



THE FIRST Unitarian

VOL. 78, NO. 7 THE FIRST UNITARIAN SOCIETY OF MINNEAPOLIS FEBRUARY 2006

Sound Bite (suggested): "A community which helps each other figure out what their live experiences mean." Please discuss with FUS Members & Friends.

Green Sanctuary News

Environmental Audit and Congregational Information Sessions

A subgroup of the Environmental Committee is happily laying groundwork for FUS to become a certified "Green Sanctuary" (GS), a process that could yield a greener building, more environmentally related Religious Education activities, creative ministry built on the 7th Unitarian Universalist principle, and more! This spring, we aim to familiarize the congregation with the GS process, conduct our environmental audit, and work with all the standing FUS committees (R.E., Building and Grounds, Finance, Ministry, etc) and you to develop a terrific plan of 12 or more activities. This plan will then be presented for the go-ahead vote at the May 10 FUS Annual Meeting. In 2006-2007 it's all fun and implementation!

Here's the schedule:

ENVIRONMENTAL AUDIT: The first step in the GS process, begun in January, is a thorough look at current FUS practices in waste management and recycling, office processes, energy use, ministry, R.E., transportation support, etc.

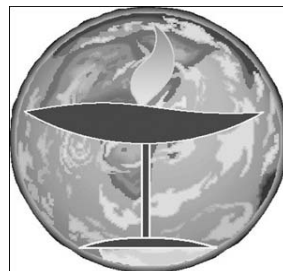
FORUM: February 26. Pete Raynor, FUS member and Environmental Health professor will introduce the Green Sanctuary program, the steps involved in certification and what it might look like for FUS. Bring your ideas and passion to the discussion! You may be able to hear the early results of the environmental audit too.

EAT 'N' MEAT: March 8: Pete will give another opportunity for FUS members and friends to learn about and contribute to the Green Sanctuary certification process.

VOTE ON THE FUS Green Sanctuary Plan on May 10 at the FUS Annual Meeting

GET YOU INVOLVED IN THE EFFORT: Want more recycling at FUS? Like to see a car-pool plan or a no-energy Sunday service? The options are almost endless. If you have an idea please come to one of the events above, contact Marcy Leussler, 612-824-3240, or talk to Pete Raynor, Rita Bauer, or Madalyn Cioci any Sunday.


NEXT GREEN TEAM MEETING: Sunday, Feb 5, 9:30am, (room TBA) Meetings tend to be brief and leave everyone with a task. Please join us!



CONTENTS

<i>Green Sanctuary</i>	1
<i>Assembly Previews</i>	2-3
<i>Music Notes</i>	3
<i>Religious Education</i>	4
<i>Membership News</i>	5
<i>Staff News</i>	5
<i>Library News</i>	5
<i>Environmental Cmttee</i>	6
<i>Foundation News</i>	6
<i>Art in the Gallery</i>	6
<i>Social Action News</i>	7
<i>Denominational News</i>	7
<i>Resolutions</i>	8
<i>Eat 'n' Meet</i>	9
<i>Events & Announcements</i>	10-11
<i>Calendar</i>	12

**Lasagna Dinner
and**



**at FUS
February 4**
(see page 4)

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.

February 5

FORUM — *Physicians' Plan for a Healthy Minnesota*
Speaking: **Judith Shank, M.D.**

The Minnesota Medical Association (MMA) has developed a health care reform proposal that is a guide to providing all Minnesota citizens affordable insurance for essential health care services and improving the quality of care – while at the same time holding down the rapid rise in health care costs. The MMA's plan sets out a long-range vision for a healthy future for Minnesota and a road map for achieving it. Dr. Shank is a dermatologist and past president of the MMA. She recently chaired MMA's Health Care Reform Task Force, the physician group which developed the health care reform proposal. Dr. Shank is currently a clinical associate professor in the University of Minnesota's Department of Dermatology.

ASSEMBLY— *Creativity: Found in Nature, Made to Nurture*

Speaking: **Maria Cheng**

Maria Cheng, former FUS member (1988-2000), now living in Colorado, will explore creativity: its wellspring, its nature and its processes. Who has it? How are we nurtured by engaging in it? What are its challenges, its rewards? Inspiration versus perspiration? How does creativity relate to some of our Unitarian principles: spiritual journey and/or social action? What does nature have to teach us about creativity? Maria will address these questions, drawing from her experiences as a performing artist, writer, teacher, speaker, mother, friend and practicing Unitarian/Taoist....(Anticipate Performance) Come!

February 12

FORUM — *How well is Minnesota supporting early childhood care and education?*

Speaking: **Nancy Johnson**

We have all read about studies done showing the large long-term payback from investing in the early years of a child's life. To increase the level of intellectual capital in our community in order to compete globally, we need to invest in our children long before they reach school. How are we doing? Are we walking the talk?

Nancy Johnson, from the Greater Minneapolis Day Care Association, spoke with us a year ago about providing quality early childhood care and education that is affordable to all families. Today she will update us on the results of the last legislative session and what level of support is needed this year.

ASSEMBLY— *Ways of Knowing*

Speaking: **Rev. Victoria Safford**

How do we know what we know? How do we come to believe what we think we believe? Some reflections on science, intelligent design, and mystery.

