been an atheist activist since the 1980s. She is currently Communications Director for the Atheists For Human Rights (AFHR). AFHR is a national network of citizens that advocates positive atheism, defined as a philosophy that is confidently held and morally active. AFHR seeks to end discrimination against atheists and to counter the socially harmful effects of religious extremism.

ASSEMBLY — *Courage and Consolation*
Speaking: **Rev. Kendyl Gibbons**

The tradition of Dia de los Muertos calls upon us to confront the reality of death as a constant companion in the course of our everyday lives, and urges us to remain in relationship with the community of the dead whose memories continue to influence us. As liberals, we are sometimes tempted to label such awareness as “superstition,” and seek to relegate our own mortality to a suppressed corner of the mind. Can we learn to find our consolations in courage rather than denial? The FUS Chorus and Orchestra will enrich our reflections with another superb musical requiem.

Music Notes

We would like to give the warmest welcome to our Music Director, Barb Brooks, who returns to FUS this month after her sabbatical and successful tour to Boston with Theater de la Jeune Lune. Welcome Home, Barb!!!

For the second time, the FUS Chorus and Orchestra and hopefully with the participation of the children's choir, will present movements of the Durufle “Requiem” on Sunday, October 30th for the morning assembly. In keeping with the tradition of performing a requiem mass on “The Day of the Dead,” as celebrated all across Mexico, we will commemorate the dead in this way. Maurice Durufle (1902-1986), French organist and composer wrote the Requiem—his most famous and influential work—for the memory of his father. The requiem, a beautiful original piece of sober refinement, never monumental or tragic, highlights the image of French composers as moderate, positive, and humanist. We invite you to join us that morning as we honor the dead through words and music.

We also remind you that is never too late to join any of the music groups at FUS. The chorus, orchestra, folk musicians, and children's choir are always welcoming to those who wish to make friends—and music! Also there are opportunities for special music outside of these groups. Please call Barb or Gabriela at the music office and let us know you would like to take part.

See you soon,

Gabriela Diaz-Alatrisme

FUS Associate Music Director

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The First Unitarian is published once a month (except July). The deadline for submission of items is the **10th** of the previous month. Items submitted may be edited to fit the space available. Submissions may be left with Diana Allen in the FUS office, or made by mail, fax (612-377-2151) or e-mail to newsletter@firstunitariansociety.org

Religious Education: A Gift of a Lifetime

Jan says, "Let's Talk!"

"Let's Talk".....something I say all the time to people and now I am going to develop it into a formal program. I will be offering "Let's Talk" programs at the Wednesday night Meet and Greets once a month. I am over the opinion that I have to be an expert in everything! I say let's just share the wisdom we have about a topic with one another! The format will be that I will put out a topic for discussion that I have some information about or have heard that people would like to discuss and then for an hour we can share our thoughts together. The first of the "Let's Talk" series will be on Wednesday, October 12 and the topic will be "Does Gender Matter As You Parent Your Child?" Lynn Borden and I attended a talk by Dr. Sax who wrote the book WHY GENDER MATTERS and I would like to share with you some of his thoughts about gender research and its implications for parenting and the public schools. And then.....we can talk!!! No prep, some information given and some shared.....isn't that what parents always do? There is a delicious meal that you can come for at 5:45 if you want and childcare is available for the class part of the evening. The class will begin at 7:00. I hope you will join meI can talk to myself, but I'd rather talk with you!

RE INFO.....

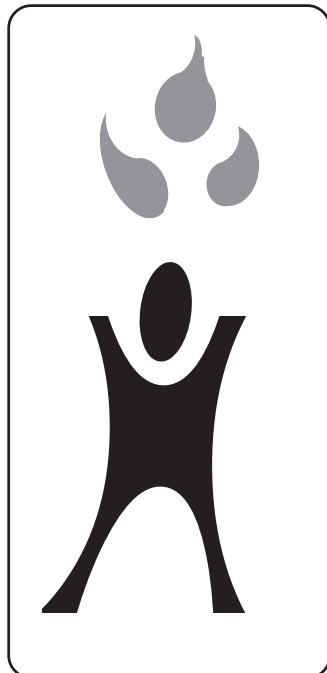
1. There will be no formal Sunday School Classes on Sunday, Oct. 22 since many people will be attending the Retreat to the Woods, there will be no OWL class or Senior High Youth Group. There will be preschool and nursery childcare available and a special project for children K-4 that come that Sunday. All other children and youth may attend the service that day.

2. All Senior High Youth are encouraged to go to the Retreat to the Woods for Saturday to Sunday a.m. A special day is being planned just for them at the Retreat!

