



THE FIRST Unitarian

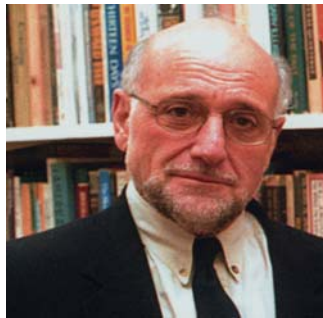
VOL. 78, NO. 9 THE FIRST UNITARIAN SOCIETY OF MINNEAPOLIS APRIL 2006

Minister Emeritus

April 9, 2006 Speaking: Rev. Khoren Arisian

9:30 AM FORUM – Ethics: Religion's Missing Factor

The mighty uproar of Islamic rage at Danish satire--offensive cartoons of Mohammed--appearing in some Danish publications in February is a sobering reminder of the lack of humor in the world's major religions and their utter intolerance owing to an historic lack of exposure to experiences of unabashed secularity that might temper an over-heated dogmatic religiosity. Religion everywhere has been centrally preoccupied with elements of worship: theology, dogology, clerical garments, sacred music, the indoctrination of piety, ritualistic undertakings of all sorts. To religion's credit, more people are involved with their personal spirituality and simple good works. However, ethics is usually regarded as something of an afterthought, an incidental offshoot of these more common elements. For Felix Adler, the founder of Ethical Culture in NY in 1876 and an incomparable radical religious and educational thinker and social activist, the ethical factor actually precedes the theological factor in humanity's spiritual evolution, only to be compromised through the usual processes of socialization. Indeed ethics, in all its expressions and permutations, constitutes the entire sphere of the spiritual. It's a demanding and challenging prospect of the first order. There's nothing remotely like Ethical Culture in either the traditional or liberal religious pantheon in America (Uism being an exception but only in its humanist extensions), yet it lies at the very heart of our country's democratic heritage. Ethics, let us not forget, is the ultimate source of the concept of the rule of law.



10:30 AM ASSEMBLY– On Arousing Our Inner Don Quixote: Tilting at Windmills in Georgian America

Last year marked the 400th anniversary of the publication of Cervantes's sensational literary masterpiece, Don Quixote De La Mancha. We'll reassess this insightful, entertaining tale of over 1000 pages (!) and explore what tilting at windmills might be all about and whether such mighty exertions suggest effective modes of political, cultural, and moral resistance and response to our own government's official distortions, excessive secrecy, cruel indifference to human suffering (as evidenced in the Katrina debacle), its defiant corruptibility, and a two-pronged policy of war and deficits without end. It is woefully past time, especially given the pivotal upcoming mid-term election of 2006, to awaken from our national semi-comatose predicament and begin to puncture the balloon of the present Administration's arrogance of power, patronage, and dubious executive privilege. If this sounds like an impossible dream, so be it!

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**Easter
Pancake
Breakfast
April 16**

(see page 2)



**Earth Day
Collection and
Info Fair
April 23**

(see page 0)

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.

April 2 -- Daylight Savings Time Starts Today! Turn your clocks back 1 hour.

FORUM — *Continuity Coupled With Change: FUS Lunch Bunch and the US Labor Movement*

Speaking: **Peter Rachleff**

Peter Rachleff has taught at Macalester College since 1982, specializing in labor history, and he has spoken several times at FUS forums. He likes to make connections -- between scholarship and activism, between teaching and learning, and between the past, the present, and the future. Peter is known as an advocate for workers and a supporter of their struggles, from the Homel strike of the mid-1980s to the Northwest Airlines strike of last summer and fall. His Forum presentation will be complemented by his thoughts on dynamic elements in American labor history during the morning Assembly.

ASSEMBLY— *Continuity Coupled With Change: FUS Lunch Bunch and the US Labor Movement*

Speaking: **Ken Meter and Peter Rachleff**, with supporting casts and music

"So," you ask, "how does the celebrating of former labor educator, attorney and mediator D. Alan Bruce (an FUS member, now deceased) and his widow, FUS Life Member Elisabeth (Betty) Bruce, connect with the combination of economic historian Ken Meter of Crossroads Resource Center and labor historian Peter Rachleff and with the topic of today's Assembly?" Think you know? Well, toss into the mix Lunch Bunch Leader Al Uhl and Sabbatical Committee Member Roger Clarence, add labor songs by the FUS Eclectics and Ken Meter's Musical Group (and maybe even voices from the Children's Labor Song Singers); then admit you're totally stumped.... But, if you set your clocks ahead an hour on Saturday night and get to FUS for Forum, Assembly, and the reception honoring Alan and Betty Bruce, you'll be "in the know". Remember: Curiosity is an essential Unitarian-Universalist trait.