The Rev. Safford returns to our pulpit to speak about evolution and intelligence. Rev. Safford has brought thoughtful initiatives in values reflection to the White Bear Unitarian Universalist church since joining them in 1999. Before her arrival in Minn. she served our Northampton, Ma. congregation, and before that, she worked with the American Friends Service Committee.

February 19

FORUM — *Knowledge-Mapping and the World of Design*

Speaking: **Janet Abrams**

Janet Abrams, Director of the Design Institute in the College of Architecture and Landscape Architecture, has just finished a book about design and what she calls "knowledge-mapping". In her work she explores ways in which new technologies can enable us to map information and landscapes, thus revealing new insights and new connections, ie. new ways of perceiving our worlds. Forum and Assembly will offer a nice linkages today. Try to attend both if possible.

ASSEMBLY— *Design with Nature*

Speaking: **Thomas Fisher**

Thomas Fisher, FUS Member and Dean of the College of Architecture and Landscape Architecture at the University of Minnesota, will explore the concept of Intelligent Design and its challenge to Evolution as a theory about nature. While much of the debate surrounding this controversy has focused on religion and science, few have considered the naive view of design and nature implicit in Intelligent Design. The pantheistic and non-dualistic tradition of Unitarianism has particular relevance here, showing how design and evolution are not incompatible and suggesting a way past the impasse in the schools and the courts over this issue. (Come prepared for a mind-stretching presentation.)

Forum and Assembly Previews (cont.)

February 26

FORUM— *On the path to becoming a Green Sanctuary*
Speaking: **Pete Raynor**

The UUA's Ministry for Earth program certifies as "Green Sanctuaries" those which commit to keeping environmental concerns in the forefront of its decisions, actions, and programs. But what does certification require? Just another committee? What would it look like at FUS? Solar panels? Carpool Sundays? Revised investments? How could you be involved? Come discuss these questions and more this week when FUS member and Environmental Health professor Pete Raynor introduces the program, the possibilities, and (hopefully) the results of our environmental audit.

ASSEMBLY—

Speaking: **Rabbi Marcia Zimmerman**

We welcome Rabbi Marcia Zimmerman this Sunday. Recognized nationally in Jewish leadership, she is active and effective in community service and interfaith efforts in the Twin Cities. Among other achievements, she is a founding member of the Mn. Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice. She has served as Senior Rabbi of Temple Israel since 2001.

Music Notes

The Eclectics will offer their lovely sounds on Sunday February 12th when Victoria Stafford leads the assembly. Our FUS children's choir will enhance the service on the 19th of February when Tom Fisher speaks. Lastly, our friend Beth Wolfe will provide some beautiful violin repertoire on the 26th of February when Marcia Zimmerman is speaking. Her music will reflect the Jewish spirit as only the rich sounds of the violin can!

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



We are also looking forward to the first FUS Orchestra and Chorus Music Sunday of the year on March 5th. It will include Symphony No. 2 in D Major by one of the greatest composers of all time, Ludwig Van Beethoven. This symphony was written in 1802, at the time when Beethoven was coming to terms with the inevitability of his potential deafness. At this time he also wrote his famous "Heiligenstadt Testament", which seems to address all of humanity in its poignancy. Contrary to the seriousness of his hearing loss and his despair about it, this symphony is one of the brightest and happiest that he wrote! On the same program, the chorus joined by the orchestra will sing "The Sprig of Thyme", a beautiful cycle of folk song settings from the British Isles arranged by John Rutter. I am sure you will find yourself humming these rich folk melodies on your way home!

Gabriela Diaz-Alatrisme
Associate Music Director
612-377-6608, ext. 106
orchestra@firstunitariansociety.org

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

LET THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM ENTERTAIN YOU!!!

There is much that RE is sponsoring in the month of February that will be fun, helpful and community building. It is our hope that you can participate in each event!!

FEBRUARY 4: Come to church for a lasagna dinner and bingo game extravaganza co-sponsored by The Alliance!! Starting at 6:00 p.m., we will all have a wonderful meal prepared by the Alliance and then at 6:45, play a spirited game of Bingo.....with wonderful prizes! A fun evening for all ages and we hope that UU's won't leave the playing of Bingo to other religions!!

Reservations appreciated: \$7 for adults, \$5 for children under 12. Call Jan Devor to reserve your spot!



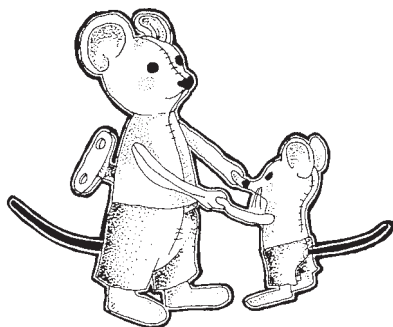
FEBRUARY 12: A wonderful, fun CAKE AUCTION will be done right after church in social hour. Fabulous, hand-baked cakes will be auctioned off.

Need a Valentine's present for the group at the office? Pick it up at the CAKE AUCTION!!!

Want to take a present to that special someone.....nothing says love like a specially designed cake, and oh, so tasty, too!