3. I will be away from Oct. 19th through the 24th at the LREDA (Liberal Religious Educators) Conference in Philadelphia.

4. Thanks to Jack Harris for chaperoning our youth who attended the Icoowan Youth Conference in Wisconsin in September.

Jan Devor, Director of Religious Education
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How to Talk about

Unitarian Universalism and Humanism

Have you ever wished that you could be more articulate about your religious identity when people ask what you believe? Have you ever wanted to respond with greater confidence to your neighbor, co-worker, or brother-in-law when they question you about your church? Do you think that the idea of having an 'elevator speech' so that you can answer 'What is a UU anyway?' by the time the elevator reaches the ground floor, is a good idea? These can easily be learned! Join Rev. Kendyl Gibbons on two evenings during October for information and practice in talking about Unitarian Universalism and Humanism to others. Become an effective representative of our faith, and discover how rewarding it can be to share these ideas with those who haven't heard of us — yet! This opportunity will be offered twice; join us on Thursday evenings, October 6th and 13th, or if Mondays work better for you, come on Monday evenings, October 24 and 31. Or, if you *really* want to work on polishing your presentation, feel free to attend all four! We'll gather at 7:00 in the Heritage Room.

Enjoying the Bible:

Bible Study for Humanists

Join FUS member **Rev. Wendy Jerome** as she leads a six-session class on Thursday evenings from 7 to 8:30 p.m. The class will cover the background and the foreground of the "Old" and "New" Testaments: folktale, environment, politics, sociology, archeology and history of these passion and drama filled ethical tales. Check with Wendy or sign up in the office. You are welcome to come to one or to all sessions. There will be a \$1/class suggested donation for handouts, or pay \$5 and get all 6!

This opportunity will be offered **Thursday evenings, September 29 through November 3.** We'll gather at **7:00 p.m. usually in the Dietrich Room** with a couple of exceptions (check the calendar in the glass case just inside the doors for meeting and room locations).



Neighboring Faiths

You can be a part of the new "Neighboring Faiths" group for adults. The group will discuss a religion, visit a nearby community and then talk about the experience afterwards. You can go with the group just once or once a month for the whole series.

The group is being led by Jack Harris and an organizing meeting will be held October 2 at Noon. All are welcome.

From the Minister (cont.)

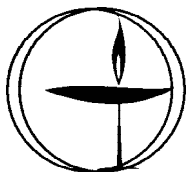
the fenced playground area. These should be the ONLY people in the stairwells, and they should always be going DOWN.

Everyone on the lower level, including the high school and pre-school classes, should exit through the lower level Groveland doors. Pre-school children will be led to the fenced playground area, and remain there. Their teachers will take attendance to be assured that all have exited the building.

It is important that parents NOT try to reach their children within the building, which could dangerously impede the orderly exit of classrooms. Parents of nursery and pre-schoolers should re-unite with their children by walking around the block from Mount Curve to the Groveland entrance, and finding their children in or near the fenced playground area. For the purposes of this practice event, kindergarten and above will remain with their teachers and return to their classrooms when the drill is over. In a real emergency, we ask parents to collect babies and toddlers first, and to make sure that teachers know they have safely taken charge of older children before they leave the scene.

I know from previous experience that the first time we try this, there will inevitably be some chaos, confusion, and questions. We will learn from the effort, and no doubt problems that we haven't thought of yet will become apparent. This is precisely the reason for a drill; we want an opportunity to correct the mistakes before they have tragic consequences.

We don't expect the gods to look down and suspend the natural laws governing fire and other hazards in our building, just because we are so special. Instead, we expect to use the tools of human reason, planning, and experience to assure us that we can cope with whatever contingencies arise. A little inconvenient practice now might save us from lasting heartache someday; I hope all of us will participate cheerfully, follow instructions, and make this event an opportunity for learning and building community.



Rev. Kendyl Gibbons
Senior Minister

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minister@firstunitariansociety.org

Trustee Tidbit

At the start of each program year, the Board of Trustees identifies specific goals for the year. The Board has agreed to focus on the following in 2005-2006.

1. Visioning for the new long range plan
2. Enhancing the capacity of our members to "evangelize" about our religious community, including ensuring that all members can succinctly describe religious humanism to others
3. Providing opportunities to nurture personal and spiritual growth through the aesthetics of the physical environment.

As always, the Board welcomes the feedback and assistance of members of the Society.



Stewardship Corner

The 2005/2006 Stewardship get-togethers are now officially on their way! We've had two events in August, three in September and many more planned for the upcoming months. They are being enjoyed by all attendees, so make sure you go when you are invited!

As many of you may recall, FUS is pioneering a new way of "doing Stewardship." We moved away from an annual canvass that used to rally everyone in early spring to reconsider his or her annual pledge. Instead, Stewardship is now ongoing and so are the pledge commitments. In other words, when we make our pledge for a certain amount per month, that pledge amount will be carried forward month after month, in perpetuity - that is, until we submit a new pledge form.

