



THE FIRST Unitarian

VOL. 78, NO. 6 THE FIRST UNITARIAN SOCIETY OF MINNEAPOLIS JANUARY 2006

Our Sound Bite (suggested): "Taking Responsibility for our lives of meaning." Please discuss with your fellow FUS Members & Friends.

From the Sabbatical Committee

We are now embarked on the "Radical Sabbatical." For our minister, the Rev. Dr. Kendyl Gibbons, these will be five months of refreshing, self-directed, long-time longed- for learning; and for us, these will be five months to enlarge ourselves as well – religiously.

The Sunday morning speakers, who have been chosen by our Sabbatical Committee in consultation with Kendyl, will push us to see religion and the creative life from new angles. They are not all Humanists, and by no means are they all Unitarian Universalists. They are either long- time friends of this congregation or are esteemed and dear colleagues of Kendyl's. We expect that their topics, as well as their different religious points of view, will challenge us. We want such challenges! In January, for example, we will be hearing about religion's interface with music, justice, ethics, and beauty, and we will be hearing from both non- Unitarian Universalists and "UU's." Really, we are giving ourselves some intensive Adult Continuing Education in Religion. As we come with open minds and open hearts to hear speakers such as these over the coming months, we can expect that we will grow in understanding (1) our contemporary world, (2) this hopeful, human enterprise called "religion," and (3) our own values as religious Humanists.

During this "Radical Sabbatical" we will doubtless also learn more about caring for each other in this congregation. Being without our minister will reveal those small, key, almost un-thought of responsibilities, which she took on from professional instinct, and attention to which we took for granted. These months can be our chance to learn and perhaps to become even more intentional in our care for one another and for this congregation as a whole.

Our committees, especially the Caring Circle and Sabbatical Committees, along with our staff, stand ready to help with individual member concerns. Please consult the blue "Radical Sabbatical" reference sheet with your immediate questions. (These are available in the FUS office – if you haven't one already posted on your refrigerator door!) Do feel free to contact the members of our Sabbatical Committee: Co-Chairs, Susan Barton and Roger Clemence, with Linnea Asp, Steve Anthony, Scott Eller, and Jenna Hutchinson.

As we launch into these few months apart, we thank Kendyl, our minister, for her preparatory counsel. We wish her well, and we wish ourselves rich learning, too!

For the Sabbatical Committee,
Wendy Jerome

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**Dinner
and Concert
at FUS
to Benefit
Katrina Families
in Minnesota
January 27**
(see page 9)

Rev. Dr. Kendyl Gibbons is on Sabbatical from December 12, 2005 to April 23, 2006.

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.

January 1

No FORUM

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.

January 8

FORUM — *Instant Runoff Voting--A means of Reforming Our Election Process*

Most of us have heard about instant runoff voting, but do we really know what it is? This Forum will provide a brief description of how it works, its history, where it's used and with what results. It will also give an introduction to an exciting non-partisan campaign underway to bring instant runoff voting to Minneapolis elections. The forum speakers will be the organizers of FairVote MN (www.fairvotemn.org) and the Minneapolis Instant Runoff Voting campaign.

ASSEMBLY— *The Inner Life of Jazz Performance*

Speaking: **John Jensen**

John Jensen will play and reflect on how musical improvising relates to understanding religion and life. John has been playing music in congregations since he was 11 years old, and he has served the First Universalist Church since 1992. However, he performs everywhere from the Dakota Jazz Club, to faculty and graduate recitals at the U of Mn and St. Olaf College, to the Minnesota Orchestra. He records chamber music and leads a swing band.

January 15

FORUM — *Action! The UUA Social Justice Program*

Speaking: **Meg Riley**

How does the UUA do its social action work? What are the priority issues, and how are they chosen? How can FUS be part of the ACTION, the Study-Action process - and helping raise the visibility of UUism in our state? Meg Riley is head of the UUA staff group that takes our UU values into the larger world - as UUs and in coalitions with progressive religious people of other faiths. Part of Meg's work is with the Study-Action process, taking the statements made at General Assemblies and giving them legs.

ASSEMBLY— *WWMLKD? What Would Martin Luther King, Jr. Do?*

Speaking: **Meg Riley**

Had he not been assassinated in 1968, Martin Luther King would have turned 77 on Jan. 15. It is easy to forget how radically inclusive and far-reaching his vision truly was. From his writing and work immediately before his death and what his closest colleagues have done since his death, Meg will offer her sense of what it means to truly honor Dr. King's legacy. Meg is the Unitarian Universalist Association's Director of Advocacy and Witness Programs.