We hope that everyone will be tempted and participate! All proceeds will go to helping pay for our Senior High Youth to attend the UUA General Assembly this year. Our thanks to Richard Seurer for spearheading this event!

FEBRUARY 26: The Secret Friends Program will conclude with a wonderful party after church in the Chalice Room. This will be a fun meeting celebration with a project and fun food! If you are participating in the program, please, mark your calendars and don't miss this event.



OTHER RE THINGS TO REPORT.....

Thank you for your generosity! The R.E. Holdiay fundraiser gathered \$503.00 for the MN Visiting Nurses Association to be used for food cards.

The Senior High Youth Group will participate in at least one social service projects each month. They will be serving food at People Serving People and preparing lunch at the Minneapolis Crisis Center. They are also busy planning for a youth conference here at FUS in March and their youth service in May. Special thanks to Kathy Gremillion for the social service planning!

By the by.....did you know that the UUA is doing a multi year consultation on "Ministry to and with Youth". The UUA wants to know how we could be doing a better job with our youth programming. Surveys will go out to youth in January and February, then whole congregations are to have a dialogue about the goals of youth programming in April or May and then district discussions will happen in 2006-07. Stay tuned as we get involved in this important project.

The OWL class continues to do wonderful things under the direction of George Hutchinson and Deb Snouffer. 18 youth every Sunday for an hour and a half are doing this valuable sexuality program.

The seventh grade is beginning the Neighboring Faiths program and hopes to combine with the adult Neighboring Faiths group for certain visits.

All classes for winter term have begun and our thanks go to: Karen Rowhel, Alice Ellis, Terry Erickson, Kelly and JD Rickard, Elizabeth Bendtsen, John Nordquist, Cynthia and Sam Severson, Helen Anthony, Lisa Green, Deb Snouffer, George Hutchinson, Cory Devor and Pamela Wolfe for working with our children and youth this term.

We would like to welcome **Amanda Harrington** to the position of Lead Teacher in the Pre-school room. Amanda is a member of the Unitarian Society. She went to St. Catherine's for undergrad and is now doing a Masters in social work with an emphasis on helping at risk children. She has had many jobs and is currently working at St. David's Child Development and Family Services Center where she assists teachers in the therapeutic preschool classroom and works individually with students on specific mental health goals. We are so lucky to have her working with our little ones.

We are seeking a new pool table for the game room. Do you have one in good condition that you would like to donate? Contact me!

Jan Devor, Director of Religious Education
612-377-6608, ext. 108
jan@firstunitariansociety.org

Membership News

New Member Party

The newest members of FUS met on January 14 for a reunion "Texas Hold 'em" party and New Member Discovery group kickoff. Joel and Troy Linck hosted the event, complete with fine food, poker chips, and cheat sheets for the novice players. While some knew when to hold 'em and others didn't, fun was had by all. Thank you, Joel, Troy and Barbara Weatherhead for spearheading this event! For more information about the New Member Discovery Group, please contact Barbara at (612) 781-0418.

FUS Travel Log

- Thue and Uttara Rasmussen are traveling to Cambodia and Thailand for several weeks.
- Ruth Agar is also traveling to Cambodia and Thailand and on to Mexico for a separate trip.
- Nancy and Jack Lindemen took a break from the Minnesota winter weather when they ventured to Cancun for a vacation at the end of January.

Have news you'd like to share with the FUS community?
Contact Jo Franco at (612) 377-6608 ext. 110
or membership@firstunitariansociety.org
and tell her your stories!

Staff News

The FUS Staff has been working on a staff covenant. This is a series of protocols which the staff has agreed to use in working together. We invite the congregation to use these same guidelines in working with the staff.

Agreed to on January 4, 2006.

We, the staff of First Unitarian Society of Minneapolis, agree to:

1. Assume goodwill and be worthy of it.
2. Be respectful, attentive, honest, and open in our communications.
3. Affirm the talents that each of us brings to the staff.
4. Encourage each other in our work.
5. Accept and welcome our differences in opinion.
6. Accept and support the result when our deliberations have ended.
7. Talk about any tension when it develops between us.
8. Ask for help when needed and offer help when needed.
9. Accept that there will be failure, learn from the experience, and move on.
10. Use sensitive information appropriately.

Trustee Tidbit

The Board is pleased to announce that the Long-Range Planning Committee has begun its work on a plan for 2007-2011. During this process, members of the Society will be solicited for their input and advice. The members of the Committee are Chris Bubser, Bob Aderhold, Terry Bock, Adele Hansen, Mibs Pearson, Jim Tincher, and Kendyl Gibbons.

FUS Library News



If you have ever glimpsed the interior of our minister's office, you are aware of the abundant sources of information and inspiration that can be found in the books that line the many shelves there. Our FUS Library, conveniently located adjacent to the right side of the Assembly Hall, at the opposite end of the main foyer from the

entrance to the building, is where you can access worthwhile written materials about philosophy, religion, humanism, ethics—and much more. In addition, there are magazines which are yours to browse while there and/or to take away, as well as many donated books which you may take for whatever monetary contribution you care to leave for the sustenance of this library's operation.

Let me suggest that this library may be well worth a visit by you (open Sundays 9 a.m.-12) to browse and/or to seek a bit of information.