As a result, some of us may update our pledge forms more than once in a twelve-month period (we might have received a promotion, had some unexpected medical expenses or reassessed what FUS means in our lives). Others will continue to change their pledges once a year and yet others may not submit a new pledge form for 18 or even 24 months.

A few of you have asked: "We just attended a Stewardship event six months ago and now we are invited to another Stewardship event. Should we still go?" Yes, we hope you will. Even if you know you won't be able to reconsider your pledge again, we believe attending one of the Stewardship events will offer you the opportunity to spend

quality time with existing or potential friends and to engage each other in conversation about FUS and the future of our community. At each event, a facilitator will take notes and provide written feedback to the board and the FUS staff about ideas for change and innovation.

For more information, you can talk to our Stewardship Committee co-chairs Susan Deveaux and Michael Leuchtenberger.



The Radical Sabbatical

As you likely recall, Kendyl will be on sabbatical later this year. Her last service of the year will be on Sunday, December 11. Not so coincidentally, there will be a Soup Lunch after services on December 11 to help wish Kendyl a happy and productive break from her ministerial duties here at FUS. So mark your calendars for December 11, and be sure to bring your appetite.



Look for this space each month for the latest news on this most Radical Sabbatical! In the November Unitarian, in addition to this Radical Sabbatical space, there will be a “pullout” containing a Member’s Guide to Kendyl Gibbons’ Sabbatical and a list of the speakers we have lined up for Sunday services while Kendyl is away.

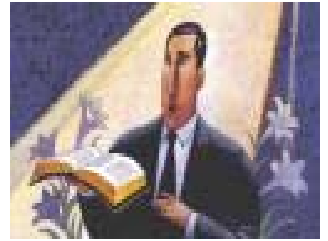
The Member’s Guide will outline whom to call for Pastoral Care, Rites of Passage, Church Operations, the Church Calendar and other aspects of the Society while Kendyl is away.

As we mentioned in an earlier notice, we have lined up speakers for the sabbatical period representing several themes. One of these themes explores commonalities and differences

between UU congregations as well as neighboring religions. Speakers on this theme include:

- Rev. Victoria Safford, White Bear UU Church
- Rev. Rob Eller-Isaacs, Unity Church, St. Paul
- Father Michael O’Connell, Basilica of Saint Mary
- Rev. Jim Gertmanian, Plymouth Congregational Church
- Rabbi Marcia Zimmerman, Temple Israel
- Rev. Khoren Arisian, formerly of FUS!

This is a great opportunity to hear other Ministers—especially those outside our own UU tradition—speak in our assembly hall. In addition to it being an opportunity to hear their thoughts, it will also be an opportunity for us to show them Humanist Hospitality!



-The Sabbatical Committee

Interfaith Forum



Sacred Meeting Places: Bumping Into Each Other

Place is important in many of our religious traditions. In each case there is the imagined and the real, the mythic and the practical, all mixed up, and sometimes the real estate is claimed by two, three, or more. What do we tell our children about our neighbor’s story?

Join with people of faith in dialogue on topics that affect each of us in everyday life. Participate in building community and unity by recognizing and celebrating diversity. All this at the 2005 Minneapolis Interfaith Forum. Thursday evenings starting at 6:45 p.m. with registration and refreshments. 7:00-9:00 is the presentation and discussion, and at 9:00 Sanctuary tours are available.

Oct. 20--Next Year in Jerusalem at Hennepin Ave. United Methodist, www.haumc.org, 612-871-5303.

Oct. 27--Jerusalem Today: The complexity of faith and living together at Basilica of Saint Mary, www.mary.org, 612-333-1381.

Nov. 3--From Here to There: Our sacred journeys at Plymouth Congregational Church, www.plymouth.org, 612-871-7400.

Nov. 10--Sharing our History Here, Mpls: Our future at Temple Israel, www.templeisrael.com, 612-377-8680.

Nov. 24--Interfaith Community Thanksgiving service at 10 a.m. Location to be announced.

New Membership Staff

The FUS Personnel Committee is delighted to announce the latest addition to our staff! After reviewing numerous resumes and several interviews, we are agreed that Jo Franco will make an outstanding player on our staff team in the position of Membership and Outreach Coordinator. Welcome, Jo! Look for her, and introduce yourself!

Greetings! My name is Jo Franco, and I am your new Membership and Outreach Coordinator at FUS. I’d like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. I recently relocated from Southern California, where I served as the Director of Religious Education for a growing UU congregation. Originally from Northern California, I now live in Minneapolis with my husband, Andrew, and our two children, Alex and Ellie. I’ll be spending my time assisting the Membership Committee with maintaining the excellent program you have already set up and working with the whole congregation to assess our outreach efforts to the wider community. As a soon-to-be member of FUS, I am excited to play a major role in seeing that all who pass through our doors are made welcome, where we can make friends and continue our spiritual journey. I look forward to meeting you all!