Please try to attend both sessions.

April 9

FORUM — *Ethics: Religion's Missing Factor*

Speaking: **Khoren Arisian**

For full description, see front page

ASSEMBLY— *On Arousing Our Inner Don Quixote: Tilting at Windmills in Georgian America*

Speaking: **Rev. Khoren Arisian**

For full description, see front page

April 16

9:00 to 10:15 AM Easter Pancake Breakfast

Cooking: **Senior High Youth Group and Parents**

Join the Hutchinsons, the Pileggis and the Senior High Youth for this scrumptious meal, including Pancakes, Belgian Waffles, Cheese Blintzes and Fruit Salad! \$7 for adults, \$3 for children under 12. All proceeds to support the FUS Youth trip to General Assembly in June.

ASSEMBLY— *"Who Do They Say That He Is?"*

Speaking: **Rev. Wendy Jerome**

Albert Schweitzer began "the quest for the historical Jesus," and much new information has come in since. What we are learning makes a difference to Christians, Jews, and U's, including humanists.

April 23

FORUM: *Minnesota's Energy Future: Clean, Local and Renewable?*

Speaking: **J. Drake Hamilton**

Review the laws, policies, and utility programs that can increase the Winds of Change with Ms. Hamilton, Science Policy Director at Minnesotans for an Energy-Efficient Economy. An expert on energy at every level, Ms. Hamilton will talk about current laws and market forces, what new policies and laws are needed or are in the pipeline, and give us the low down on Xcel Energy's WindSource green energy program. (Special Collection this day will go to reducing FUS' carbon emissions by allowing purchase of some Wind Generated electricity.)

ASSEMBLY— *The Rhythms of Life*

Speaking: **Rev. Kendyl Gibbons**

The tradition of Earth Day celebrates what we like to call the interdependent web of all existence, and our role as responsible participants in that network. Wrote E.H. White, "I awake in the morning, torn between a desire to save the world, and a desire to savor the world. That makes it hard to plan the day." This dilemma is probably not unfamiliar to many of us, and the key to it may be to find a sense of rhythm that allows us to both save and savor, in such a way that each informs the other. We need our planet, and it needs us. This morning we welcome the choir of our neighboring First Universalist congregation for a special musical presentation, and celebrate Kendyl's return from her sabbatical leave.

Forum and Assembly Previews (cont.)

April 30

FORUM — *The 1969 Morrill Hall Take-over: Transforming the U of M*

Speaking: **Prof. J.S. Wright**

ASSEMBLY— *Key Lime Pie: What I Learned and Why I'm Glad to Be Back!*

Speaking: **Rev. Kendyl Gibbons**

My 18 weeks of leave have been richly renewing, and I have learned much from my visits to four of this city's black and multiracial congregations. I have also been reading, reflecting, and observing at the UUA's mid-size church conference. I ponder again the meaning of religious community; what it is, and how we know when it is working. What do we at FUS have in common with our neighbors of faith? What difference does the existence of our Society make to this city and the world, and how does that difference shape the covenant we keep with one another?

Music Notes

The month of April features some wonderful music! On April 2nd, the Eclectics will perform music that enhances the topic of the labor movement. It should be a rousing and inspiring morning! April 9th will feature a string quartet formed by Dawn Kuzma, a member of the FUS Orchestra as well as the music committee. We felt that Koren Arisian would appreciate a string quartet, as he grew up playing the violin! Plus, it is rumored that Beethoven is his favorite composer!

To greet Kendyl with a bang on the 23rd of April, the FUS Chorus AND the First Universalist Choir will perform a wonderful piece by Janika Vandervelde. This exciting piece, featuring the poetry of Federico Garcia Lorca, is scored for chorus and five percussionists! If you like rhythm, you will love this compelling work! I am thrilled to collaborate with the First Universalist Choir as well! On April 30th our chorus will venture over to 34th and Dupont to perform the work at First Universalist. I can't wait to combine our forces! Hope everyone is having a great spring and always keep a tune in your heart!

See you Sundays!

Barbara Brooks, Music Director

612-377-6608, ext. 106

chorus@firstunitariansociety.org

Member News

MEMBER NEWS

Our condolences go out to the family of **Caroline Olsen**, who died on February 16 at the age of 97. Caroline was active in Danish-American organizations, the International Institute, politics, and civic affairs, and was a long-standing member of FUS.