Additionally it is important to let you know that since this FUS library is staffed by volunteers, from time to time we need some more volunteers to participate in operating the library. This is one of those times when we would be pleased and grateful to have a few more volunteers to assist in library operations. Think of the benefits of being able to peruse many

fascinating books while serving to maintain this library as a special place for all members and visitors to FUS in which to access books and magazines at no cost.

Contact Steve Hansen
9 5 2 - 9 2 7 - 6 0 3 5
Steve.Hansen@upshersmith.com or Thue Rasmussen 651-917-0075
trasmus@core.com



FUS Environmental Cmttee

**NEXT MEETING: Sun. Feb. 12,
11:45 – 1:00pm, Heritage Rm
– all welcome!**

Current Actions and Opportunities For All:
**RESPOND TO THE DRAFT UUA
STATEMENT ON GLOBAL WARMING**

Stop by the Environmental Table during Social Hour Jan. 29, Feb. 5, or Feb 12 to find out details and contribute your input. Let our national UUA leaders know how important this issue is to us. OR Check out www.uuministryforearth.org/globalwarming for more information and details about how to respond. Even if you respond online, please deposit a printed copy of your response in the box in the lower Assembly Hall so we can include it in our larger group response. THANKS!

**HELP ORGANIZE our FUS APRIL 23
EARTH DAY CELEBRATION**

Action tables, kids activities, and more. Get started planning at the next Environmental Action Committee meeting, Feb. 12, 11:45 in the Heritage Room or call Madalyn Cioci.

FUS Foundation News

Thanks to the generosity of current and past FUS members and friends and careful stewardship of these resources by the board of the FUS Foundation, the Foundation provided over \$80,000 to FUS and community social action groups in 2005. This was the largest level of support in the Foundation's history. In addition to support provided to FUS from the Endowment and Future is Now funds, projects like the luncheon honoring the 25th anniversary of Kendyl's ordination and special speakers during Kendyl's sabbatical were made possible in part through grants from the Unrestricted Fund.

The Foundation board of directors expects 2006 to be an even better year. Contributions from the Endowment and Future is Now will be larger than 2005 and there continues to be strong demand for grant support from the Unrestricted Fund.

If you would like to be part of ensuring that FUS is a strong voice for liberal religious expression into the future, consider making a donation or a planned gift to the Foundation of the First Unitarian Society. You can get more information in the FUS office or by talking with any Foundation board member.

Members of the Foundation board: Shelley Shreffler (President), Chuck Blomquist (Vice President), Jodi Horne (Treasurer), Mibs Pearson (Secretary), Scott Eller (Board liaison), Susan Barton, Vince Barton, Curt Dederich, Hossein Akhavi-Pour, Cliff Olson, Ray Schreurs, Wally Swan

Adult R.E. Opportunity

Curious about Christianity? Hinduism? Buddhism? Judaism? Islam?

If you have ever wanted to take an in-depth look into any of these faiths, we have a great new resource for you.

The Teaching Company has produced a "Great Courses" series on *each* of these religions: a course for Islam, a course for Judaism, a course for Buddhism, a course for Hinduism, and a course for Christianity. Each course consists of a course guidebook and six CDs (each containing 2 half-hour lectures) and is now available at FUS!!

These GREAT COURSES are a fantastic resource, and have been graciously donated to FUS by Kerry Noyes. See Jan Devor for details.



**Great World Religions:
Judaism**
Professor Isaiah M. Gafni
Hebrew University



THE TEACHING COMPANY®

Art in the Gallery

2/26/06 - 4/2/06: All FUS artists--mixed media . 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.

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.



Sabbathani Food Shelf

Sabbathani 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.



Habitat for Humanity

Habitat for Humanity work date in February is the 18th. The site will be in Heritage Park at the intersection of Lyndale Av. and Hwy. 55 (Olson Memorial Blvd.) For sign up or answers to questions contact Carol Koepp, 952-893-2383 or ckoepp@mn.rr.com

Also from Carol Koepp: "A Habitat for Humanity volunteer I've worked with in connection with Heritage Park is leading a group of volunteers to Honduras from March 26 to April 2. The build will last a week and then a day at Mayan ruins in Copan. The cost is \$850 plus air fair. He is just starting to recruit. Pass this on to anyone you think might be interested. They can contact me and I'll give them info they need to contact the organizer."

UU Opportunities

Join the UU Coaching Network!

UUCN is growing and invites you to join! This non-profit association is a community of professionally trained life coaches anchored in the UU principles of compassion, integrity and inclusion. To learn of its mission and how you can benefit from membership, please visit www.uucoachingnetwork.org. If you are considering hiring a coach, UUCN is also a resource to find the right coach for you.

Hear the roar! Feel the mist! See the mighty Falls! July 16-29, 2006

Come experience the wonder of Niagara Falls, including some great educational opportunities, while being taken care of like royalty. The UU Church of Niagara is conducting a four day UU Niagara Experience which is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to encounter the Falls up close from every perspective. Explore the rich historical and natural wonders around the Falls, even safely riding beneath a tethered balloon. For information visit our web site: <http://www.uunex.net/> Email : info@uunex.net, (716) 791-4453.

See Chicago!