Jo Franco
Membership & Outreach Coordinator
612-377-6608, ext. 110
membership@firstunitariansociety.org

Events and Announcements

Fall Eat 'n' Meet Gatherings Are Underway!

The Wednesday evening Eat 'n' Meet gatherings will be back beginning September 14. The speakers and programs will be announced in the Sunday bulletins. For now, we'll just tell you what you're *really* dying to know: *What's for dinner?*

Here's the menu, brought to you by Mark Gibbons, Katy Ghiasi and many other wonderful volunteers.

Oct. 5

Lasagna (or Cabbage Rolls) with salad, bread, brownies and cookies.

Dr. John Armajani, College of St. Benedict, speaking on "The Present and Gutures Transnational Muslim Insurgency: al Quaida and the Global Islamic Revival."

Oct. 12

Alaskan Dinner: Salmon fillets and Snow Crab with scalloped potatoes, green beans with almonds, iceberg wedges, Waldorf salad, dinner rolls and pineapple upside down cake.

Rev. Wendy Jerome, First Unitarian Society, speaking on "Taking Back the Bible."

Oct. 19

Indian Food, including tandoori chicken, curried eggplant, vegetable briyani, palak paneer, nan, pitas, and tapioca

Hossein Akhavi-Pour, Hamline University, speaking on "Iranian Presidential Election: From Inside Out."

Oct. 26

Pasta bar, including ravioli (four-cheese, portabella mushroom, spinach-feta), tortellini, fettucine, chicken/roast pepper sausage, marinara, alfredo, traditional meat sauce, salad,

crusty bread and Italian ice.

Neima Salehi, MN Literacy Council, speaking on "Immigrations in Minnesota: New Roots and Old."

Nov. 2

Whitefish (Boston fish bake) with cut corn, red potatoes, clam chowder, Boston Bibb lettuce salad, cottage cheese, baked squash, macaroni & cheese, corn bread and Boston Cream Pie.

Dr. Duane Cady, Hamline University, speaking on "Moral Vision: How Everyday Life Shapes Ethical Thinking."

Nov. 9

Mongolian Stir Fry, including choice of chicken, beef, shrimp or tofu stir fried with your bowl of vegetables, carrots, broccoli, onions, scallions, water chestnuts, snow peas and sprouts, in your choice of kung pao, oyster or ginger-garlic sauce, served with jasmine rice, egg rolls, spring rolls, Asian salad and mandarin orange dessert.

Rev. Dr. Kendyl Gibbons, FUS Senior Minister, speaking on "The Radical Sabbatical: Impact of Kendyl Sabbatical. What it Means to Her, to You and FUS."

Nov. 16

German dinner with bratwurst, sauerbraten, German potato salad, mashed potatoes, cabbage and apples, German chocolate cake and cheese-cake.

Eat 'n' Meet & Membership Committees, presenting "Building Community: A Time to Reflect and Share Perspectives on Building Community" and "Celebrate our Eat 'n' Meet Finale in 2005." Readings on ways to build community are welcomed.

See you there! Bring your appetite!

Member News

Welcome! to **Ella Dorothy**, born on July 20, 2005 at 7:32 p.m. and weighing 6 pounds, 4 ounces, and 19.5 inches. The newest love of proud parents **Suzie and John O'Connell!**

Member **Julia Lief** died on August 19, 2005. Her memorial service will be at FUS on Mother's Day, May 14, 2006. Also, **Ida Kaufman** died on September 6, 2005, and a memorial service was held at FUS on September 11. **Jack Krysinski's** memorial will be October 29, 2005 at FUS at 3:00 p.m.

Send your news to:

membership@firstunitariansociety.org, or call Jo Franco at 612-377-6608 x110.

Soup Luncheon! October 16th

Mark Gibbons and helpers will be in the kitchen again this month. Come down after the Assembly for all the soup and bread you can eat for a suggested donation of \$7. Make plans to stay and celebrate our great community!



Bookstore News

The bookstore is pleased to announce that thanks to your patronage we are able to donate \$500 to The Relief for Victims of Hurricane Katrina. We will also be donating 10% of all purchases from Sept thru December toward the Relief effort.

Helping in the FUS bookstore is a great way to make new friends, discover great reads, learn new skills, and contribute to the life of our community. To find out more, plan to join us for lunch, where we will talk about the work of the bookstore, and celebrate our success thus far. Everyone who has been trained to work in the bookstore or is interested in working in the bookstore this year, as well as managers and people on the bookstore committee are invited to a luncheon on Sunday, October 30 from 12 to 1:30 after the service.