The monthly Social Justice Collection will be taken in the service this morning - to be split evenly between the UUA and UUSC.

January 22

FORUM— *What can be done to involve more young adults and persons of color at FUS?*

Moderated by Members of the Forum Committee

We'll use the Hyde Park Corner format and use your ideas as inspiration for discussion. All FUS members will be invited to speak briefly and engage in discussion with the audience. There may be no fast and easy answers to this challenge. Maybe you have some ideas that will get us closer to being able to walk our talk about involving more young people and minorities. Jo Franco, FUS membership and outreach coordinator, will join us for the discussion and will be listening to the dialog for inspirations.

ASSEMBLY— *Ethical Decision-Making*

Speaking: **Coleen Rowley**

In April 2003 after her unsuccessful and highly criticized attempt to warn the FBI Director and other administration officials of dangers in launching the war against Iraq, then Principal Legal Advisor in the FBI Coleen Rowley stepped down to speak publicly about ethics and ethical decision-making, subjects she taught within the Agency. She has learned at first-hand the cost of 'whistle-blowing' and observes with interest our current public expectations of ethical behavior.

Forum and Assembly Previews (cont.)

January 29

No FORUM

ASSEMBLY— *Walk in Beauty*
Speaking: **Rev. Rob Eller-Isaacs**

The central challenge of the spiritual life is to learn to live in affectionate company with all creation. This is especially difficult when we experience ourselves as less than whole, let alone, as beautiful. Rob Eller-Isaacs is co-minister of Unity Church Unitarian in St. Paul. He hopes to help us recognize how an appreciation of our own beauty can become a gateway to knowing the beauty that surrounds us.

Music Notes

I hope you all had a beautiful holiday season celebrating whatever you observe with great merriment! Ah, but now it's January, that most challenging time of year to stay joyful and light! With all the carb-loading and egg-nog of the holidays, one can certainly feel slightly out of sorts when the new year begins. But stay tuned everyone!!!! The music at FUS will certainly lift your spirits and renew your heart!

January will feature John Jensen, a wonderful colleague, who will rouse you with his incredible jazz "chops". He is truly a "force of nature", in that he is equally gifted in BOTH the classical and jazz fields. My mind cannot comprehend jazz...I guess I'm too entrenched in the Western music of Europe!

The Eclectics will sing and play on the 15th when Meg Riley is speaking. I really enjoy this group and love what they have to offer!

In the months to come, I will be choosing music that represents and honors the traditions of the speakers and ministers that are our guests. Do not be surprised if you hear Christian, Jewish, Asian, or music theater repertoire. It all has a profound place on this amazing planet we live on!

See you Sundays!

Barbara Brooks, Music Director
612-377-6608, ext. 106
chorus@firstunitariansociety.org

Member News



Welcome! to **Ellaree Grace Meade**, born on December 2, 2005. Weighing in at 8 lbs, 14 oz, baby Ellaree is adjusting nicely to life outside the womb. Be sure to congratulate her proud parents, **Pamela and Sean Meade**, along with Big Brother **Ian**.

Member **Georg Lykken** died on December 19, 2005. There will be no Memorial Service.

Our sympathies to **Wendy Andberg**, who is borrowing a wheel chair while she heals from one broken ankle and one badly sprained ankle. No more trips to Atlanta for Wendy!

We are proud of **Margaret McCoy**, who was honored recently by Person to Person of Minneapolis for many years of volunteer service.

Have some news you want to share with the Society? Contact Jo Franco, Membership and Outreach Coordinator at (612) 337-6608 ext. 110 or email membership@firstunitariansociety.org.

The FUS Office will be closed for Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday on Monday, January 16.

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



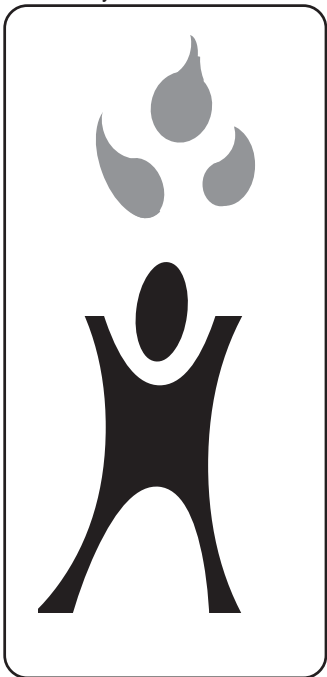
This newsletter is printed on 100% post-consumer recycled paper with soy-based inks.