The congregation of Countryside Church Unitarian Universalist invites you to join us for a weekend getaway to the city of Chicago, June 2 - 4, 2006. For the two nights of your stay, you'll be hosted by members of Countryside's friendly and welcoming congregation in the northwest suburbs. Your weekend includes hearty dinners with entertainment, breakfast at your host's home, and a full-day visit to the city. The highlight of the weekend is two of the best architecture tours the city has to offer. After a busy Saturday in the city, you'll appreciate the peaceful setting of Countryside's award-winning building and prairie garden. For details on this unique opportunity, email ccuu@ccuu.org or call 847-359-8440, ext. 1. Don't delay! Reservations are due by April 15, 2006.

Metro EcoMinds

Doorknock with UUs to Educate & Advocate for MN Renewable Energy Standard Legislation

Saturday mornings:

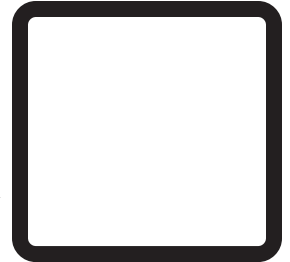
February 11, February 25 and March 11

Join UU EcoMinds and other environmentalists from around the metro area for this easy, fun, effective way to let more people know about this great legislation and urge their legislators to support it. We'll provide materials, training, and a partner each day before we head out. Contact Madalyn Cioci for more details and meeting places: 612-926-5249 or joemadalyn@earthlink.net.

(Organized by UU EcoMinds in cooperation with ME3, Clean Water Action, and others)

Graphic Artist needed to create UU EcoMinds logo/image.

Call Madalyn if you're interested in playing around with this, 926-5249



Denominational News

Socially Responsible Investing Teleconference Workshops sponsored by UUA

The UUA Committee on Socially Responsible Investing is proud to present three free one hour learning sessions to be enjoyed in the comfort of your own community or home - no travel required. The theme is "Making a Difference with Ideals, Impact and Involvement." Each session will teach one of the key strategies of the socially responsible investing

movement. You'll learn concrete steps to get strategies implemented in your personal life or within your congregation.

Saturday, February 4th, 1pm EST: Impact - Community Investing

Saturday, February 18th, 1pm EST: Ideals - Investment Screening

Saturday, March 4th, 1pm EST: Involvement — Shareholder Activism

Details for all calls are on the flyer posted at <http://www.uua.org/finance/sri/SRI-TeleConference-Flyer.pdf>

Please join us for one or all of these. You may want to gather around a speaker phone in your congregation with your finance, investment, and social action committee members. Visit our website for news and resources at <http://www.uua.org/finance/sri/>.

RESOLVED:

These resolutions were passed at a special meeting of the Congregation duly called and attended on Sunday, December 11, 2005.

RESOLUTION 1:

To: The honorable members of the United States Congress

We, the members of First Unitarian Society of Minneapolis, residents of the State of Minnesota, wish to express our grave concerns about the officially sanctioned use of torture by United States intelligence agents, military personnel, and liaison/contractors.

The practice of torture has long been abhorrent to our national values. As Patrick Henry declared, the rack, the thumb screw and the Star Chamber were left behind in the Old World for good reason. If permitted in this country, we are "lost and undone."

The torture of any human being is flatly prohibited by our domestic laws as well as our international treaties, even during times of war. We insist that these laws be respected and enforced. Discarding the Geneva Conventions as "quaint and obsolete" endangers our own service men and women.

We are disturbed by the failure to prosecute the intellectual authors of the torture practiced in Iraq, Afghanistan and Guantanamo. The young soldiers who obeyed their orders at Abu Ghraib should not face criminal charges alone. Clearly, the tortures were widespread and authorized by U.S. officials at the highest levels.

Lastly, the use of torture in the Middle East will not lead to greater national security. Instead, it simply engenders greater hatred against all Americans. This endangers us.

We demand that:

1. All forms of mental and physical torture, whether carried out directly, by "proxy" or through contractors, be banned for once and for all.

2. All cases involving torture by U.S. personnel or contractors be fully declassified.

3. The intellectual authors of the torture practices be brought to trial.

RESOLUTION 2:

We oppose any amendment to the Minnesota Constitution that prohibits marriage, civil unions and/or other legal protections for same-sex couples.

•Our web site has a new look and feel!

Thank you to Craig Smith, who did most of the work. Thanks also to the rest of the Web Team for your ongoing support, which includes: Curt Dederich, Mark Gibbons, Barbara Weatherhead and Diana Allen. Questions or comments about the web site should be sent to Diana in the FUS office.

Unity Summer

Parents, if your teens are looking for a summer job that will make a difference, consider a Unity Summer internship. Unity Summer is a seven week paid internship program that places youth in social justice and social service organizations throughout South Minneapolis. Unity Summer also offers organized weekly meetings when teens talk about their experiences and engage in social justice activities. Unity Summer is open to youth who have completed grades 9-11 and can commit to 130 hours between mid June and approximately August 4. Approximately half the interns come from First Universalist and First Unitarian Society, while the other half represent the broader youth community.