Have news you'd like to share with the FUS community? Contact Jo Franco at 612-377-6608 ext. 110 or 612-845-4335 or membership@firstunitariansociety.org and tell her your stories!

NEED A NAMETAG?

Stop by the "Ask Me" table in the lower assembly hall on Sunday and sign up for a new nametag. If you've ordered one recently, please stop by the office to retrieve it.

EAT N MEET PROGRAM CHANGE

The program for April 5 is a speaker from Fair Vote Minnesota who will be talking about Instant Run-off Voting.

Have some news you want to share with the Society? Contact Jo Franco, Membership and Outreach Coordinator at (612) 337-6608 ext. 110 or 612-845-4335 or email at membership@firstunitariansociety.org.

2005-06 Board of Trustees

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



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

Religious Education: A Gift of a Lifetime

First and foremost, Cory and I would like to extend a huge "Thank You!" for all of the support, caring and encouragement that we have received from this community in light of our son's cancer diagnosis. We are slowly moving out of the shock phase...into the continuous worry phase that will probably be with us for a while. It is such a relief to be a U at time like these..no energy-drain questioning of why God is doing this to us, no platitudes from others that God only gives out what people can handle.....bad things just happen to good people and it is to science that we entrust Ross's physical care and to the kind, loving and concerned people such as the ones in this community that we entrust our mental health in order to handle this situation. It is true that we get by with a little (or a lot) of help from our friends and family!

It is when a crisis hits, like this one for our family, that you know why you go to church. To be surrounded with people who say that you are in their thoughts and prayers is a wonderful support to get through the day. It is a feeling that you and your family matter in this vast world and that there are people to turn to for support and for information networking. And it is an extended UU family. I know that I can turn to the UU church in Evanston, IL, as an ally and cast an even broader support net for Ross if the need arises. We have heard from people across the country that have heard the news on the UU grapevine. It is a wonderful thing to have a community to share both your joys and your sorrows. Thank you.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

New teachers have started in K-6 classrooms.

Marcia Carlson and Ruth Hamlin are teaching Kindergarten.

Terry Erickson and Mike Russell are with the first grade.

Nicki Victora is with the second graders

Christie Eller and Alice Ellis are teaching third grade

Jeff Magnuson has the fourth graders

Mike Stein is with the fifth and sixth graders.

Deb Snuffer and George Hutchinson continue with OWL

Pamela Wolfe and Cory Devor continue with senior high

Our thanks to these adults who are taking their turn teaching and mentoring our young children and youth.

REGISTER FOR NEXT YEAR

Registration for next year will be out April 9th. We ask that you fill out a form yearly so that we can catch any new or changed information. This year there will be an evaluation form with the registration packet, giving children, youth and parents a chance to give input into the RE program here at FUS. You may also register on line, but the evaluation has to be mailed into the office.

SPECIAL EVENTS

There is a lot of research and news lately about the difference in raising and educating boys and girls. The RE Committee and the Alliance is sponsoring a Sunday afternoon talk about this topic featuring a speaker and parts of the PBS documentary, *Raising Cain*. Join us on Sunday, April 23, from 3-5:00 in the Dietrich room for a great presentation and discussion.

Easter, April 16, is a really fun day in the RE program. A cooperative candy hunt in the Seven Pools Park is the way Easter memories are made. Children will begin in service and then gather for the hunt and an activity. It is a great way to kick off spring.

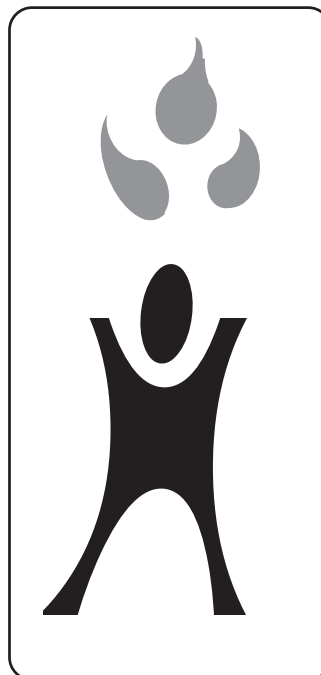
SUMMER READING ACTIVITY

Keep you eyes open for information about a summer FUS reading program called Read To Feed. Heifer Project International helps impoverished families around the globe by giving them livestock and management skills and this summer children and youth can get sponsors for reading and earn money that will be given to the Heifer Project. We will gather all of the money and the children that do the reading project can select what kind

of animals they want to send to help out children in another country. A reading and a social justice project.....what a terrific combination!