Religious Education: A Gift of a Lifetime

My Aunt Ada died yesterday. Physically, that is, for she is a truly a person who will live on in my life for as long as I live....and my children too. For in many ways, she is the person who taught me how “to do” life. One of eight children born to a Dutch farmer, she and my mother were the youngest of the brood. When my mother died when I was 16, Aunt Ada became an even bigger part of my life emotionally. For even though we didn’t live in the same town or, later in life, even see each other all that often, I looked to her for model of living as I grew up.

As a young wife she was abandoned by her husband and left with two active boys to raise. Ada never had two nickels to rub together, but her home was always where the family gathered...to discuss politics, to be sheltered from trauma, and to eat ice cream and laugh. “Life is great, Janie,” she would say to me. “I’ve got a home and my boys--what else could I want?” The last time I visited her, we took her to her favorite fast food burger joint (she was 88) where, “The people are always so nice and they have the best hamburgers ever. We always have such a fun time here.” Her blessings flowed when she could lie in her hammock on a sunny day and take a nap. She was the one to always tell us to live, travel and go while you are young. Enjoy yourself. But somehow she never left home, because she was enjoying herself right there.

What did I take away from knowing her? I have a deep sense that accumulation of possessions isn’t the be all and end all in life. It is not the one who has the most toys in the end that wins. It is the person who loves each day and looks upon it as a gift. I learned to stick to my guns in a political discussion, even when out numbered by a lot of fast talking men! I learned to look life in the eye and to face the truth and keep living with a smile even in the dark times. I learned perseverance. I learned that the simple things can be fulfilling and I felt in my whole body what unconditional love is. I learned that miles can keep you apart but that the lessons absorbed in your developing years...lessons given to you by the adults around you stay with you your whole life and you pass those things on to your children.



So, as you start this New Year, take stock of what you are passing on to the young ones around you. They are looking and watching how you handle life so that they too may handle life some day as adults. And may you be as great a role model as my Aunt Ada was to me.

Jan Devor, Director of Religious Education

612-377-6608, ext. 108

jan@firstunitariansociety.org

Let's Talk! with Jan

A book that I have available to help you develop family traditions in this New Year is *Creating Family Traditions* by Meg Cox. Pamela and Sean Meade and I had a great time at one of my “Let’s Talk” sessions talking about the language of the holidays and creating family traditions. They borrowed the Cox book from me, read it and thought it was so great, they bought their own copy-- as I understand it! So see me if you would like to look at a copy of this book.



Keep the date open!

Saturday, Feb. 4th the Alliance and the Religious Education Committee will be sponsoring

a Bingo/ Lasagna Dinner Night at FUS!

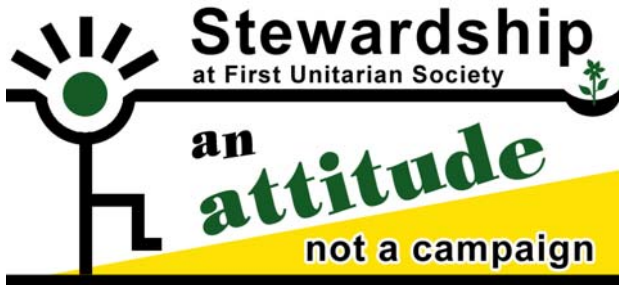
Yes, that's right! UU's can play Bingo too!

Soup Luncheon! January 22nd

Mark Gibbons (who is not on sabbatical) 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!



Stewardship Corner



If you've been to one of our Stewardship events this year, you will have noticed a redesign of the FUS pledge form. The focus of the form has remained the same: how much you are able to pledge on a monthly basis. However, the new form is no longer specific to a particular

pledge year now that we have shifted to an on-going canvass (that is, your pledge stands until you submit a revised form). In addition, the form now allows you to self-identify what your pledge represents relative to the Suggested Fair Share Giving Guide (developed by the UUA in 2005).

Can we count you as an FUS "Visionary?" Do you pledge as a "Sustainer?" Are you a "Supporter?" Or are you still working towards contributing your fair share? Ask yourself: Is FUS a significant part of your life and does it promote your spiritual growth? If yes, that would make you a "Supporter" (or more), but are your financial commitments in line with the role FUS plays in your life? And is there financial room to grow into the role of "Sustainer" or "Visionary?"