Youth should have received letters with program information and an application in January, and former interns and Unity Summer Committee members visited R.E. Classes to answer questions. Summer is just around the corner, and with Unity Summer it can include a life changing experience for your teen. If your teen did not get an application, see Religious Education Director Jan Devor. You can also call Jan Devor (612- 377-6608) if you have any questions.

Third World Stories

So, How Was Your Trip?

Telling the Truth About Life in the Third World (Without Bumping Everybody Out)

Lecture and interactive workshop led by Jim Schultz, Director of The Democracy Center and author of *Bechtel Corporation vs. Bolivia's Poor*, winner of a "Project Censored" Award. A Samuel Morgan Forum sponsored by UnityChurch-Unitarian on Saturday, February 4, 2006 from 9 AM to 12 noon at Unity, 732 Holly Avenue, Saint Paul. Free--All Are Welcome--Refreshments!

Traveler's tales aren't always just about gorgeous scenery and fabulous food. Many of us return from travels to the so-called Third World (countries like Bolivia, Malawi or Romania) with a first-hand understanding of the challenges faced by the poor. How do we tell stories of poverty and hardship without our listeners feeling guilty or overwhelmed?

Master trainer Jim Shultz will demonstrate the art of "activist storytelling," and then help participants develop their own stories about their travels. Jim's work proves that by telling the stories of the dispossessed around the world, we can go from disengaged tourism to active involvement in the lives and futures of our global neighbors. Educated at Berkeley and Harvard, executive director of The Democracy Center, which he established in 1992, Jim Shultz lives in Cochabamba, Bolivia where he is also President of an 80-child orphanage.

New Building Policy: Whenever the Office is Closed for a holiday, no events will be scheduled in the building.

Eat 'n' Meet

Spring Menu and Topic Schedule

The Wednesday evening *Eat 'n' Meet Gatherings* will be back in full swing this spring beginning February 15. Here's the menu and program schedule, brought to you by Mark Gibbons, Katy Ghiasi and many other wonderful volunteers. The menu has some old favorites and some new fare, and there is ALWAYS fabulous dessert:

Feb 15 Mark's Valentine Dinner--come prepared to eat red and pink

Feb 22 Farmhouse Supper--beef stew, chickpea stew, mashed potatoes, cider-glazed carrots, and apple pie

Mar 1 Chili Bar--chicken green chili, beef chili, vegetarian chili, tortilla chips, shredded cheddar, onions, bacon, sour cream, pinto beans, noodles, salad, Corn bread

Mar 8 Lasagna & Eggplant Parmesan--salad, bread, brownies, cookies

Mar 15 Irish Dinner--corned beef, cabbage, red potatoes, carrots, salad, dinner rolls

Mar 22 Soup & Salad Dinner--beef stew, garden fresh vegetable soup, chicken and wild rice, spinach and romaine salad, brownie and cookie

Mar 29 Mongolian Stir Fry--choice of chicken, beef, shrimp or tofu stir fried with your bowl of vegetables – carrots, broccoli, onions, scallions, water chestnuts, snow peas and/or sprouts – in choice of sauces – kung pao, oyster, ginger/garlic, served with jasmine rice, egg rolls, asian salad, mandarin orange dessert

April 5 Louisiana Dinner--southern favorites with a spicy tang

April 12 Springtime Supper--chicken-spinach strudel, artichoke strudel, cheesy new potatoes, asparagus salad and strawberry mousse

April 19 Middle Eastern Dinner--Greek salad, tabooli, humus with pita bread, lemon herb chicken with rice

April 26 Pasta Bar--ravioli (assorted), tortellini, fettucine, chicken sausage, marinara, alfredo, traditional meat sauce, salad, crusty bread, Italian ice

May 3 Tex-Mex--guacamole, tortilla chips, taco salad fixings, Mexican rice, ice cream & chocolate sauce

May 10 Indoor Picnic--ham, bratwurst, hot dogs, macaroni & cheese, cole slaw, potato salad, bean salad, sliced tomatoes

History of Valentines Day with Cary Eustis - UU Ministerial Candidate and former FUS intern

Ethics in Government

with Senator John Marty

What You Can Say Yes to When You Say No to War with Patricia Keefe from the Nonviolence Peaceforce

On the Path to Becoming a Green Sanctuary with Professor Pete Raynor - Univ. of MN

Constructing East and West from Orlando to Mecca with Professor Samman Khaldon - Macalester College

The History of Unitarianism and First Unitarian Society with Reverend Wendy Jerome and Margaret McCoy - FUS Members

40 years after American Vietnam War - A first Hand Observation and Perspective with Reverend Wendy Jerome - FUS Member