Many of the books in the teen/youth section for both teens and parents are ordered from Free Spirit Publishing which is affiliated with The Search Institute. Search Institute is an independent, nonprofit, nonsectarian organization whose mission is to advance the well-being of adolescents and children by generating knowledge and promoting its application. At the heart of the institute's work is the framework of 40 developmental assets, which are positive experiences, relationships, opportunities, and personal qualities that young people need to grow up healthy, caring, and responsible. Created in 1990, the framework is grounded in research on child and adolescent development, risk prevention, and resiliency. Surveys of more than 1 million 6th to 12th grade youth in communities across the United States consistently show that young people who experience more of these assets are more likely to make healthy choices and avoid a wide range of high-risk behaviors. In the next couple of weeks we will be stocking some new books and other items from the Search Institute as well as new items from Unicef.

As always, Stop in and see what's new!



Take Note!

We occasionally get requests that need a notary public. If you or someone you know in the congregation would be willing to be called upon as the need arises, would you please let the office know? Thank you!

FUS Foundation News

Two opportunities for funding

One of the ways the Foundation of the First Unitarian Society helped FUS achieve its mission was by providing \$11,321 in grants to FUS during the first half of this year. \$600 was provided to the Religious Education Program to upgrade classroom doors with windows in March. The Foundation provided \$600 to partner with the Membership and Religious Education Committees in purchasing an LCD projector that is now used for FUS services and events. The LCD projector may also be rented for special events. The Foundation granted funds up to the amount of \$1,221 to cover costs for Kendyl's 25th Anniversary Celebration in May. In June, the Foundation approved a \$9,000 grant to the Sabbatical Commitment to fund activities during Kendyl's long-awaited sabbatical.

Do you have an exciting idea or a project that is in need of funding? The Foundation encourages all members and committees to submit grant proposals. All proposals for projects that foster new growth and development at FUS will be considered. The Foundation will begin accepting proposals for the 2005 Fall grant cycle in October, and the submission deadline is **November 15**. Proposals should include information on the proposed project, estimated costs, and two to three written estimates for materials and expenses. Look for more information about the fall grant cycle on the Foundation bulletin board in the Lower Assembly Hall or on the website. Please contact Jodi Horne, Ray Schreurs, or Chuck Blomquist for additional information.

Do you know an organization or group working for social justice? Nominate them for a grant from the Pearson Fund. Applications can be found on the Foundation bulletin board, in the FUS office, or on the website. Applications are due on September 30.

Photo Directory



Last Call for Photos!

FUS is publishing a new pictorial directory this fall. Each family photographed will receive one free 8X10 color portrait and a free church directory. Due to popularity, we've had to add an extra day, so you can still make an appointment for your family portrait sitting on the one remaining day:

•Thursday October 6 3:00 - 9:30 p.m.

On the day that you come, it will take less than 45 minutes to have your family photographed, pick out your pose for the directory and decide whether to purchase additional copies of the portrait. You'll also update your contact information.

To reserve an appointment, please call Barbara Wallace at 612-922-9316. We want to see YOU in the directory!

Social Action Committee



Habitat Work Dates

The Unitarian Universalist Affordable Housing Partnership (UUAFP) will be working on a Habitat for Humanity site on November 17, 18 and 19. We will be in Heritage Park, a mixed income development at the intersection of Olson Memorial Hwy. and Lyndale Av. The exact address and details about the work will be know later. If you are interested in volunteering or have questions contact Carol Koepf, 952-893-2383; ckoepf@mn.rr.com. All skill levels are welcome.



The Environment

Metro UU EcoMinds Fall Kick-Off

UU EcoMinds fall kick-off meeting is September 29, 2005, 7pm to 9:15pm at First Universalist Church, 34th and Dupont, Minneapolis. We have invited Representative Ray Cox, to discuss the MN 2020 Renewable Energy Bill. Renewable energy and conservation will be the strategy-duo UU EcoMinds will use this year to focus on curbing global warming. Join us to discuss campaigns and activities for the upcoming year. Plus! Plan to arrive early to catch a special showing of Jeff Barrie's film, *Kilowatt Ours: Plan to Reenergize America*. The film will start at 6pm and lasts about 40min. Light refreshments and drinks will be available or you can bring a bag dinner. As individuals and as congregations let's celebrate all we can do in the name of the environment and social justice. Hope to see you there. Questions? Contact Madalyn Cioci at 612 926-5249 or joemadalyn@earthlink.net *UU EcoMinds promotes lifestyles, policies and technologies that respect and sustain all life and is a working group of the Metro UU Social Justice Alliance (MUUSJA)*

Art in the Gallery

Through 10/16/05: David Austin, wildlife photographs
10/23/05 - 11/27/05: Gail Speckmann, watercolors
12/4/05 - 1/8/06: Minneapolis Drawing Workshop, drawings and paintings
1/15/06 - 2/19/06: Barbara kvasnick-Nunez, paintings
2/26/06 - 4/2/06: All FUS mixed media artists. If you would like to exhibit in this show, contact Herbie Sewell at 612-721-4974 or Gretchen Clemence at 612-920-9234.
4/9/06 - 5/14/06: Barbara Nelson, paintings and Sharon Burris-Brown, paintings
5/21/06 - 6/25/06: Art Dolls by Sandra Self, Karen Searle and Sally Roscoe



TWIN CITIES GAY MEN'S CHORUS 25th Anniversary Season!