These categories have little to do with the absolute amount you contribute, but rather reflect what percentage of your annual income you pledge. Take a look at the Guide below and see for yourself. Why not add revising your pledge to your list of New Year's resolutions? And make it stick by signing up for auto-withdrawal from your bank account (conveniently located on the back of our new pledge forms).

Suggested Fair Share	
Adjusted Annual Income	Supporter FUS is a significant part of my life and promotes my spiritual growth.
\$10,000	2.0%
\$25,000	2.0%
\$50,000	3.0%
\$75,000	3.0%
\$100,000	3.5%
\$150,000	3.5%
\$200,000	4.0%
\$300,000	5.0%
>\$300,000	5.0% and up

If you have questions or need clarification about the new guide, please talk to our Stewardship Committee co-chairs Susan Deveaux and Michael Leuchtenberger.

Ministering—

Our senior minister, the Rev. Dr. Kendyl Gibbons, ministers in many ways to our needs at FUS—much beyond what happens on Sunday mornings. Members of the Caring Circles Committee fill needs that cannot be served by only staff members—especially to complement what others may do in a supportive way. This committee, consisting of 7 to 10 members of our congregation, is attentive to and supportive of congregants and friends of FUS who may be experiencing serious illness or infirmities, destabilizing events or conditions,

or circumstances which challenge their ability to cope.*

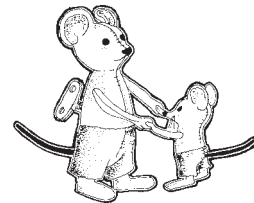
There is a need to augment the size of this committee, to better serve those of us who regard the FUS congregation as a vital and caring community. If you are inclined to participate in this socially satisfying and worthwhile type of ministry, we eagerly invite your inquiry. Please contact Thue Rasmussen 651-917-0075 trasmus@core.com or Ray Schreurs 651-636-7065.

*If you know of individuals in our congregation whose condition is thus and may need/appreciate this manner of support from FUS, please contact the FUS office.

Trustee Tidbit

The Board endorses and supports the work of the FUS Environmental Action Committee as it explores and pursues the Green Sanctuary Certification Process. Rev. Bill Sinkford has written that "it is an act of faith to speak out on behalf of our earth."

Secret Friends



Secret Friends!

- " Signup on Jan 8 and Jan 15.
- " Matching will take place after the Assembly on Jan 15.
- " Trading letters begins by Jan. 22
- " The Party will be Feb. 19!!

This is a very fun way to get to know other children and adults in the church community. Adults get matched with children and they trade letters anonymously for 5 weeks and then discover each other's identity at a party after the Assembly on Feb 19. This program is a tradition here, so sign up and make this a year where you share yourself with a church pal!

FUS Environmental Issues

Environmental Committee Revived

November 20 found the Heritage Room packed for a “revival” of the FUS Environmental Action Committee, showing that the time is right for FUS to organize and take some significant environmental action. In a whirlwind hour we summarized the past actions of the group, lauded Jay Shahidi’s past leadership, and elected new leadership (Madalyn Cioci, Marcy Leussler, & Bill Weir).

The group voted also to embark on two very important pursuits:

1) to pursue certification of FUS as a “Green Sanctuary” through the UUA’s Ministry for Earth “Green Sanctuary” program,

2) to encourage FUS members to respond to the UUA’s draft Statement of Conscience about “The Threat of Global Warming.”

Help Craft the UUA Statement of Conscience on Global Warming:

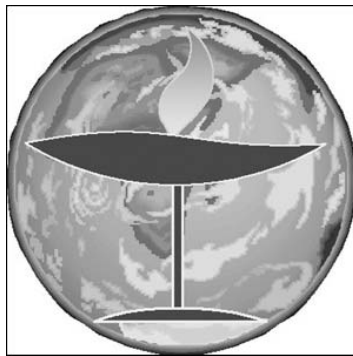
Beginning on Sunday, January 15, when Meg Riley speaks about UUA Social Justice efforts, we will provide information about how to participate and respond to the UUA’s draft statement of conscience on Global Warming. It is by our responses that the UUA will understand how important this issue is to UUs and what we believe to be the most critical responses to it.

Responses are due by March 1. Find out more or submit responses online at <http://www.uua.org/csw/threatofgw.html>

Green Sanctuary Certification:

Obtaining this certification makes a ringing statement of our values, and going through the process of certification will assist us in doing all we can to live lightly on this earth. The first steps are to help FUS members understand the process, to conduct an environmental audit, and to present the proposal to seek certification formally for a vote at the FUS Annual Meeting in May.