FUS Social Action - A Work in Progress with Jo Haberman - FUS Member

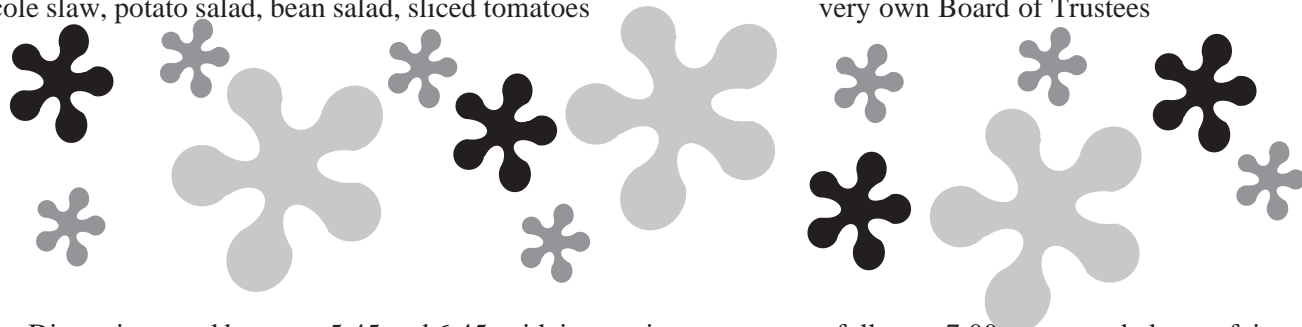
Business and Marketing Ethics with Professor Rita Johnson - Hamline University

Program TBD

Genes and Environment in the Etiology of Substance Use and Alcoholism with Dr. Serena King, Department of Psychology, Hamline University

A Musical Celebration with "Wednesdays @ Eight" with Michael Leuchtenberger - FUS Member

FUS Annual Congregational Meeting with our very own Board of Trustees



Dinner is served between 5:45 and 6:45, with interesting programs to follow at 7:00 p.m.... and plenty of time to socialize with new and old friends! Suggested donation of \$7 per adult, \$3 per child under 12, and max \$20 per family.

Eat 'N Meet @ First Unitarian Society of Minneapolis

Events & Announcements

Humanists of Minnesota Meet

Andy Wilbur, a post graduate student in the Department of Genetics at the University of Minnesota, will speak at the February 16 chapter meeting of the Humanists of Minnesota. He will be giving a talk on genetic engineering. 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

Alliance members and other FUS Women:

Please mark your calendars for the 7th Annual Women's Retreat, "Expanding Connections: Heart to Earth" on April 21-23 at the Koinonia Retreat Center. Our featured speaker will be the Reverend Claire Cassell. The retreat is a joint project of the FUS Alliance and the First Universalist A.U.W. Please look for registration materials in mid-February and if you have questions talk to Gretchen Clemens (612-920-9234) or Polly Peterson (peter089@umn.edu).



FUS Leadership Workshop

Last December, sixteen members attended the FUS Leadership Workshop sponsored by the Nominations Committee. Susan Deveaux facilitated the group and shared valuable knowledge and skills she learned at Midwest Leadership School in Summer 2005. She is a certified, experienced organizational trainer. We are offering it again!

April 8, 12:30 – 4:00 in the Chalice Room
A light snack will be served.

Consider Attending If...

§ You are a current leader and want to learn how the latest UUA methods and techniques can further improve organizational processes at FUS

§ You have not held leadership positions but may want to become one and want support to understand what it means to be a leader and to gain confidence in your skills.

§ You're curious and just want to see what it's all about

§ Experience the great group discussion ideas
You Can Expect To...

§ Expand your skills as leaders

§ Communicate your group's vision, goals, and results

§ Work together to ensure that goals and results for FUS groups, the Board of Trustees, and the Minister combine to create a shared vision and vibrant F. U. S. community

Please contact Wendy Andberg to register. She attended the workshop and can answer any questions you may have. 763-757-0161 or wendya@perftours.com.

Mark your calendars -

Annual Service Auction is March 11!

Now mark your calendars again! The deadline for submitting your donation form is **February 12**. A copy of the donation form is in this newsletter and has been in several Orders of Service. If you haven't done so already, take time to think about what you could offer to help make our biggest fundraiser of the year a huge success.

What are some possibilities, you ask? Well, there is a wide range of possibilities. How about yard work? Babysitting? Dinners are winners, for sure. How about a week at your time-share? A weekend at your cabin? Transportation to the airport? You know wine? Share the info. at a wine tasting party. Invite someone to be your guest at a concert, at your expense.

Like to bake? How about a loaf of bread a month? A special occasion cake? Knitters, potters, painters, photographers - we'll be expecting to hear from you all. Scrapbooking is your thing? Help someone make a super scrapbook of their trip. Speaking of trips - did you bring back some special souvenirs? Could you part with at least one for this cause?

Obviously, this list could go on and on. Once you have made your decision(s), be sure to fill out both sides of the donor form. Let us know something about the story behind this donation. We will print it in the catalog. We want bidders to know the real value of your donation. *Also*, please take time to let us know what kinds of social action/justice you would like to see happening at the First Unitarian Society. Your suggestions will go to the Social Action Committee and be given very serious consideration.

Service Auction Adult tickets \$10 in advance; \$15 at the door. Children \$5. Silent auction and boutique open at 5:00 p.m. Food is served at 5:30. Silent auction is closed at 6:30. Live auction begins at 6:45. Dessert and check-out at 8:00 p.m.

Thanks for your help. See you at the Auction.

Soup Luncheon! February 19

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, salad and bread you can eat for a suggested donation of \$7. Make plans to stay and celebrate our great community!