NOVEMBER 2005

Sunday, November 6, 2005, 4 p.m.. St. Paul United Church of Christ, 900 Summit Ave., St. Paul

Benefit Concert to Support: GLBT Disaster Relief and Park House

Queer Music Consortium with: Twin Cities Gay Men's Chorus, One Voice Mixed Chorus, Minnesota Philharmonic Orchestra, Minnesota Freedom Band, Calliope, Transvoices. FREE Concert ~ Donations will be accepted. Information: 612.339.7664

DECEMBER 2005

Messiah Sing-Along on Sunday, December 4, 2005, 3 p.m. at Westminster Presbyterian Church, 12th Street and Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis

Twin Cities Gay Men's Chorus with Minnesota Philharmonic Orchestra & Special Guest Soloists: Lola Watson, soprano; Susan Druck, mezzo soprano; Kelsey Bruso, tenor; Thomas Dreeze, baritone. Dr. Stan Hill, Artistic Director, MN Philharmonic Orchestra, Joseph Schlefke, Music Director. Handel's masterpiece, and you are the chorus! (G. Schirmer scores will be available for purchase for \$10 in the lobby prior to the performance) \$15 adults \$7.50 children 12 & under Tickets: 612.339.7664

SOULstice: Holiday Music That's Good For Your Soul! Three Performances on Friday, December 9, 8 p.m., Saturday, December 10, 8 p.m., Sunday, December 11, 2 p.m., at the Ted Mann Concert Hall, **Twin Cities Gay Men's Chorus**, Dr. Stan Hill, Artistic Director. Herald the season as the men of the Chorus present a concert full of good tidings, cheer and beautiful music for all!
\$19 - \$39, adults, Children 12 & under 50% off, *December 10 performance ASL interpreted.* Tickets: 612.624.2345 or Online: www.tcgmc.org

Events & Announcements

Compassion & Choices of Minnesota

“Voluntary Death is not Irrational Suicide” is the subject of the fall meeting of this right-to-die organization. Everyone is welcome to join the discussion in the Chalice Room at FUS on Sunday, October 16 from 12:30 to 3 p.m. If we wish to encourage wise choices at the end of life, we must separate irrational suicide from voluntary death. Irrational suicide is: harmful, irrational, capricious, and regrettable. Voluntary Death is helpful, rational, well-planned, and admirable. These distinctions will be explored by James Park, new member of the Board of Directors of Compassion & Choices of Minnesota and long-time member of FUS. James Park is an existential philosopher with deep interest in medical ethics, especially right to die. Preceding the meeting there will be a soup lunch. See details elsewhere in this newsletter. For more information about our national organization, go to <http://www.compassionandchoices.org>. Read an Internet version at: www.tc.umn.edu/%7Eeparkx032/CY-IS-VD.html.

Alliance News

The Alliance is set to begin another exciting year of programs! The first general meeting of the year is slated for October 5th, with Kendyl Gibbons speaking about her upcoming “Radical Sabbatical.” The schedule for the meeting is: luncheon ticket sales start at 10:45 am, program at 11:00 am, luncheon at noon, followed by a brief business meeting. The cost is a mere \$7 payable that day. If you’d like to attend our first meeting of the year, please contact Olive Sarkinen at 763-544-6168 to make a reservation.

The Alliance is a dynamic group of dedicated members and friends of FUS. We form friendships, exchange ideas, give service and support to the Society, promote liberal religion, and encourage and inspire personal growth. Please know that the Alliance welcomes new members at any time. Annual dues are \$25. For more information, please contact Linnea Asp, 763-551-1558 or linneaasp@comcast.net. We look forward to a rewarding year together!

Humanists of Minnesota Meet

Omar Jamal, Executive Director of the Somali Justice Advocacy Center, will speak at the October 20 chapter meeting of the Humanists of Minnesota. The title of his talk will be: “Somalis in Minnesota Post 9-11” Meeting time: 7:30 pm. Location: FUS Chalice Room. Free and open to the public. For more information call (651) 646-3937.

Women’s Awareness Group

The October meeting of the Women’s Awareness Group will be held Monday, October 10, at the home of Wanda McCaa. She lives at 1235 Yale Place, #402, Mpls. The meeting starts at 6:30 p.m. with a potluck supper followed by a lively discussion on a topic of concern and importance to women. Please RSVP at 612-378-0660.

