



THE FIRST Unitarian

VOL. 78, NO. 5 THE FIRST UNITARIAN SOCIETY OF MINNEAPOLIS DECEMBER 2005

Our Sound Bite (suggested): "Perfecting each person's search for meaning and well-being." Please discuss with your fellow FUS Members & Friends.

From the Minister

The results of the recent elections have fed a small flame of hope for me, but we are still confronted with enormous issues as a nation. Two of these, it seems to me, are of sufficient gravity and ethical implication that this Society might be warranted in speaking out on principle as a community of faith. I hope that by now, everyone has received a mailing from the FUS Board of Trustees, calling for an official congregational meeting on Sunday, December 11, immediately following the Assembly. At that time, we will be asked to vote, with discussion but without amendments, on two separate resolutions of witness. The reason that no amendments will be considered is that in both cases, we are being asked to participate with large coalitions in a joint statement, and if we change the wording, we will no longer be part of the joint statement.

The first resolution opposes efforts in the Minnesota state legislature to pass a constitutional amendment that would ban same-sex marriage, civil unions, and all forms of protection for same-sex couples. UU congregations throughout the state are being asked to endorse a resolution opposing such an amendment, proposed by UUs Out For Marriage, a working group of the Metro UU Social Justice Alliance. If you would like to work more on this issue, this group would be delighted to hear from you; the FUS office or members of the Social Action committee will be able to put you in touch with them.

The second resolution, which is being proposed to UU congregations across the country by the UU Service Committee, calls upon the members of congress to ban the use of torture as U.S. government policy, and to publicly prosecute anyone who practices or condones it. These are urgent issues, with profound implications for the long-term future of our country and our culture. I believe that in both cases, our commitment to Humanist values, and to the principles of the Unitarian Universalist heritage, calls upon us to make a collective voice heard. As the special mailing describes, it will require a two-thirds vote of 50 eligible members (10% of official membership) at the meeting in order for these resolutions to pass. I hope that many of us will be present to participate in this congregational process.

On to other matters:

As part of our on-going effort to upgrade the maintenance of our Society's facilities, we are pleased to announce that Cirilo Vail Hernandez has returned to the FUS staff in the role of Senior Building Steward. Many of us will remember Cirilo from his outstanding service to us several years ago; he moved away from Minneapolis for a time, but now that he is back in the area, it is good to have him working here again. Cirilo will be studying for his boiler tender's license, and will be partly responsible for supervising the work of Ramon Mexicano, our evening Building Steward. His duties will also include some equipment maintenance and repair, inventory control, and relating with Child Garden teachers and site managers. Our previous daytime Building Steward, Ngawang Chodak, did not have these important abilities, and so we have bid him farewell, with a generous

Continued on page 5

CONTENTS

<i>From the Minister</i>	1
<i>Assembly Previews</i>	2-3
<i>Social Justice Collection</i>	3
<i>Religious Education</i>	4
<i>Music Notes</i>	4
<i>Membership News</i>	4
<i>Trustee Tidbit</i>	5
<i>Stewardship Corner</i>	5
<i>Social Action News</i>	6
<i>Alliance News</i>	7
<i>Denominational News</i>	7
<i>FUS Library News</i>	7
<i>Events & Announcements</i> ...	8-9
<i>Calendar</i>	10

**Special
Congregational
Meeting and
Kendyl Send-off
on Sunday
December 11**
(see page 5 for details)



**Special Holiday
Assemblies
Planned**
(see page 3)

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.

December 4

FORUM — *Higher Education and Three Threats from the Christian Right*

Presenting: **Harvey Sarles**

There are three fairly distinct “attacks” on the university, beginning with “Scientific Creationism,” in the late 1970’s, continuing with “Intelligent Design” in the past several years. Coming soon will be the “Secular Revolution.” In an overarching sense, these are means rather than ends, and the strategic directions are considerably broader. The university is held to be the central institution which holds the power of the future: training all the world’s leading persons. To “return the world to Christ,” the strategic move is to retake the university, to overcome science as the grounding of truth, and to recenter the university as the fountain of (religious) truth (Malik). I will explore the broader strategies, as well as the three modes of attack, in order to get a clearer sense of the threats upon higher education, and the power this might have to affect us all.

ASSEMBLY— *Music Sunday: Fairy Tales, Dances and Carols*”

Performing: **The FUS Chorus and Orchestra**



Celebrating the Spirit of the holidays with:
“*A Ceremony of Carols*” by Benjamin Britten
“*The Sleigh Ride*” by Leopold Mozart
“*Sobre las olas*” by Juentino Rosas
“*Swan Lake*” Suite by Peter Tchaikovsky

December 11

FORUM — *The Trouble with Christmas*

Speaking: **Audrey Kingstrom**

Is Christmas a religious holiday or a cultural one? The duplicity of the season is as old as Christmas itself--giving rise to a troubled history. Come hear about the origins of Christmas, its role in Western culture, and as a season of timeless discontent, learn about its many transformations over the centuries. Audrey, a FUS member with masters degrees in social studies education and theology, will conclude this survey of Christmas with her own thoughts on reinventing the season for the 21st century humanist.