UU NEWS

An active RE Teacher and RE Committee Member in the UU Church in Traverse City, Michigan, Lynne Rae Perk has just won a Newberry Award for her children's book *Criss Cross*.



Jan Devor

Director of Religious Education

612-377-6608, ext. 108

jan@firstunitariansociety.org

Green Sanctuary News

Steps to Becoming a Green Sanctuary

If you missed the Forum and the Meet N' Eat where Pete Raynor described the nuts and bolts of what becoming a "Green Sanctuary" really means for FUS, here's a brief summary. And if at any point, you'd like to submit an idea or discuss something related to the Green Sanctuary effort, please contact Pete Raynor at 952-513-0729, or place a suggestion in the Green Sanctuary idea box on the Social Action Board in the Lower Assembly Hall.



Step by Step:

The Green Sanctuary Program, administered through the UU Ministry for Earth, provides a framework for our study and reflection on the UU Seventh Principle, plus individual and collective action for responding to its call. The Program offers "Green Sanctuary" certification to congregations that follow through with the defined process of study, reflection, and action.

1. Establish a Green Sanctuary Committee

The Green Sanctuary Committee is an ongoing committee that includes members representing all aspects of congregational life, including RE, worship, communications, buildings and grounds, finance, and social justice. The committee's role is not to carry the water of the environmental commitment and let the rest of the congregation off the hook. Instead, the committee facilitates planning and provides logistical support to the congregation. So far, the coordinating committee is Pete Raynor, Marcy Leussler, Rita Bauer and Madalyn Cioci. Many others are helping and anyone is welcome!

2. Conduct an Environmental Audit

The first Green Sanctuary step is undertaking an environ-

mental audit to provide a snapshot of where the congregation stands with respect to environmental behaviors. The audit establishes the baseline or starting point for your program. Our audit is still underway, and includes assessment of things like:

- Energy usage and conservation practices; procedures for reducing consumption and recycling;
- Church policies governing purchasing and investing;
- Landscaping policies directing use of native species, landscape chemicals, etc.;
- Religious education programs relating to the environment for both children and adults;
- Worship practices integrating the wisdom of the Earth;
- Social action projects or activities relating to environmental justice.

3. FUS Congregational Vote

It isn't a required step of the Green Sanctuary Program, but at FUS we will vote at the annual meeting on May 10, 2006, to officially sanction our commitment to becoming an accredited Green Sanctuary.

4. Create an Action Plan

Next, we'll choose 12 actions to include in our congregation's Action Plan. The plan will include 2 actions in each of the areas of Religious Education, Worship and Celebration, and Environmental Justice work; 4 actions in the area of Sustainable Living, and 2 more activities that can fall in any category.

We're open for taking ideas now. Submit your activity ideas to Pete Raynor directly, or by dropping them in the Green Sanctuary idea box on the Social Action board in the Lower Assembly Hall.

5. Apply for Green Sanctuary Candidacy & Complete All Activities

Once our Action Plan is ready, we'll submit our Application for Candidacy and carry out our Action Plan.

6. Apply for Green Sanctuary Accreditation

After completing all 12 activities in our Action Plan, the congregation must vote to apply for accreditation as a Green Sanctuary. We'll document all the activities we've completed and submit our final report.

Adapted from UU Ministry for Earth, Copyright © 1999-2005 Seventh Principle Project. Updated February 15, 2005

When's the Meeting? Any Day But These! FUS Building Closed on Holidays

The Personnel Committee reminds all FUS groups and committees to avoid scheduling events or meetings on the following holidays as there will, in most cases, be no staff available for opening or closing the building: New Year's Day, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day and the day following, Half-day Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and Half-day New Year's Eve. Jim Stroebel, Building Manager, has discretion whether or not to schedule building stewards on these holidays and to remind groups of these holidays, should they try to schedule something.

UU EcoMind News!

Awe-inspiring Social Justice Work!

"...ME3 is in awe of UU passion in action," says J. Drake Hamilton, Science Policy Director of Minnesotans for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ME3), in response to organizing efforts of UU Eco-Minds (a working group of MUUSJA, the MN UU Social Justice Alliance). Eco-Minds organized UUs from five metro congregations--MN Valley UU Fellowship in Bloomington, UU Church of Minnetonka, UU Church of White Bear Lake, First Unitarian Society of Mpls and First Universalist Church of Mpls--who door-knocked together over four Saturdays in key areas and collected 725 postcards in support of a MN RENEWABLE ENERGY STANDARD (RES). The RES would increase by 20% by the year 2020 the amount of renewable energy MN generates (mostly wind).