The Humanist Center of Minnesota

The Humanist Center is a series of five Sunday evening programs featuring distinguished speakers talking for about an hour on some aspect of humanism. Following the talks are ample opportunities (about another hour) for questions and comments from members of the audience. Coffee and cookies and plenty of time to visit with other participants in this program are available during these three hour intellectually stimulating activities. The First Unitarian Society of Minneapolis, Humanists of Minnesota, and the Humanist Institute are joint sponsors of the Humanist Center series which are free and open to the public in the Lower Auditorium of the First Unitarian Society. Programs generally take place on Sunday evenings of November, December, April, May and June. Matt Stark (612-377-2211) is chair of the Steering Committee and can answer questions concerning the Humanist Center of Minnesota, which is beginning its fifth year of programs.

The 2005-06 program is:

Nov 6, 2005, Arts and Ethics

Gayle Graham Yates, professor emerita of America Studies, University of Minnesota

Dec 4, 2005, Human Sexuality is Humanistic

Peter D’Ascoli, Fellow of the America College of Obstetrics and Gynecology

Apr. 9, 2006, The Coming Storm – The Rise Of American Fascism

with Khoren Arisian, Senior Leader emeritus, New York Ethical Society

May 7, 2006, Life Long Learning

Steven Benson, Executive Director, Osher Life Long Learning, University of Minnesota

June 4, 2006, Buddhism: nontheist Yes; humanist No

Robert B. Tapp, professor emeritus of Humanities, Religious Studies, South Asian Studies, U of M

Sharing our Space

We are pleased to be sharing our space with a new rental group, the Ecumenical Catholic Communion of the Twin Cities. This is a radical splinter group which rejects papal infallibility, and fully welcomes gay, lesbian and divorced Catholic lay people, as well as married and female priests — or as their leader, Zilvinas Jakstas (from Lithuania) says, “All the people the Pope doesn’t want.” They will be holding services in the Chalice Room on Sunday mornings from 8:00 until 9:15. If you arrive early one Sunday and run into some of them, please make them welcome.

Open Area UU Events

Come and enjoy a fun evening of folk dancing!

Join us for the Family Folk Dance on Friday, October 28 starting at 7 p.m. in the Social Hall at First Universalist Church (3400 Dupont Ave S). The Family Folk Dance is an intergenerational event featuring *fabulous* live music from



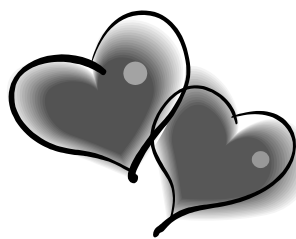
Universal Folk and *great* dance instruction and calling by David Leussler (from FUS)! All ages are welcome and no experience is necessary. Perfect for families with kids of all ages to do together and a great opportunity to get to know other UU families. Suggested donation: \$10/family, \$5/individual.

This event is sponsored by First Universalist Life Span Faith Development and Youth Cultural Exchange: Nicaragua. Questions? Email Karin Larson at KarinLarson@msn.com

Come and have some fun. Pass this message on!

Heart-to-Heart: Couples Enrichment Weekend

Heart-to-Heart is a program led by Unitarian Universalist couples and designed to enrich communications and intimacy in your relationship. This year's 11th annual retreat will be held



November 11-13, 2005. All couples committed to their partners and to their relationships are welcome--same-sex and opposite-sex, married and unmarried. Space is limited, so please register early. For more information, visit the Heart-to-

Heart website at <http://heart.mn.cx> or call 651-227-0486. You can also pick up a flyer and registration form in the FUS office.

Denominational News

CALL FOR AWARD NOMINATIONS

Now is the time to nominate your stellar congregational volunteers for Prairie Star District, and perhaps even UUA recognition! Nomination forms are at WWW.PSDUUA.ORG. Please download and distribute any appropriate form for submission to the Prairie Star District. Nominations are due by January 31, 2006.

PSD SOCIAL JUSTICE AWARDS pay tribute to those who witness to the ideals of social justice and responsibility so important to our UU heritage (youth and adult).

UNSUNG UU AWARD affirms those UU's whose actions inspire, support, and express Unitarian Universalism, but have not been previously recognized. The award is given to a person or group whose lifetime activities have made a significant contribution to the cause of Unitarian Universalism.

O. EUGENE PICKETT AWARD is presented annually to a congregation which has made an outstanding contribution to the growth of Unitarian Universalism. This and the Unsung UU winner will be nominated for the UUA award.

KEEPING THE FAITH AWARDS were established to recognize people who live by UU principles. They are presented to persons in large and small congregations who have worked to keep Unitarian Universalism alive in their community and who touch the lives of congregation and community members in a positive way.

ELLIE MORTON AWARD honors a person or group which has made a significant contribution to religious education in our District.

BETTY GORSHE HERITAGE AWARD recognizes an individual or group who have made a significant contribution to preserving, understanding and celebrating our Unitarian Universalist history.

