



THE FIRST Unitarian

VOL. 78, NO. 10 THE FIRST UNITARIAN SOCIETY OF MINNEAPOLIS MAY 2006

From The Minister

My recently concluded sabbatical leave has been, as intended, a time of both renewal and learning. A handful of self-insights emerged in the process, of which I have been happy to take note. First, I was glad to find that I am not, as some have wondered, a workaholic; while I love my job, I am not addicted to it, and I functioned comfortably without the steady flow of adrenaline that characterizes life in the parish. At the same time, I was reassured to discover that I delight in going to church - almost any church, really - even when I am not the center of attention. I have looked forward to my Sunday mornings listening to my local colleagues preach, and observing diverse ways of “doing church.” Finally, I was not surprised to find that I missed being in touch with you, with the staff and the members of FUS, and often wondered, not anxiously but poignantly, how things were going for each of you and for the community as a whole. I got little glimpses from time to time, but in general the board, the staff, and Wendy Jerome in particular, were very protective of my time and peace of mind. I thank each and all of you for this care, and I look forward to getting caught up on all that has been happening in my absence.

In case you in turn are wondering what I have been doing during this interim, I am pleased to report that it was both restful and productive, though not necessarily in all the ways I had originally planned. Since my goal was in part to be open to whatever emerged, I feel that this is exactly what I had hoped would happen. I have been greatly nourished by the time that I have spent visiting my selected local congregations, and I will have much more to say about that part of the experience in my sermon on April 30 - hope to see you there!

The process of re-designing a three year curriculum for the Humanist Institute graduate leadership program turned out to be a great deal more work than I had anticipated, but at the same time tremendously stimulating and educational for me. As it is said, if you really want to learn something, teach it! I look forward to the first meeting of the next class, for whom I will be the continuing mentor, which gathers in mid-August. Educating the future leaders of the humanist movement is a high priority for me, and an important contribution that this congregation and I make together.

I am happy to report that my lessons on the soprano recorder, conducted by our own orchestra director, Gabriela Diaz-Alatrisme, have been a source of much pleasure - for me, anyway! I am moving slowly - still dreading sharps and flats, though we haven't got there yet - but I can produce a moderately recognizable tune, and I know that a different part of my brain is working hard. The American Sign Language class that I registered for, unfortunately, did not have adequate enrollment and was cancelled for the winter session. Other options didn't work out for various reasons, either scheduling or financial, so I accepted that the moment for this pursuit was not at hand. I know that I will come back to it when the time is ripe.

Meanwhile, other rewarding opportunities have opened up over the course of the past several months. I was invited by the editors of the UU World journal to contribute

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Action for Racial Justice May 5 & 6

(see page 4)



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.

May 7

FORUM — *Affordable Housing in the Twin Cities*
Speaking: **Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity Staff**

This summer the Unitarian Universalist Affordable Housing Partnership (UUAHP) will be doing a week-long build. The dates are June 12 - 16. A special collection will be taken during the assembly for Habitat for Humanity and to help UUAHP be a Contributing Member of that particular build. During the Forum we will hear from a T. C. Habitat staff person about the status of affordable housing from their perspective, new directions taken by Habitat such as "green housing" and new challenges they are facing.

ASSEMBLY

The First Unitarian Society Chorus and Orchestra
Present

Música Latinoamericana y Música Latino America
From the Plaza to the Prairie
Galindo-Poema de Neruda
Villanueva-Vals Poetico
Villa Lobos-*La Tarde Azul y Melodia Sentimental*
Revueltas-*Colorines*
Copland-*Old American Songs*

Deb Gilroy, Laura Nichols, Todd Tipton--soloists
Gabriela Diaz-Alariste--conductor

May 14

FORUM — *Helping Young Adults Find a Religious Home*

Speaking: **Rev. Phillip Lund**

The lives of young adults are filled with transitions—new schools, new jobs, new relationships, and new communities. How can UU congregations help young adults between 20 and 30 feel at home in the midst of all this change? We'll discuss how congregations can be more welcoming to this age group. Reverend Lund is the Lifespan Program Director for the Unitarian Universalist Association, Prairie Star District

ASSEMBLY — *Flower Celebration Service*

Speaking: **Kendyl Gibbons**

The capacity for self-replication, in plants and animals as well as human beings, may have been the object of amazement that first gave rise to religion. Birth continues to evoke a sense of the sacred and motherhood is an endeavor of mythical proportions. Today we pause to honor those who are doing it, and rejoice in the blossoming of Mother Earth as well. Bring a flower from your garden, or the supermarket, or the local flower stand, to contribute to the living tableau of our congregation. At the end of the assembly, receive a different blossom to take home with you as a symbol of the many gifts received here at FUS.