ASSEMBLY— *A Time Apart*

Speaking: **Rev. Kendyl Gibbons**

This will be Kendyl's last Sunday in the FUS pulpit until April 23rd. The concept of sabbatical is an ancient one, arising originally from farming practices; fields must lie fallow once in a while, if they are to yield good crops on an ongoing basis. We have understood agricultural sustainability more readily than we usually understand intellectual, emotional and spiritual self-sustenance. How can we be good stewards not only of what we have, but more importantly, of what we are? This service will include a presentation from the FUS Foundation, and will be followed by a congregational meeting, and then a soup lunch downstairs.

December 18 -- During today’s Assembly, the monthly social justice collection will be taken for OutFront Minnesota.

FORUM — *The Fight for Legal Protection for Same-sex Couples in Minnesota*

Speaking: **Monica Meyers**

Monica Meyers is Public Policy Director for OutFront Minnesota, the largest GLBT organization in our state and the only organization representing the GLBT community on a full-time basis at the Minnesota Legislature. OutFront Minnesota has worked in recent years to stop the proposed constitutional amendment to bar marriage, civil unions and all other legal protections for same-sex couples. While efforts to keep the amendment off the ballot have been successful, the challenge in the 2006 session will be enormous. If such a ban was successful, GLBT employees in our state could risk losing domestic partner benefits. UUs Out For Marriage – a working group of the Metro UU Social Justice Alliance – is working in coalition with OutFront in the fight to stop the constitutional amendment.

ASSEMBLY— *Two Humanists Look at Christmas and Hanukkah*

Speaking: **Arnold Walker and Roger Clemence**

Membership statistics say that most of us who now call FUS our spiritual home have brought to our Unitarian Universalism memories of childhood traditions from a previous religious life. Thus, despite our commitment to a rational humanist view of the world, we may still crave contact with seasonal musical moments and rituals during the days of Christmas/Hanukkah. In this first Sunday of Kendyl’s “Radical Sabbatical,” two long-time FUS members--one a former Methodist, the other a former Bar Mitzvahed Jew-- will try to help us unravel, cope with, and maybe even accept elements of this lingering nostalgia. Do join Arnold and Roger as they probe the deep and varied roots of December’s celebratory holiday season. (Be Prepared to Sing!)

Holiday Assembly Previews

Sunday Assemblies are at 10:30 a.m. in the Lower Assembly Hall.

Note: Due to the combined impact of Christmas and New Year's Day falling on Sundays during Kendyl's Sabbatical, we will only have Assemblies during this time.

December 24

ASSEMBLY— *Christmas Eve Light Celebration*

Speaking: **Jan Devor**

5:00 p.m. Come for wonderful cookies and hot chocolate served on a beautiful table with candlelight shimmering!

5:30 p.m. Come for the Christmas Eve service filled with music, holiday spirit and a fabulous winter nighttime view of the Minneapolis skyline! Candles will be glowing as we all dream of a future filled with not only sugar plums, but peace and goodwill towards all. This service is for all ages.

December 25

ASSEMBLY— *Christmas and The Hydrologic Cycle*

Speaking: **Diana Allen**

Be delighted with a presentation of a Sufi teaching story that describes the travels of a stream of water. Luxuriate in the depth of sensation as a Native American Drumming Circle, Anishinabe Ogichida shares their Songs for Life. Find out what the Sufi mystical view of water and the scientific description of The Hydrologic Cycle have to do with Christmas anyway. This service will be designed for participation by ALL AGES.

January 1

ASSEMBLY— *The Art of Listening--to Yourself*

Speaking: **Barbara Kellett**

On this threshold day between one year and the next, reflect on the power of your internal wisdom. How do we access our sincerity, compassion, courage and creativity? How do we stay on the path or realign and realign again when we're off center. Listen to Your Life! There are deeper and deeper ways of living larger and larger understandings of what it means to be human. There will be Nursery and Preschool care, but no Religious Education activities.

Sunday December 11th

Special Congregational Meeting

There will be a Special Congregational Meeting immediately following the Assembly to discuss two resolutions. See the Trustee Tidbit on page 5 for more details. After the meeting, join us for...

Soup Luncheon!

This will be our send-off for Kendyl to start her sabbatical. Please join us for all you can eat soup, salad and bread, for a suggested donation of \$7/person.