Watch for more information at a Forum, at a Wednesday Eat N’ Meet program, in this newsletter, and on the Social Action table. Also, current Green Sanctuary folks (Pete Raynor, Rita Bauer, Marcy Leussler and Madalyn Cioci) will visit various committees to begin talking about how each committee can be involved. General information about the program is online at www.uuministryforearth.org. Call Marcy if you have more questions, 612-824-3240.



Bookstore News

Exciting News from the FUS Bookstore!

During the month of January, the FUS Bookstore is featuring two new books which we think you will like:

Sleeping on Potatoes: A Lumpy Adventure from Manzanar to the Corporate Tower by Carl Nomura. Many of you will remember Carl as a long time former member of FUS. In his book, Carl “describes first-hand what it meant to be labeled, ‘an enemy of the United States’ as a Japanese American during WWII.” These stories from his life have been described as “intriguing and poignant,” and “warm and witty with a Will Rogers’ charm.”

The Prophetic Imperative by Richard Gilbert is “a challenge to mind and conscience in the context of the church community.” William Murry, Former President of Meadville/Lombard Theological School, describes the book as “the best possible resource for social justice work in our congregations.” It is also recommended by Meg Riley of the UUA, who will use it in her presentation here at FUS on Sunday, Jan. 15, 2006.

If you haven’t stopped in lately, you will be pleased to learn that we now have bright and beautiful hand woven Guatemalan textiles available at the bookstore, including table runners, shoulder bags and even backpacks. We know you’ll like them and they’re reasonably priced! And don’t forget the good selection we have of UU jewelry and other gift items.

There’s always something new, so visit us regularly. We invite members to recommend books, so tell us about your favorite during your next visit.

Mibs Pearson, for the FUS Bookstore Committee

Art in the Gallery

1/15/06 - 2/19/06: Barbara Kvasnick-Nunez, paintings

Looking for FUS Artists! Call the Art Committee!

2/26/06 - 4/2/06: All FUS mixed media artists. This non-juried show is for members and friends of the society who are willing to display original paintings, prints, watercolors, and photography for display in the front foyer gallery. Artists may submit up to two works each. If space permits, all submissions will be shown. If too many pieces are entered, the FUS Art Committee will select the work to be hung.

Requirements: 1. The maximum size for any one art work is 30 inches by 40 inches, including the frame. 2. Art work may protrude no more than 6 inches from the wall. 3. Each art work must be framed and ready for hanging with wires or other types of hangers properly secured.

If you would like to exhibit in this show, contact Helen Rice Walker at 612-376-0452 Herbie Sewell at 612-721-4974 or Gretchen Clemence at 612-920-9234 by Feb. 16, 2006.

This is the Seventh All FUS show! They are always fun, provocative and of considerable artistic merit. The art committee may not know of you as an artist, so please make yourself known! We encourage your submission.

Social Action Committee News

The Social Action Committee thanks all of you for your wondrous generosity during the special collections this past fall! This is how much we raised:

- 9/11/05 Hurricane Katrina survivors \$6,158
- 9/18/05 PEACE Foundation (doing peace and justice work in North Minneapolis) \$1,470
- 10/16/05 Metro UU Social Justice Alliance (organizing a UU moral voice for social change) \$1,079
- 10/23/05 Pakistan earthquake victims \$3,301
- 11/20/05 Sabathani Food Shelf \$1,486

Sabathani Food Shelf

Sabathani Food Shelf counts on us all year 'round! Let's remember to keep bringing our nutritious and yummy contributions! Drop them off at FUS throughout the year, at the collection center outside the lower auditorium.



Denominational News

Unitarian Universalists have been at the forefront of some important political issues involving oppression this past week that require that people of faith speak out.

On Dec. 12th the UUA opposed a Supreme Court nomination for the first time in our history, based on a thorough review of Judge Alito's judicial record and his insensitivities to civil rights and civil liberties.

On Dec. 14th UU clergy were arrested for "kneeling in" against the immoral budget. UU clergy and leaders gathered with 200 other leaders of faith, and 115 people, including three UU ministers, were arrested in an act of civil disobedience for a moral budget.

Congregations are signing up to host Living Wage Sunday Services and events on Martin Luther King, Jr. Weekend (Jan. 14-16) as part of the LET JUSTICE ROLL Living Wage Campaign and UU Justice Sunday (March 26) to raise the minimum wage (which has not been raised in eight years!).