"We found over 80% of the people we talked to were enthusiastic to sign the postcards and many even thanked us for letting them know about the RES bill", said Madalyn Cioci, FUS member, who organized the effort along with other Eco-Minds steering group members. "Our experience echoes the December 2005 poll that found 89% of Minnesota voters like the RES bill. It's not often that we have such agreement on issues these days, ideas that people like across the demographics: Republican-Democrat, rural-suburban, rich-poor. The RES is such an issue. The people want this to happen."

Due to the recent efforts of Eco-Minds and allied organizations, at least one law-maker has already changed positions and reported he will support RES

Social Action

Instant Runoff Voting Education Sessions

A resolution to support IRV in Mpls. may be part of the annual mtg. of FUS

Here are two chances to find out what it's all about:

The speakers on April 5th at Eat 'n' Meet and again, after social hour in the Chalice Room, on April 9th, will be from FairVote Minnesota. They will be talking about Instant Runoff Voting. This is a method of voting that is used in a few states, cities and other voting entities. It eliminates the primary and encourages increased participation in the election process. There is a movement to use this system in Minneapolis city elections. At the annual meeting we may have an opportunity to decide if we want to lend our support to that movement.

The session on April 5th will be in the Deitrich Room, 7:00 p.m. On April 9th we will meet in the Chalice Room after social hour; 12:30 p.m. A light lunch will be served.



UUO4M

UUs Out For Marriage!

UUs Out For Marriage will hold its monthly strategy meeting on Monday, April 3, 2006, 7-9pm, First Universalist Church, 3400 Dupont Ave S, Mpls.

All are warmly welcome! Join us in fighting a MN constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage.

UUO4M is a working group of MUUSJA, the MN UU Social Justice Alliance--a UU social justice organization; FFI: Jo Haberman jojane@juno.com



UU Outings

Wine Country Excursions

"Far exceeded our expectations... We would love to do it again!" says Valerie & Larry Foley, Wellesley, MA.

UU's of Napa, California, announce the second season of our UU Wine Country Excursions, a delightful way to tour the scenic Napa and Sonoma Valleys. These small tours are customized to your interests, e.g. wine tasting, art, history, gourmet dining, or exploring the beauty of our hills and valleys. The tour includes private room/bath and breakfast in the homes of congregation members. Special places include COPIA (the American Center for Food, Wine and the Arts), Jack London's home, the Francis Ford Coppola winery and movie museum, fine restaurants, many museums and galleries, miles of bicycling and hiking trails, etc. We offer Excursions from April through October. Plan for two days of touring and two or three overnight stays. Home hospitality without tours is available. All proceeds benefit our small fellowship. We have limited openings, so contact us now for details. Tom Wilson (707) 254-7443 or twilson9@sbcglobal.net.

UU NIAGARA EXPERIENCE

July 16-19, 2006

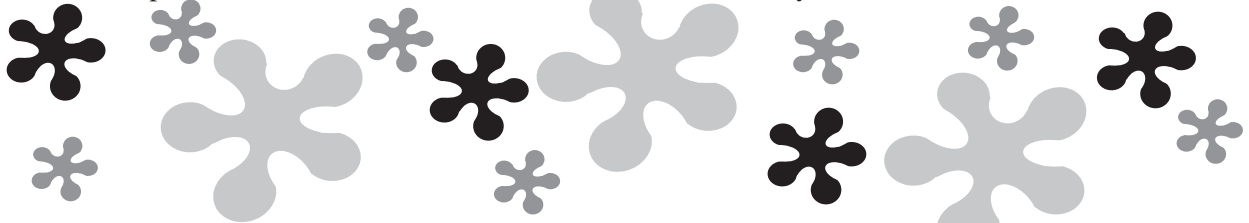
If you have ever wanted to visit Niagara Falls or if it is already one of your favorite places, this is a chance to experience the wonder of Niagara Falls including some great educational opportunities while in the company of UUs from around the country. The UU Church of Niagara is conducting a four day UU Niagara Experience which is a lifetime opportunity to encounter the Falls up close from every perspective, even safely riding beneath a tethered balloon. Spend four days with us exploring the rich history and natural wonders around the Falls. For information visit our web site: www.uunex.net. Email: info@uunex.net or telephone: (716) 791-445.