Social Justice Collection

December's Social Justice Collection will be taken on December 18th. This month's recipient is OutFront Minnesota. This organization will present during the Forum on the 18th and be recognized during the Assembly that same day. OutFront Minnesota is leading the fight for civil rights for all in the state of Minnesota. We are grateful to be able to partner with them on this issue and support them with our generosity.

The FUS Office will be closed for Christmas on Mon.-Tues., Dec. 26-27 and for New Year's on Friday, Dec. 30. We will be open on both Sundays, Dec. 25 and Jan. 1 and for limited business Dec. 28-29.

2005-06 Board of Trustees

Chris Bubser (Chair), Liaison - Stewardship • **Barbara Weatherhead** (Vice-Chair), Liaison - Art in the Gallery, Social Action, Special Events • **Scott Eller** (Secretary), Liaison - Foundation, Sabbatical, History/Archive • **Jenna Hutchinson**, Liaison - Denominational Affairs, Personnel, Sabbatical • **Jim Tincher**, Liaison - Discovery Groups, Membership, Religious Education • **Richard Seurer**, Liaison - Building & Grounds, Youth Adult Committee, Nominations • **Madeline Simon**, Liaison - Alliance, Music, Sunday Program • **Bob Aderhold**, Liaison - Greater Community, Forum, Summer Assemblies • **Lee Schreurs**, Liaison - Bookstore/Library, Caring Circles, Finance • **Art Higginbotham** (Treasurer)

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



This newsletter is printed on 100% post-consumer recycled paper with soy-based inks.

R.E.: A Gift of a Lifetime

Holiday Season and Religious Education:

We are going to have a wonderful season of special events for this holiday season. We hope that everyone will make a special point of being here each week for this exciting program!

November 27th: The theme of Advent will be addressed in UU terms. We will talk about the meaning of the word and then do activities that will help guide us through Advent in a meaningful UU way. We will be making social action Advent Calendars and Advent Wreaths that focus on the themes of love, hope, joy and peace. This will be a program for K-6th grades with the seventh graders as helpers for the Kindergarteners this morning.

December 4th: Guest artist Danielle Daniels from the Compas Artist to Go Program will do storytelling from the African American tradition. She will bring percussionists along to highlight the stories! This will be a program for K-7th grades.

December 11th: Guest artist Mick Labriola will present a Rhythm and Roots presentation. This will be an interactive session with children and youth learning about different cultural art forms through drumming. He will present a program of appreciation of other cultures at this time of year when there are many cultures experiencing various holiday traditions.

December 18th: This will be a Sunday Morning filled with appreciation for the Winter Solstice.....the winter officially beginning on Dec. 21! We will sing, do craft activities and talk about the roots of winter solstice celebrations. This will be for children and youth K-6. Seventh graders are invited to go to the service this day to learn about how humanists celebrate the holidays.

December 24th: CHRISTMAS EVE AT FIRST UNITARIAN SOCIETY, Come at 5:00 p.m. for wonderful cookies and hot chocolate served on a beautiful table with candlelight shimmering! or Come at 5:00 p.m. for the Christmas Eve service (see page 3 for details).

Social Service Opportunities This Season:

The youth of the church will be at social hour collecting donations of money that they will turn into CUB food cards to be used by the Minnesota Visiting Nurses Association. Look for signs and a table in the Lower Assembly the month of December.

There will be a new mitten and hat collection at the Christmas Eve service.

Jan Devor

Director of Religious Education

612-377-6608, ext. 108

jan@firstunitariansociety.org



Music Notes

December is always a wonderful month to present our first Music Sunday as we always try to make the music as festive and spirited as possible! Our program on Sun., Dec. 4th will begin with the beautiful "Ceremony of Carols" by Benjamin Britten. This piece scored for harp and chorus is a haunting mystical piece written by Britten during World War II as he was crossing the ocean under gunfire by German forces.

We are also excited to play one of the most beloved pieces of the Mexican repertoire, the Waltz "Sobre las Olas" (On the waves) by Juventino Rosas (1868-1894). "The best tribute to his talent is that his most famous waltz has been attributed to Johann Strauss, confirmed by the European mistake of including this work in concerts of Viennese music." This fact is amazing, as Rosas was the least musically trained of all of Mexico's composers, with no study abroad. The program should be a crowd pleaser, not just for the listener, but for the players as well, as the final piece is the gorgeous "Swan Lake" suite by the great Russian composer, Tchaikovsky. If you love the Bolero and the Mazurka you will be in dance heaven! Finally, a sweet little piece called the "The Sleigh Ride" will complete the morning adventure.

Please join us as we gallop, waltz, and glide through the morning!