UUA President Bill Sinkford is featured (along with Al Gore and others!) on the Stop Global Warming Home Page. Read at uua.org/news about these events.

Keep on witnessing, speaking truth, taking risks, staying strong. (And send us your nominations for outstanding congregational and individual work for anti-oppressive social justice.)

Metro UU Social Justice Alliance – organizing a UU moral voice for social change!

1. **Connect!** Sign up for congregational in-reach training! Learn how in-reach can build deeper relationships among members, strengthen your social justice efforts, and help set a direction for future social action. FFI: Jo Haberman, MUUSJA co-chair: jojane@juno.com 612-822-8870.

2. **Learn!** Organize and join "Moral Values" discussion groups in your UU congregation to raise awareness and help shape the 2005-2007 UUA Study Action Issue (SAI): "Moral Values for a Pluralistic Society". This SAI calls UUs to discern a moral response to the ultra religious right's explicit drive for political power. FFI: contact Phyllis Stenerson at phyllis@wisethoughts.com or 612.331.1929.

3. **Act!** with one of our these working groups:

UUs Out for Marriage!, MUUSJAs newest working group is mobilizing UUs across Minnesota to fight against an anti-marriage constitutional amendment. 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 EcoMinds is bringing our UU moral voice to environmental issues. One of UU EcoMinds leaders, Lisa Herschberger, is working closely with UU Ministry for Earth. Contact Lisa at mlfe@aol.com. FFI: co-chairs, Madalyn Cioci at mcioici@earthlink.net or Chris Burda at cburda@smm.org.

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

Metro EcoMinds

Metro UU EcoMinds January Meeting

UU EcoMinds Quarterly Meeting
Thursday January 19, 2006, 7:00-9:00pm
White Bear Unitarian, 328 Maple St.,

Mahtomedi, MN 55115, (651) 426-2369

FFI: Sign up for e-mail announcements at www.muusja.org/ecominds or call Madalyn, 612-926-5249

Come to the meeting and...

- Craft your own response to the UUA draft Statement of Conscience on Global Warming.
- Learn more about our legislative effort to pass the MN Renewable Energy Standard (RES), meet Representative Bev Scalze (invited), and sign up for one of our RES action days.
- Find global warming resources, action booths and information you can take back to your own congregations.

Events & Announcements

Alliance News

!!!Gracias – Danke – Tack – Merci – Thank you!!!

Jean Christensen and Linnea Asp had the privilege of serving as co-chairs of the Holiday Temptations bake sale again this year. We both send heartfelt thanks to all the volunteers who made it happen. This includes staff for their room set-up and support efforts, bakers, creative packaging artists, cooks, cashiers, and last, but certainly not least, the enthusiastic buyers of our tasty goodies. Though we may sell a few more items on December 11, The Alliance took in more than \$1200 on December 4. Thank you! The Alliance looks forward to finding important ways to use these funds to support our Society.

The Alliance also wishes to thank the volunteers who contributed items and/or helped with the sale of gift items during the gift sale on Dec. 4 and 11.

Next Service Auction Coming Up!

Mark this date on your calendar - Sat. March 11 will be the annual Service Auction at the FUS. This is a major fundraising event and the proceeds go to further the work of the Society. The evening includes a silent auction, a live auction, good food, music and lots of laughs - all for a good cause. Watch for more details later. In the meantime, be thinking about services, i.e., dinners, babysitting, boat rides, yard work or items, i.e., paintings, hand knitted items, pottery, tickets, gift certificates, etc. that you could donate.

Women's Awareness Group

The January meeting of the Women's Awareness Group will be held Monday the 9th at the home of Mona Brown. She lives at 3430 List Place, #2004, Mpls. The meeting starts at 6:30 p.m. with a potluck supper followed by a lively discussion about An Adventure in China, led by Carol Koepp. Please RSVP to Mona at 612-871-4218 or co-host Gretchen Clemence at 612-920-0234.

80% of Strokes May Be Prevented!

Every 53 seconds someone experiences a stroke, and a third of them are under the age of 60. Strokes kill twice as many women as breast cancer, and a stroke is the nation's third leading cause of death. As many as one half occur without a warning. The good news is that vascular disease is often preventable and treatable. Here is an opportunity to identify your risk.