The Prairie Star District Awards Committee of Ted Downey at teddowney@aol.com, Nancy Miller at nanmilr@presenter.com, Kelly McKown at kelmckown@charter.net and Karen Hirsch at hirschkt@charter.net, can answer questions.

Weekly Events on the FUS Calendar:

SUNDAYS

8:00 a.m. Ecumenical Catholic Community — Chalice Room
9:30 a.m. Children's Choir — Chalice Room
9:30 a.m. Forum — Lower Assembly Hall
10:30 a.m. Assembly — Upper Assembly Hall
1-3 p.m. Kids 'n' Kin — Alcott Room
7:00 p.m. Orchestra Rehearsal — Upper Assembly Hall AND Dietrich Room

7-9 p.m. CUUPS Weekly Ritual — Chalice Room
CUUPS Contact Christa Landon at www.paganinstitute.org

MONDAY

7:30 p.m. Men's Awareness Meeting — Library

WEDNESDAY

5:45 p.m. Eat 'n' Meet Dinner — Lower Assembly Hall & 7:00 Program — Dietrich Room
7:15 p.m. Chorus Rehearsal — Lower Assembly Hall

Our official calendar is online at www.firstunitariansociety.org. Click on "Calendar" in left menu.



The First Unitarian Society

OF MINNEAPOLIS

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www.firstunitariansociety.org • office@firstunitariansociety.org

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Senior Minister: **Rev. Dr. Kendyl Gibbons**
Minister Emeritus: **Khoren Arisian**
Administrator: **Diana Allen**
Music Director: **Barbara Brooks**
Weekday Building Steward: **Ngawang Chodak**
Director of Religious Education: **Jan Devor**
Associate Music Director: **Gabriela Diaz-Alatrisme**
Membership Coordinator: **Jo Franco**
Building Manager:
Evening/Weekend Building Steward: **Ramon Mexicano**
Business Manager: **Bill Scattergood**

**DATED MATERIAL
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

October 2005 Events

Sunday, October 2

9:30 AM Forum
10:30 AM Assembly

Wednesday, October 5

11:00 AM Alliance Monthly Program
5:45 PM Eat 'n' Meet Dinner & Program

Thursday, October 6

1-9 PM Photo Directory Sitzings
7:00 PM Elevator Speeches
7:00 PM Enjoying the Bible

Friday, October 7

6:00 PM Current Events DG

Sunday, October 9

9:30 AM Forum
10:30 AM Assembly
7:00 PM The Good Life DG

Monday, October 10

6:30 PM Women's Awareness Group

Tuesday, October 11

10:30 AM Caregiver's Support Group
12:30 PM Caring Circles Meeting
7:00 PM Poetry Group

Wednesday, October 12

5:45 PM Eat 'n' Meet Dinner & Program
7:00 PM Executive Committee

Thursday, October 13

10:00 AM Memory and Memoir DG
7:00 PM Pagan Spirituality DG

7:00 PM Elevator Speeches

7:00 PM Enjoying the Bible

Friday, October 14

5:00 PM Plays & Movies DG
7:00 PM Arts & Crafts DG

Sunday, October 16

9:30 AM Forum
10:30 AM Assembly
11:30 AM Soup Luncheon
12:30 PM Compassion & Choices Mtg
1:00 PM Artist's Reception

Monday, October 17

7:00 PM Foundation Board

Tuesday, October 18

7:00 PM Finance Committee

Wednesday, October 19

1:30 PM Senior Discussion Group
5:45 PM Eat 'n' Meet Dinner & Program
7:00 PM Membership Committee

Thursday, October 20

7:00 PM Humanists of Minnesota
7:00 PM Stewardship Committee
7:00 PM New Member DG
7:00 PM Enjoying the Bible

Friday, October 21

5:30 PM Current Events DG

Friday, October 21 thru October 23

Retreat to the Woods

Sunday, October 23

9:30 AM Forum
10:30 AM Assembly
10:30 AM RE Special Project
12:00 PM Social Action Committee
3:00 PM MUUSJA Quarterly Mtg

Monday, October 24

7:00 PM Elevator Speeches

Wednesday, October 26

5:45 PM Eat 'n' Meet Dinner & Program

Thursday, October 27

10:00 AM Memory and Memoir DG
7:00 PM Pagan Spirituality DG
7:00 PM Enjoying the Bible

Friday, October 28

5:00 PM Plays & Movies DG
7:00 PM Arts & Crafts DG

Saturday, October 29

3:00 PM Jack Krysinski Memorial
6:00 PM Arrogant Worms Concert

Sunday, October 30

9:30 AM Forum
10:30 AM Assembly
11:30 AM Bookstore Luncheon
4:00 AM Membership Orientation

Monday, October 31

7:00 PM Elevator Speeches
7:00 PM The Good Life DG