Barbara Brooks, Music Director
chorus@firstunitariansociety.org

Gabriela Diaz-Alariste,
Assistant Music Director

Orchestra@firstunitariansociety.org
612-377-6608, ext. 106



Membership News

Please welcome these new members who joined FUS on New Member Sunday, November 20:

Kurt Bertelsen & Cindy Nast

Vaughn Carlson

Pam Clifford

Evy Engrav-Lano

Jo Franco & Andrew Schmidt

Ruth Hamlin & David Husted

Kerry Noyes

Jim Stroebel

Marge Thornton

Teresa West

During this season of Thanksgiving, I would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to the members, friends, and staff at FUS for their warm and welcoming presence to me in my new position as Membership Coordinator. My family is blessed to be part of such a dynamic community.

Jo Franco, Membership & Outreach Coordinator

612-377-6608, ext. 110

membership@firstunitariansociety.org

From the Minister (cont.)

severance package and a letter of recommendation. Let's all try to remember how hard the Building Stewards work to provide us with clean, attractive, functional space for all our FUS activities, and express our appreciation whenever possible. And let's give Cirilo a warm welcome back!

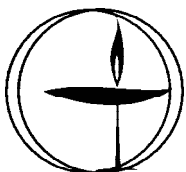
As most of the congregation by now is aware, I will begin an 18 week sabbatical leave on Monday, December 12, so December 11 will be my last Sunday in the pulpit until April 23. I would like to express my personal thanks to the members of the sabbatical planning committee, ably co-chaired by Roger Clemence and Susan Barton. Their excellent work, and exciting plans for what will be happening here during my absence, have allowed me to plan for this period of rest, reflection, and renewal with an easy mind. I am especially pleased that three of my valued local interfaith colleagues have agreed to appear in our pulpit during this time; Rev. Jim Gertmanian from Plymouth Congregational Church, Senior Rabbi Marcia Zimmerman, from Temple Israel, and Father Michael O'Connell, Rector of the Basilica of St. Mary and Ascension Church. These folks are good friends of mine, and I know that each of them is both excited and a little intimidated by the opportunity to share themselves and their faith perspective with this community. I am eager for them to experience Humanism at its most hospitable, and deeply hope that they will find this congregation to be both welcoming and curious to learn more about our religious neighbors here in downtown Minneapolis.

Finally, I want you to know that I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to engage in this sabbatical process. I take delight in the demands of ministry; the variety of tasks, the fast pace of needs to be met and programs to be presented, the stretch of attempting to think deeply about many kinds of issues, the effort to live with integrity so as to speak with credibility, the responsibility for the well-being of an institution that has such a significant role in the lives of so many people. I have never known how to do any of this in a half-hearted way, or to hold any part of myself back from this consuming work. So it is terribly important that I can have time for the wells to fill again, to step back and find both balance and new perspective, and to re-connect with the person I am before I am a minister. That is, after all, as you have so often heard me say, what 're-ligion' is: that which re-connects us, one to another, within the fragmented self, and to that of ultimate and shaping value. It is with thankfulness that I embrace this time apart, and it will be with great gladness that

I shall return to our work together in a little while.

Rev. Kendyl Gibbons
Senior Minister

612-377-6608, ext. 116
minister@firstunitariansociety.org



Trustee Tidbit

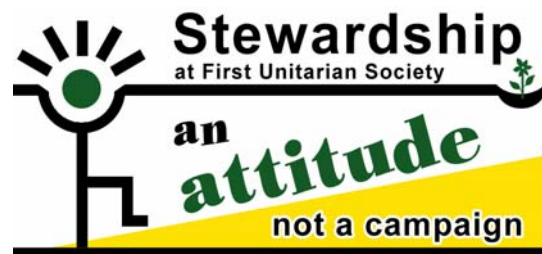
The Board has called a Special Congregational Meeting for Sunday, December 11 immediately following the Assembly. The membership will discuss and consider a congregational resolution against a constitutional amendment to ban marriage, civil unions and other legal protections for same-sex couples, and a second resolution expressing concerns about officially sanctioned use of torture.

Stewardship Corner

Ever wondered what would happen if you stopped paying your pledge to FUS? Would they send the "FUS Pledge Recovery Gang"? Would you get blacklisted on some secret list? How would they even know? And how do you return to "good standing"?

Here is the basic formula: If you pledged to pay monthly (or really anything other than yearly) and the FUS accounting system (Shelby) has not recorded a payment for you within the last 120 days (four months) you become eligible for a friendly phone call that will try to clarify why payments have not been received (Did you not pay? Did payments get lost in the mail? Did payments not get recorded properly?). If you pledged to pay on a yearly basis, that same phone call would be triggered if there were no recorded payments for you for an entire Stewardship year plus one month (Annual Meeting to the month after the next Annual Meeting).