Eat 'n' Meet

Spring Menu and Topic Schedule

The Wednesday evening **Eat 'n' Meet Gatherings** are back in full swing this spring! 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:

- April 5 --** Louisiana Dinner--southern favorites with a spicy tang **Instant Runoff Voting** with FairVote Minnesota
- April 12 -** Springtime Supper--chicken-spinach strudel, artichoke strudel, cheesy new potatoes, asparagus salad and strawberry mousse! **Just Kids** with Professor Colleen Bell, Department of Conflict Studies, Hamline University
- April 19 -** Middle Eastern Dinner--Greek salad, tabooli, humus with pita bread, lemon herb chicken with rice **Panel Discussion about Public Education and what really can be done to improve our schools. Led by Pamela Meade**
- April 26 -** Pasta Bar--ravioli (assorted), tortellini, fettucine, chicken sausage, marinara, alfredo, traditional meat sauce, salad, crusty bread, Italian ice **Genes and Environment in the Etiology of Substance Use and Alcoholism** with Dr. Serena King, Department of Psychology, Hamline University
- May 3 --** Tex-Mex--guacamole, tortilla chips, taco salad fixings, Mexican rice, ice cream & chocolate sauce **A Musical Celebration with "Wednesdays @ Eight"** with Michael Leuchtenberger - FUS Member
- May 10 -** Indoor Picnic--ham, bratwurst, hot dogs, macaroni & cheese, cole slaw, potato salad, bean salad, sliced tomatoes **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! Donations received to cover the cost of the meal.

Eat 'N Meet @ First Unitarian Society of Minneapolis
Eat Great Food; Meet Great People!

Minister Emeritus (continued from page 1)

April 9, 7:00 PM HUMANIST CENTER—
American Religious Fascism

Speaking: **Khoren Arisian, Senior Leader emeritus, New York Ethical Society**

(In the Social Hall at 7 p.m with social hour at 6:30 p.m.)

This Sunday's three gatherings are all of a piece, culminating in the suggestion that the assassination of JFK in 1963 served in effect as literally the opening salvo in the American Right's effort, eventually centered in the extremist religious ranks of the GOP, to neutralize the counterculture of the 1960s, the accompanying great civil rights movement, and what author Matthew Smith states in the title of his recent book: Conspiracy: The Plot to Stop the Kennedys from further dominating the liberal political stage in this country, simultaneously undoing the legacy of FDR, returning the nation religiously and politically to the McKinley years at the

turn of the 20th century. Meanwhile Tim LaHaye of "end-times" scriptural fame prefers to go even further back, with the goal of rooting out the American Enlightenment of the 18th century, thereby enabling today's Christian Right to enjoy a free cultural and emotional ride to reinstate God in the public square, keep all our repressive laws and advanced technology intact, and establish once and for all a one-party corporatist-style political state to keep the world's poor on a short leash and allow the world's wealthy a wide berth for exercising dominance and enjoying their opulent entitlements. What we have gradually lost as a consequence of all these developments is the courage to resist and national clarity of mind. Emily Dickinson's poetic genius might help us construct a strategy here: she advises we "Tell all the truth but tell it slant, Success in circuit lies, Too bright for our infirm delight The truth's superb surprise."

Events & Announcements

SAVE THE DATES FOR NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION SESSIONS!

A 2-part membership orientation to the First Unitarian Society will be held on Sunday, May 7th and 21st, 2006, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. in the Dietrich Room. Our Spring New Member Ceremony will be held on Sunday, June 4th.

This is an opportunity for new and prospective members to learn more about the society's history, philosophy, and purpose. Plus, it's a chance to meet other members and FUS staff and explore ways of getting involved in the life of the society. You don't have to be a new member to attend; everyone is welcome!

To learn more about membership, please contact Jo Franco, Membership and Outreach Coordinator at membership@firstunitariansociety.org or by calling her at 612-845-4335 or 612-377-6608, ext. 110.

Women's Awareness Group:

NOTE Change of Location and Topic!!

The April meeting of the Women's Awareness Group will be held Monday the 10th at Mibs Pearson's (8115 Golden Valley Rd.) Call Mibs for directions and to RSVP at 763-545-8790. The meeting starts at 6:30 p.m. with a potluck supper followed by a lively discussion about *Princess: Life Behind the Veil* by Jean P. Sasson, led by Mona Brown and Gretchen Clemence.

Photo Directories are Here!

Please pick yours up at the Ask Me table downstairs after the Assembly. Make sure you get your name checked off to get your free copy. If you don't have a picture in the directory, additional copies are available at \$5 each. If you are unable to pick yours up, please call the office and we will mail it to you!