We are happy to announce that Life Line Screening will be at FUS on Thursday, January 5, 2006, offering low-cost, non-invasive preventative screenings using ultrasound technology. Each test takes approximately ten minutes. All results are sent to you and are referred back to your own physician. Appointments begin at 9:00 a.m. and are required. Call for priority appointments at 1-800-324-1851. For more information about these low-cost screenings, go to www.lifelinescreening.com.

Teen Options for Next Summer

1. Think Unity Summer

Parents, are your teens looking for a summer job that will make a difference? A Unity Summer internship just might be the one! Unity Summer is a seven week paid internship program that places youth in social justice and social service organizations throughout South Minneapolis. Unlike many internships, Unity Summer also offers organized weekly meetings when teens talk about their experiences, discuss the impact their work has on others, and in the end, reflect upon how their Unity Summer experience has changed them. Unity Summer is open to youth who have completed 9th, 10, and 11th grades and can commit 130 hours between mid-June and August 4th. Approximately half of the participants come from First Universalist and First Unitarian Society while the other half represent the broader youth community. Youth will be receiving letters with more program information and an application in January.

2. Think working at Camp Unistar!

2006 season runs June 6 to Sept. 2 with some flexibility. Rich, rewarding, responsibility building! Requires personal integrity, strong work ethic, elasticity of temperament, compulsion to closure, impeccable circumspection, common sense and kind & generous listening. Applications are accepted until Jan. 31, 2006, but are processed as received and positions are filled on a rolling basis. See the FUS Bulletin Boards or contact Mike Schwab mlschwab@aol.com or 651-222-4571 for more information.

“Homeland Insecurity: Somalis in Danger from Mogadishu to Minneapolis”

with Imam Hassan Ali Mohamud,

Imam of Al-taqwa Mosque in St. Paul.

Sunday, January 8, 11:15 a.m.

UU Church of Minnetonka, 605 Rice Street, Wayzata. Mr. Mohamud, Vice President of the Muslim-American Society (MAS), MN Chapter, will discuss the reasons Somalis journey to Minnesota, the cultural challenges they find here, and living as a Muslim in a post September 11th America. The Forum is free and open to the public. For more information call (952) 473-5900 or visit www.uucmtka.org.

Humanists of Minnesota Meet

Fran Conklin, Program Manager for Hospice Minnesota, will speak at the January 19 chapter meeting of the Humanists of Minnesota. She will be giving a talk on hospice, what it is and how it works. Meeting time: 7:30 pm. Location: FUS Chalice Room. Free and open to the public. For more information call (651) 646-3937.

Events & Announcements, cont'd

One Voice Winter Concert

**Friday & Saturday, January 27, 28 at 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, Jan 29 at 3:00 p.m.**

Featuring Randall Thompson's beloved multi-movement song cycle *Frostiana* with text by Robert Frost. **World premier** of a new *Frostiana* arrangement by local composer/arranger Joseph Schlefke. This new setting for chorus, piano, cello, clarinet and violin expands the color and warmth of the instrumental writing.

Buy your tickets today at www.ovmc.org!

One Voice is the Twin Cities'

GLBT community chorus

Building community and creating social change
by raising our voices in song!

Welcome to Minnesota!

Benefit dinner and jazz concert for
Twin Cities Katrina families

January 27, 2006

6:30 dinner - 8:00 program and jazz concert

First Unitarian Society, 900 Mt. Curve Blvd., Mpls

Sponsored by Unitarian Universalist Affordable Housing
Partnership (UUAHP) and
Oasis Crisis Intervention Center

*Enjoy a New Orleans menu and some great jazz music
Help welcome Katrina families to Minnesota and hear
their personal stories*

Limited seating. Dinner and concert - \$25

See Kay Dawson, Barbara Weatherhead
or Carol Koepp for tickets

UU New Year Resolution in MN: keep discrimination off the ballot!

Connect with UUs across Minnesota in our campaign to keep the anti-marriage constitutional amendment off the ballot in 2006! UU congregations around the state are organizing--and connecting with larger coalitions--it's fun and EFFECTIVE! Join us at the next strategy meeting of *UUs Out For Marriage!* Organizing UUs from across Minnesota & bringing a UU moral voice to the fight against the anti-civil-marriage constitutional amendment aimed against same-sex couples. A working group of MUUSJA.