Of course, Shelby, our accounting system, is only as good as the information we are able to feed it. Diana (Allen) and Bill (Scattergood) have just completed a thorough review of our pledge and payment data but reported occasional difficul-



ties in assigning payments to their intended pledge period. As a result, some payments intended to cover outstanding balances may have been credited to a current pledge period or vice versa. To avoid these types of accounting difficulties and to keep our financial wizards happy, please:

¢ Pay any outstanding balances today (or tomorrow, if today is a bad day)

¢ Clearly mark on all your payments which pledge period the payment is supposed to cover (e.g., use the memo line on your check to say "December 2005 Pledge Payment" or "2005/2006 Pledge Payment")

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

Social Action News

News from **Metro UU Social Justice Alliance – building a distinctly UU moral voice for powerful social change!**

1. **Connect!** Interested members from five metro UU congregations have signed up for congregational in-reach training – you can, too! Learn how in-reach can build deeper relationships among members of a congregation, strengthen your social justice efforts, and help set a direction for future social action. Well be training with Vic Rosenthal, director of Jewish Community Action. FFI: Jo Haberman, MUUSJA co-chair: jojane@juno.com 612-822-8870.

2. **Learn!** MUUSJA is helping UUs organize Moral Values discussion groups in interested metro UU congregations. Our goal is to raise awareness about UU moral values & to help shape the 2005-2007 UUA Study Action Issue (SAI): “Moral Values for a Pluralistic Society”. This SAI calls UUs to reflect on our history, theology, and congregational life to discern our UU moral response to the ultra religious rights explicit drive for political power in order to “reclaim American for Christ.” If you're interested in participating, contact Phyllis Stenerson, chair, MUUSJA Worldview Working Group at phyllis@wisethoughts.com or 612.331.1929.

3. **Act! UUs Out for Marriage!**, MUUSJAs newest working group is organizing and mobilizing UUs across Minnesota to fight against an anti-marriage constitutional amendment thats expected to be on the ballot in 2006. Help bring a UU moral voice to interfaith coalitions fighting against discrimination! FFI: co-chairs Ralph Wyman at 612.728.3921, ralph-longfellow@earthlink.org, or, Peter and Carol Lawson at 651. 340.2694, twolawsons@comcast.net.

UU Affordable Housing Partnership working group brings a UU moral voice to interfaith and secular partnerships to end homelessness and provide safe, decent, affordable housing for all. FFI: Barbara Weatherhead at bweatherhead@mn.rr.com.

UU EcoMinds working group is bringing our UU moral voice to two goals: (1) engaging UUs in working with interfaith and secular partners, such as the United Steelworkers and Minnesotans for an Energy Efficient Economy, to pass a statewide renewable energy standard (RES) and (2) to encourage UUs to develop congregation based energy conservation campaigns to help reverse global warming. On October 31st co-chair, Madalyn Cioci brought our religious voice to a special meeting on RES with Governor Pawlenty's chief of staff. And UU EcoMinds leader, Lisa Herschberger, is working closely with UU Ministry for Earth (formerly the Seventh Principle Project) to engage UU congregations in shaping the 2006 Statement of Conscience on Global Warming. Contact Lisa for suggested resources and speakers at mlfe@aol.com. FFI: co-chairs, Madalyn Cioci at mcioci@earthlink.net or Chris Burda at cburda@smm.org.

MUUSJAs next Quarterly Meeting is Sunday, January 22nd from 3 to 5 pm – save the date and time! Location info soon. FFI: Betsy Allis, MUUSJA co-chair: erallis@aol.com

Update on Support for Katrina Families

We have been working with the Oasis Crisis Intervention Center in North Minneapolis to help a family of five resettle here. Some of our support has also gone to a second family; a mother with two young girls.

\$1000 in cash and Target Gift Cards has been donated by FUS members, friends and visitors. Members have also donated bed frames, a dining table and chairs and a new color printer. If you are interested in more detailed information about the needs of each family please contact Carol Koepp, 952-893-2383; ckoepp@mn.rr.com

Another Way to Help

The **Unitarian Universalist Affordable Housing Partnership (UUAHP)** has guaranteed 6 months rent, \$7500 to one family. UUAHP is asking congregations and individuals to help replenish that fund. **The total collected so far is \$4500.** To make a contribution write a check to “FUS” with “UUAHP Katrina fund” in the memo line.

Thank you! to everyone from the families and from the Oasis staff.

You Go, Girls!

Recent FUS Members' interfaith action for social justice!