Events & Announcements, cont'd

FUS Bird Flu Task Force Meets

The newly-formed FUS Bird Flu Task Force, under the direction of Bill Weir, met for the first time on Jan. 4. Bill, Jim Stroebel, Pete Raynor, Mark Gibbons, Pat Jordan, and Sue Tischer were in attendance. The Task Force has two main goals: to protect the kids and adults in our FUS community from the risk of bird flu; and to explore ways to serve our members in the event of a bird flu pandemic. We welcome any comments or thoughts about this topic. We will be making some recommendations to the Board this spring as to FUS policy regarding this matter. The next meeting will be Wednesday, Feb. 8, at 7 pm in the Heritage Room. All are welcome.

FUS Bird Flu E-Mail List Available

A discussion of how UU congregations and individuals can better prepare for a possible bird flu pandemic. The discussion is being originated by the FUS Bird Flu Task Force as of Jan 2006. For more information contact: Bill Weir - (convener) at weirwilliam@msn.com or 952-285-1272. Check out the list sign-up at: <http://lists.muusja.org/mailman/listinfo/birdflu>.

“Handwashing is the single most important means of preventing infection.”

—Center for Disease Control and Prevention.

This cold and flu season, let's all remember to take a few simple steps to keep ourselves and our neighbors healthy. Most colds and flu are transmitted by “droplet spread,” in which respiratory droplets from sneezes and coughs are transferred from one person to another. You can keep your droplets to yourself by covering your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough. Also, viruses and bacteria in droplets can live from 20 minutes to two hours or more on surfaces, like tables and doorknobs. Remember to clean your hands often. In one study, scheduled handwashing by schoolchildren reduced gastrointestinal and related illness absences by 50%. If you take the time to:

- Cover your cough (with your elbow/arm, not your hands)
- Wash your hands regularly
- Remind your kids to do the same

It will mean better health for all in our congregation. For more information, see www.cdc.gov/germstopper or www.health.state.mn.us/handhygiene.

This message brought to you by the Avian Flu Task Force.

Women's Awareness Group

The February meeting of the Women's Awareness Group will be held Monday the 13th at the home of Helen Thompson. She lives at 6325 W Broadway, Mpls. The meeting starts at 6:30 p.m. with a potluck supper followed by a lively discussion about *The World is Flat* by Thomas Friedman. Please RSVP to Helen at 763-537-6797 or co-host Kirsten Langsetmo at 763-588-3918.

Alliance News

Alliance members invite anyone thinking about membership to feel free to join them at their meetings. The schedule is 10:45 am - lunch ticket sales begin, 11 am - program, noon - lunch, with a short business meeting immediately following. Lunch is \$7.00.

On Wednesday, February 1st, Barbara Brooks, Music Director at FUS, will speak about “A Passionate Musical Journey.”

On March 1st, The Alliance invites members of the Association of Universalist Women at First Universalist Church as paying guests for lunch and a program entitled “The Looting of the Iraq National Museum: A Curator's Perspective,” given by Cori Wegener, Assistant Curator at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts.

To reserve your place at the February event, please contact Clara Asp, at 612-676-0863. For the March meeting, call Olive Sarkinen, at 763-544-6168.

Keep discrimination off the ballot!

UUs Out For Marriage!

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 our next strategy meeting:

UUs Out For Marriage

Monday, February 6, 2006, 7-9 pm

Unity Church—Unitarian

732 Holly Ave, St. Paul, MN

for directions: www.unityunitarian.org

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 (Metro UU Social Justice Alliance). For further information, contact Peter and Carole Lawson, twolawsons@comcast.net, or Ralph Wyman, ralph-longfellow@earthlink.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.



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-Alatriste**
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**

February 2006 Events

Wednesday, February 1

9:30 AM The Alliance Board Meeting
11:00 AM The Alliance Program

Thursday, February 2

7:00 PM RE Committee Meeting

Friday, February 3

5:30 PM Current Events DG

Saturday, February 4

6:00 PM All-FUS Bingo Dinner

Sunday, February 5

9:30 AM Forum
10:30 AM Assembly

Tuesday, February 7

7:00 PM Summer Assemblies Committee

Thursday, February 9

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

Friday, February 10

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

Saturday, February 11

5:00 PM Senior High Overnight

Sunday, February 12

9:30 AM Forum
8:30 AM Green Sanctuary Committee
10:30 AM Assembly
11:30 AM Cake Auction!
7:00 PM The Good Life DG

Monday, February 13

7:00 PM Social Action Planning Meeting
6:30 PM Women's Awareness Group

Tuesday, February 14

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

Wednesday, February 15

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

Thursday, February 16

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

Friday, February 17

5:30 PM Current Events DG

Sunday, February 19

9:30 AM Forum
10:30 AM Assembly
11:30 AM Soup Luncheon
11:45 AM Environmental Committee
12:00 PM Social Action Workshop

Wednesday, February 22

6:00 PM Board of Trustees

Thursday, February 23

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

Friday, February 24

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

Saturday, February 25

5:00 PM New Folk Collective Concert

Sunday, February 26

9:30 AM Forum
10:30 AM Assembly
11:30 AM Secret Friends Party
12:00 PM Social Action Committee

The official FUS calendar is online at
www.firstunitariansociety.org.

NOTE NEW LOCATION!!!

Choose "Calendar" under the "News
& Events" top menu