Academy Award Nominee Film Series

Sponsored by the Social Commentary Through the Arts Discovery Group. Fridays at 7:00 p.m. in the Chalice Room at FUS, Free movie, popcorn and beverages!

March 31 - *Enron; The Smartest Guys in the Room*

April 28 - *Crash* and

May 26 - *TransAmerica* (if available on DVD)

Road Trip: GA!

The Trustees encourage members of the society to register and attend General Assembly, to be held June 21-25 in St. Louis, MO. We are pleased that the senior high youth will be attending. Hopp-Hendrickson funds have been approved to partially defer the costs of their participation. More information about General Assembly, including registration and housing information, can be found at www.uua.org/ga. Bill Weir is organizing carpooling for those who will drive.



Raise UU Energy....

**On Wednesday evening,
April 26th**

**Celebrate – prepare –
and commit to taking action!**

Join UUs from around the metro – and around the state! – as we raise up and sharply focus our energies, preparing to bring UU principles, values, and beliefs to the fight against a constitutional amendment that would bar marriage equality for GLBT citizens. Like the Civil Rights leaders of the 60's – we consciously anchor our activism in our religious community and values...

Location: First Universalist Church, 3400 Dupont Ave S, Mpls, www.firstuniv.org for directions.

6:00 pm – SERVICE – a brief service of grounding, reflection and inspiration.

6:30 - SHARED MEAL – Pizza party, with veggie trays, desserts, and beverages. FUS Members bring beverages.

7:00 – PROGRAM - Reflection! Singing! Information! Sign-making! Connecting with UUs from around the state!

...To Raise UU Voices!

On Thursday, April 27th

**Noon Rally and LOBBY DAY
with OutFront Minnesota,
UUO4M, Faith Family Fairness,
and a broad array of allies!**



All are urged to attend the Noon rally! Unitarian Universalists will stand together under our banner: "Civil Marriage is a Civil Right", on the State Capitol lawn. (Come early, bring a sack lunch and gather at 11am, to meet the UU group under our banner, near the Out Front Minnesota tent).

If you can commit to the whole day, make plans to attend the Lobby Day appointments for your legislative district. Register NOW to be part of a legislative visit with your elected officials: www.outfrontmn.org

Training and coaching support is provided – make YOUR voice heard at the legislature!

FFI: Ralph-longfellow@earthlink.net — UUs Out For Marriage (a working group of MUUSJA)

Events & Announcements, cont'd

Beltane Festival

FRIDAY, April 28, 7:00 - 10:30 p.m. Chalice Room

Celebrate the flowering of Nature and sacred sexuality at CUUPS' annual Beltane festival. Come with a flower in your hair or on your shirt to discover the ancient European spirituality embodied in the Maypole Dance. Guided meditation, story and song will also be featured. Visit our website at www.paganinstitute.org/adult_ritual.html for full details.

New Folk Collective (newfolk.org)

Hosts Spring Series at FUS!

All Shows 7:30 p.m., tickets: \$18 advance/\$20 at door/
\$10 student and FUS Members get \$2 discount on tickets

Saturday, April 1, Priscilla Herdman

Through all her varied recordings over the years and the gentle power of her voice, Priscilla Herdman has established herself as an insightful song-finder and a singer of uncommon range, depth and clarity. While traversing a wide range of human experience, she chooses songs of humanistic vision and caring, leaving her audience enriched.

Saturday, May 6, Tish Hinojosa

Some people have identity crises. Tish has identity celebrations! As a child of Mexican immigrants in the Texas border region, Tish has combined her cultural heritage with the American influences of folk, rock, and country to create a voice that is truly her own.

The Humanist Center of Minnesota

The Humanist Center is a series of programs featuring distinguished speakers on some aspect of humanism. Coffee and cookies and plenty of time to visit with other participants are available during these intellectually stimulating events.

The First Unitarian Society of Minneapolis, Humanists of Minnesota, and the Humanist Institute are joint sponsors of the Humanist Center series, which is in its fifth year of programming. Matt Stark (612-377-2211) is chair of the Steering Committee and can answer questions.

Apr. 9, 2006, American Religious Fascism
See page 7 for details

May 7, 2006, Life Long Learning
Steven Benson, Executive Director,
Osher Life Long Learning, Univ. of Minnesota

**June 4, 2006, Buddhisms:
nontheist Yes; humanist No**

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

Talks begin at 7:00 p.m. preceded by social time at 6:30 and followed by questions. Free and open to the public!