Monday, January 2nd, 2006, 7-9pm

Minnesota Valley Unitarian Universalist

Fellowship, 10715 Zenith Avenue South, Bloomington

Location/directions at: <http://www.mnvalleyuu.org/>

If you get lost on the way, call meeting organizers by cell phone and we'll help you get there! 612-600-7483

FFI: Co-chairs Ralph Wyman - 612-728-3921 or ralph-longfellow@earthlink.net and Carole and Peter Lawson - 651-340-2694 or twolawsons@comcast.net

FUS Hosts

Prairie Star District Meeting in 2007

Mark your calendars for the big event!

We will be the host congregation for this annual meeting the weekend of April 13-15, 2007. To prepare for our turn, be ready to attend this year's

PSD Annual Meeting in Iowa City on April 28-30, 2006!

Ask Gary Joselyn or Chris Bubser
for more information.

FUS Foundation News

Start the new year looking to the future

This is an excellent time to take one simple step that can ensure the future health of the Society and leave a Humanist legacy for our children and our community. Include the Foundation of the First Unitarian Society in your will. If you wish, you can designate which of the Foundation's eight funds you'd like to support. Please stop by the office or talk with a Foundation board member to get more information about how you can be a part of FUS's future.

Foundation board members: Shelley Shreffler (president), Chuck Blomquist (vice president), Mibs Pearson (secretary), Jodi Horne (treasurer), Hossein Akhavi-Pour, Susan and Vince Barton, Curt Dederich, Scott Eller, Cliff Olson, Ray Schreurs, Wally Swan

Metro UU Social Justice Alliance (MUUSJA) Quarterly Meeting

UUs In MN in Action--how to be heard by the legislature! Pressing for a Renewable Energy Standard for MN! Fighting discrimination against same-sex couples! Hear from UUs working on these issues--and from legislative staff at OutFront Minnesota and Minnesotans for an Energy Efficient Economy--two of our coalition partners. Find out how you can get active! We will also honor UU Affordable Housing Partnership for their first *five* years of great work!

Metro UU Social Justice Alliance quarterly meeting

Sunday, January 22nd, 2006

3-5pm

First Universalist Church (Chalice Room)

3400 Dupont Avenue South

FFI: Jo Haberman jojane@juno.com



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

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Minister Emeritus: **Khoren Arisian**
Administrator: **Diana Allen**
Music Director: **Barbara Brooks**
Director of Religious Education: **Jan Devor**
Associate Music Director: **Gabriela Diaz-Alatrisme**
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
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January 2006 Events

Sunday, January 1

9:30 AM Forum
10:30 AM Assembly

Tuesday, January 3

6:00 PM Flu Response Task Force
7:00 PM Ad Hoc Committee

Wednesday, January 4

6:30 PM Unity Summer Program

Thursday, January 5

8-5 PM Lifeline Screening
7:00 PM RE Committee Meeting

Friday, January 6

5:30 PM Current Events DG

Saturday, January 7

10:00 AM Art of the Performance

Sunday, January 8

9:30 AM Forum
9:30 AM Green Sanctuary Committee
10:30 AM Assembly
1:15 PM Prostate Cancer Support Group
7:00 PM The Good Life DG

Monday, January 9

5:30 PM Out for Marriage Training
6:30 PM Women's Awareness Group

Tuesday, January 10

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

Thursday, January 12

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

Friday, January 13

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

Saturday, January 14

10:00 AM Art of the Performance

Sunday, January 15

9:30 AM Forum
10:30 AM Assembly

Monday, January 16

Office Closed for MLK, Jr. Holiday
7:00 PM Foundation Board

Tuesday, January 17

7:00 PM Finance Committee
7:00 PM Social Action Workshop

Wednesday, January 18

1:30 PM Senior Discussion Group
7:00 PM Membership Committee

Thursday, January 19

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

Friday, January 20

5:30 PM Current Events DG

Saturday, January 14

10:00 AM Art of the Performance

Sunday, January 22

9:30 AM Forum
10:30 AM Assembly
11:30 AM Soup Luncheon
3:00 PM MUUSJA Quarterly Mtg

Wednesday, January 25

6:00 PM Board of Trustees Meeting

Thursday, January 26

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

Friday, January 27

5:00 PM Plays & Movies DG
6:00 PM Katrina Fundraiser Dinner
7:00 PM Arts & Crafts DG
8:00 PM Katrina Fundraiser Concert

Saturday, January 28

10:00 AM Art of the Performance
5:00 PM OWL Class Overnight

Sunday, January 29

9:30 AM Forum
10:30 AM Assembly

Monday, January 30

6:00 PM Safe Family Fairness