Rev. Kendyl Gibbons spoke at the interfaith protest gathering held on November 10th, when hundreds of clergy members from around the state convened for the Minnesota Pastors Summit at Grace Church in Eden Prairie – to discuss strategies to promote a proposed state constitutional amendment to ban same-sex marriage. (For information about stopping the constitutional amendment, contact UUs Out For Marriage, a working group of MUUSJA: ralph-longfellow@earthlink.net)

Madalyn Cioci represented the interfaith community working in coalition with Minnesotans for an Energy Efficient Economy and other partner organizations at a meeting with Governor Pawlenty's chief of staff in October. The meeting was to discuss renewable energy legislation for the state of Minnesota. (for information about the campaign for renewable energy, contact UU EcoMinds, a working group of MUUSJA, through Madalyn Cioci at joemadalyn@earthlink.net.



Alliance News

Alliance members are invited as guests to a Holiday Tea on Saturday, December 3rd, from 2-4 pm, hosted by the Association of Universalist Women at First Universalist Church. This annual event is always festive and a great way to connect with friends old and new.

December 4th

Anticipating the rich goodness of your favorite Christmas cookie? The taste of hot cocoa and a freshly baked piece of cranberry bread? The Holiday Temptations sale is your chance to enjoy home-made treasures without slaving in your kitchen! Freshly made by talented cooks at FUS, these taste treats are available to purchase one Sunday only - December 4th - in the Lower Auditorium after morning services. Everything will be wrapped ready to give as gifts, to take home, or to consume immediately.

December 4th and 11th

Holiday Gifts in the form of calendars, gifts, and cards will be for sale by The Alliance in the Lower Auditorium after the Assembly. This is your chance to stock up on 2006 calendars, attractive note cards, and assorted interesting items for your holiday giving.

Don't forget another benefit to these sales – proceeds go to fund many worthwhile projects here at the Society. We look forward to seeing you on December 4th and 11th!

The Alliance Triumverate for 2005-06:
Ruth Agar, Linnea Asp, and Joyce Blomquist

A Volunteer Opportunity!

For most of FUS's history, members of The Alliance have been on call to provide catering for memorial services, often on short notice. The team is down to just a few loyal crew members, and they tell us they're getting weary - so it is time to appeal to the wider membership.

If you are at home during the day, or work flexible hours, please ask yourself whether being part of a memorial service committee is something you might do. This is one of the most rewarding, immediate and relevant ways to help your fellow Society members, at a time when help is very much appreciated.

The first step would be to talk with Lee Schreurs (651-636-7065), Clara Asp (612-676-0863) or Ruth Agar (612-929-9040) about what is involved and how you might best make a contribution. The catering team will be most grateful for your interest and enthusiastic help.



Denominational News

Beginning on Nov. 14, the good news of Unitarian Universalism will be presented in the Big Apple on the 1200-foot NBC Astrovision screen overlooking Times Square! Over the course of 24 days, eight 30-second commercials will be shown daily and will be seen by 1.5 million people traveling through Times Square each day. The commercials will run from Nov. 14-27 and again from Dec. 23 - Jan. 1. The spots will be viewed by the 2.5 million visitors attending the Thanksgiving Day parade (which will be broadcast by NBC) as well as the 750,000 revelers attending the New Year's Eve celebration in Times Square.

Through the generosity of several donors the UUA was provided with a great opportunity to make UUism better known to New York area residents, as well as a national and international audience of tourists visiting the Big Apple. More than 36 million visitors will have the opportunity to see a message about the good news of UUism during their visit to New York. The Times Square ad uses visuals adapted from a Houston UU media campaign; the families shown are real UU families from the greater Houston area. The ad's message shares important values of UUism. Visit our "Did You Meet Us in Times Square" page (www.uua.org/programs/congservices/uncommon/nyc/) for further information on this new holiday outreach effort!

To find out more: To learn more about this and other UUA advertising opportunities, contact Tracey Robinson-Harris (trobinson@uua.org). Visit this link on the UUA web site for more information on attracting and retaining members (www.uua.org/cde/education/MembershipJourney.pdf).

FUS Library News

The FUS library has received a copy of Adrienne Mayor's latest book *Fossil Legends of the First Americans*. All three of Adrienne's books have been donated to the library by her parents Barbara and John Mayor. Adrienne Mayor is an independent scholar of natural history, folklore and early history of science. Her first two books, *The First Fossil Hunters; Paleontology in Greek & Roman Times* and *Greek Fire, Poison Arrows & Fire Bombs*, observed how the Greek and Roman myths were based on the fossils they found. Their insights, some so sophisticated that they anticipate modern scientific theories, were passed down in oral histories over many centuries. Drawing on historical sources, archaeology, traditional accounts, and extensive personal interviews, Adrienne Mayor takes us from Aztec and Inca fossil tales to the traditions of the Iroquois, Navahos, Apaches, Cheyennes, and Pawanees. *Fossil Legends of the First Americans* represents a major step forward in our understanding of how humans made sense of fossils before evolution theory developed. Stop in the Library any Sunday to enjoy these and other fine books.