Earth Day Events at FUS

April 23, 2006

Forum: Minnesota's Energy Future: Clean, Local and Renewable? Celebrate Earth Day with J. Drake Hamilton, Science Policy Director at Minnesotans for an Energy-Efficient Economy; see page 2 for details.

Assembly Special Collection: As we welcome Rev. Dr. Kendyl Gibbons back from sabbatical, we'll take a special collection to reduce FUS' greenhouse gas emissions and begin purchasing clean, renewable, wind-generated electricity to power our building. That's real enlightenment!

Social Hour:

·**Change to Wind!** Your chance to learn about and sign up for Xcel Energy's WindSource program. Our goal is to prevent 14,000 lbs of CO₂ emissions a month by signing up 25 households to buy \$4.00 of clean wind-generated electricity per month.

·**Buy Compact Fluorescent Bulbs:** Try them for the first time, or replenish your supply. Each bulb prevents up to 63,000 lbs of CO₂ over its lifespan, and saves in electric costs.

·**Kids Corner:** Hold a weight representing how much global warming pollution your family car emits. See photos comparing polar ice regions and glaciers today and in the olden days. Feel a cool compact fluorescent light bulb. Examine animal artifacts.

·**Global Warming in MN:** View the 20-minute KARE 11 special on global warming's effects in Minnesota.

EARTH DAY CONTINUES with...

Annual Earth Day Family Bike Ride

The MUUSJA Earthday bike ride around the Cedar Lake --Hopkins loop is planned for noon (till about 3pm) Sunday, April 30, 2006 starting at FUS. A family ride, about 12 miles of off-road paved bike trail.

Info at: fholson.cohousing.org/bike-06.htm or contact Fred by email: fholson@cohousing.org or 612-588-9532

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 sure to attend this year's

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

Ask Gary Joselyn, Chris Bubser, or Jenna Hutchinson for more information.



The First Unitarian Society

OF MINNEAPOLIS

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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: **Dr. 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**

The official FUS calendar is online
at www.firstunitariansociety.org.
NOTE NEW LOCATION!!!
Choose "Calendar" under the
"News & Events" top menu
to view weekly events

April 2006 Events

Saturday, April 1

8:30 AM Stewardship Gathering
2:30 PM R.E. Event
4:30 PM Stewardship Gathering
7:30 PM New Folk Collective Concert

Sunday, April 2

9:30 AM Forum
10:30 AM Assembly
11:30 AM Bruce Reception
12:00 PM Social Action Workshop

Tuesday, April 4

6:30 PM Food Addicts Recovery Anon.
7:00 PM Sunday Assemblies Committee

Wednesday, April 5

11:00 AM Alliance Monthly Meeting
Eat 'n' Meet!

Friday, April 7

5:30 PM Current Events DG

Saturday, April 8

12:30 PM Leadership Workshop

Sunday, April 9

9:30 AM Forum
9:30 AM Green Sanctuary Committee
10:30 AM Assembly
11:30 PM Stewardship Gathering
12:30 PM Instant Runoff Voting
6:30 PM Humanist Center
7:00 PM The Good Life DG

Monday, April 10

6:30 PM Women's Awareness Group

Tuesday, April 11

10:30 AM Caregiver's Support Group
12:30 PM Caring Circles Meeting
6:30 PM Food Addicts Recovery Anon.
7:00 PM Poetry DG

Wednesday, April 12

2:00 PM Speak Out
Eat 'n' Meet!

Thursday, April 13

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

Friday, April 14

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

Saturday, April 15

6:00 PM Circle Supper Dinner

Sunday, April 16

9:00 AM Easter Breakfast
10:30 AM Assembly

Tuesday, April 18

6:30 PM Food Addicts Recovery Anon.

Wednesday, April 19

1:30 PM Senior Discussion Group
Eat 'n' Meet!

Thursday, April 20

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

Friday, April 21

5:30 PM Current Events DG

Saturday, April 22

12:00 PM Vets for Peace Event

Sunday, April 23

9:30 AM Forum
10:30 AM Assembly
12:00 PM Social Action Committ
2:30 PM RE Meeting

Tuesday, April 25

6:30 PM Food Addicts Recovery Anon.

Wednesday, April 26

Eat 'n' Meet!
6:00 PM Board of Trustees Meeting

Thursday, April 27

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

Friday, April 28

5:00 PM Plays & Movies DG
7:00 PM Arts & Crafts DG
8:00 PM CUUPS Beltane

Sunday, April 30

9:30 AM Forum
10:30 AM Assembly