Events & Announcements

Women's Awareness Group

The December meeting of the Women's Awareness Group will be held Monday, December 12, at the home of Pat Jordan. She lives at 3830 Bassett Creek Drive, Golden Valley. The meeting starts at 6:30 p.m. with a potluck supper followed by a lively discussion, led this month by Meredith Falley. Please RSVP to Pat at 763-746-3330 or co-host Carole Rydberg at 763-546-5368.

Art in the Gallery

12/4/05 - 1/8/06: Drawings and paintings from the Minneapolis Drawing Workshop.

Senior Issues Discovery Group

The crowd is growing at Senior Issues! On December 16th we meet in the Dietrich Room at 1:30 p.m. to discuss Health and Home. Call Sylvia Siggikow for details!

Humanists of Minnesota Meet

Dr. Dale McGowan, author and professor of music at the College of St. Catherine, will speak at the December 15 chapter meeting of the Humanists of Minnesota. He will be giving a talk on his latest book, "Good Thunder" Meeting time: 7:30 pm. Location: First Unitarian Society, 900 Mount Curve Ave., Minneapolis. Free and open to the public. For more information call (651) 646-3937.

The Humanist Center of Minnesota

Talks begin at 7:00 p.m. preceded by social time at 6:30 and followed by questions. Free and open to the public! FFI: Matt Stark (612-377-2211) . Please put this on the calendar:

Dec 4, 2005, Human Sexuality is Humanistic
Peter D'Ascoli, Fellow of the America College of Obstetrics and Gynecology

The Humanist Center of Minnesota talks resume the first Sunday in April. Have a great winter!

A Note From Tubman Family Alliance:

Dear Terri Stark and colleagues at the First Unitarian Society,

You are a friend of Tubman Family Alliance! Thank you for your very generous gifts to the women and children housed at Tubman Family Alliance, a part of your "Christmas in July" program. Your generosity is a clear expression of commitment to families and communities in support of non-violence. Your donation to Tubman is helping us to help families -- men, women, and children--in so many ways.

Your gift to Tubman has significant impact on our ability to end violence in relationships via our prevention and support services; we cannot do our work without the support of people like you. Thank you!

Sincerely,
Julie Murphy

Development Director of Tubman Family Alliance

**THE HOLIDAYS ARE COMING
AND *The Alliance* WILL
HELP YOU GET
READY WITH...**



Good things to eat!!
Holiday Temptations

Sale on Sunday December 4th

Holiday Gifts

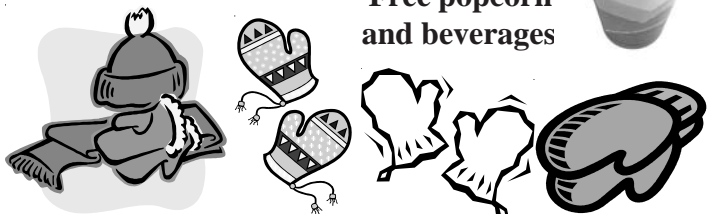
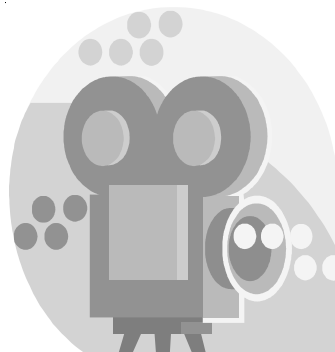
Gifts, Cards, calendars Sale on Sundays
December 4th and 11th
Look for sales tables in the
Lower Auditorium after the Assembly.

Wal-Mart: The Movie

Comes To FUS

The Discovery Group, *Social Commentary Through the Arts*, will be showing the documentary film, *The High Cost of Low Prices*, on Friday, December 2, 7:00 pm in the Chalice Room. Discussion will follow.

**Free popcorn
and beverages**



Events & Announcements (cont'd)



Save the date!

Wednesday, Dec. 21, 2005

Winter Solstice Celebration

Once again the First Unitarian Society will present an intergenerational, earth-centered and humanist celebration of the season. Join us for an evening of fun and reflection at our Midwinter Revels Program with feasting, caroling and folk dancing. Watch for details.

To participate in the Choral Reading Group or the Solstice Carolers please contact Audrey Kingstrom at akingstrom@mn.rr.com. We need you!

New JustWorks Camp Set For Guatemala

The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee is pleased to announce a unique opportunity to travel with UUSC to Guatemala this winter and witness firsthand the impact of your coffee choices on small-scale farmers throughout the world. The delegation will take place January 14-22, 2006.

To date, over 700 Unitarian Universalist congregations, organizations, and individuals have joined with UUSC, Equal Exchange, and our farmer partners in building a fair trade alternative. This winter, UUSC is offering participants the opportunity to meet human rights activists in Guatemala and learn how fair trade promotes human rights.

For more information, and for a downloadable flyer about this exciting opportunity, visit <http://www.uusc.org/pdf/delegationflyer093005.pdf>.

If you have any questions, please contact UUSC JustWorks by e-mailing justworks@uusc.org or calling 617-868-6600, ext. 201.



Don't Forget Your Mittens and Hats for the Mitten Tree on Christmas Eve!



With Very Special Guest Soloists:

Lola Watson, soprano, Susan Druck, mezzo soprano, Kelsey Brusco, tenor, and Thomas Dreeze, baritone.

Where: Westminster Presbyterian Church
12th Street and Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis
General Seating

Tickets: Concert tickets are \$15.

Tickets: 612.624.2345 or Online: www.tcgmc.org

SOULstice: Holiday Music That's Good For Your Soul!

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! Fri.-Sat., Dec. 9-10, 8 p.m. and Sun., Dec. 11, 2 p.m.

Ted Mann Concert Hall
Twin Cities Gay Men's Chorus

\$19 - \$39, adults, Children 12 & under 50% off
December 10 performance ASL interpreted

Tickets: 612.624.2345 or Online: www.tcgmc.org



December 2005 Events

Friday, December 2

- 5:30 PM Current Events DG
- 7:00 PM Plays & Movies DG

Sunday, December 4

- 9:30 AM Forum
- 10:30 AM Special R.E. Activity
- 10:30 AM Assembly: Music Sunday
- 11:30 AM Holiday Temptations Gift Sale
- 12:00 PM Social Action Committee
- 6:00 PM Humanist Center

Wednesday, December 7

- 12:30 PM Caring Circles Meeting
- 7:00 PM Poetry Group

Thursday, December 8

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

Friday, December 9

- 7:00 PM Arts & Crafts DG

Saturday, December 10

- 9:00 AM FUS Leadership Workshop
- 5:00 PM OWL Class Overnight

DG = Discovery Group

Weekly Men's Group Mondays at 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, December 11

- 9:30 AM Forum
- 10:45 AM Special R.E. Activity
- 10:30 AM Assembly
- 11:30 AM Soup Luncheon
- 12:00 PM Special Congr. Meeting
- 7:00 PM The Good Life DG

Monday, December 12

- 6:30 PM Women's Awareness Group

Tuesday, December 13

- 10:30 AM Caregiver's Support Group
- 7:00 PM Poetry Group

Thursday, December 15

- 7:00 PM Humanists of Minnesota
- 7:00 PM Stewardship Committee

Friday, December 16

- 5:30 PM Current Events DG

Saturday, December 17

- 10:00 AM Winter Solstice Rehearsal

Sunday, December 18

- 9:30 AM Forum
- 10:30 AM Special R.E. Activity
- 10:30 AM Assembly
- 4:00 PM Winter Solstice Rehearsal

Monday, December 19

- 7:00 PM Foundation Board

Tuesday, December 20

- 10:00 AM Newsletter Crew

Wednesday, December 21

- 1:30 PM Senior Issues DG
- 5:00 PM FUS Winter Solstice Event
- 7:00 PM Membership Committee

Thursday, December 22

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

Friday, December 23

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

Sunday, December 25

- No Forum; No Religious Education
- 10:30 AM Assembly

Monday and Tuesday, December 26-27

Office Closed

Wednesday, December 28

- 6:30 PM Board Meeting

Friday, December 30

Office Closed

Sunday, January 1, 2006

- No Forum; No Religious Education
- 10:30 AM Assembly



The First Unitarian Society

OF MINNEAPOLIS

900 Mount Curve Avenue • Minneapolis, MN 55403-1124

612-377-6608 • Fax: 612-377-2151

www.firstunitariansociety.org •

office@firstunitariansociety.org

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
MINNEAPOLIS, MN
PERMIT NO. 3801

Senior Minister: **Rev. Dr. Kendyl Gibbons**

Minister Emeritus: **Khoren Arisian**

Administrator: **Diana Allen**

Music Director: **Barbara Brooks**

Director of Religious Education: **Jan Devor**

Associate Music Director: **Gabriela Diaz-Alatraste**

Membership Coordinator: **Jo Franco**

Senior Building Steward: **Cirilo Hernandez**

Evening/Weekend Building Steward: **Ramon Mexicano**

Business Manager: **Bill Scattergood**

Building Manager: **Jim Stroebel**

**DATED MATERIAL
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**