May 21

FORUM — *Culture Wars*

Speaking: **Andreas Rosenberg**

Our secular culture is inextricably linked to science. Science offers explanatory power to answer the questions, "How does the World function and why?" Science has of late been ferociously attacked from two sides. On one side the post-modern movement—under the banner of multiculturalism—denies the existence of a common human independent reality. On the other side, conservative religious groups, using "intelligent design," try to reduce science to just one story among many. Andreas Rosenberg is Professor Emeritus at the U of MN, Lecturer at Osher Institute of Life-Long Learning and Adjunct Faculty of the Humanist Institute.

ASSEMBLY — *It Takes a Village! FUS Youth Service*

Speaking: **FUS Senior High Youth Group**

This service was created by our youth for All Ages around the African saying "It takes a village to raise a child." You will enjoy songs, a slide show, and recognition of important milestones. No R.E. classes this day as we would like everyone attending the service!!

May 28

FORUM — *Honor Under Attack*

Speaking: **Ron Staff**

This next Monday we memorialize those who gave their all in the fight to protect America and the Constitution. Yet the current Administration acts as though all of the hard fought lessons of history never happened. Within this context how can we best memorialize our vets?

Ron Staff is a Vietnam vet, a member of Vets for Peace and of FUS.

ASSEMBLY — *To Be Without Memories*

Speaking: **Kendyl Gibbons**

On this national holiday weekend of Memorial Day, we will consider the function of "remembering" in creating human consciousness and conscience. Why is it that we are so often urged to remember events and people from the past -- tragedies as well as triumphs, villains as well as heroes? Without memory, there can be neither accountability nor learning nor reverence -- and we see all around us the kind of society that results from these failures. As part of this assembly, we will observe our own Ritual of Remembrance for those mourning the loss of loved ones.

Previews, cont'd.

June 4

FORUM — *Which Organizations Supplement Our UUA?*
Speaking: **Bob Tapp**

As members of this unique religious humanist society, we not only have a primary concern for ethics but probably share more specific values than most churches - even those within the UUA. What affiliations can undergird that unique melding of education-and-action that characterizes religious liberals? ACLU, PAW, AI, NARAL, CFI, AHA, MoveOn, Truthout, AlterNet, Grist,.....

ASSEMBLY — *For All the Saints, Old and New*
Speaking: **Kendyl Gibbons**

In addition to welcoming our newest members and ending this program year with high spirits, we will honor the memories of Martha and Waitstill Sharp, founders of what is now the UU Service Committee. On June 12, 2006, these two remarkable people will become only the second and third U.S. citizens to receive the title of Righteous Among the Nations, and have their names engraved in the garden at Yad Vashem, the Holocaust memorial in Israel. The story of their selfless courage in the face of growing Nazi tyranny is one that can encourage and inspire us all.

10:30-11:30, June 4, 2006
Chalice Room

R. E. Carnival

Fun end of our R.E. class year
Games, Prizes, Food,
What more could a kid want?

Music Notes

Please mark Sunday, May 7th on your calendars as the FUS Chorus and Orchestra will present the final music Sunday of the 05-06 Season. We are totally excited about this program as it features music from both North America and Latin America.

The Latin American music features Galindo's *Poema de Neruda*, inspired by Neruda's poem "Me Gustas Cuando Cal-las," Villa Nueva's *Vals Poetico*, Villa Lobos's *Tarde Azul and Sentimental Melody*, and Revuelta's *Colorines*. This repertoire is beautifully poetic and colorful. The Revuelta will take you to a bench in downtown Mexico, where if you let your imagination soar you will hear the sounds of children playing as well as the local organ grinder playing his sweet tunes. North America will be represented by the delightful "Old American Songs" by Aaron Copland. These songs will take you everywhere from a farm to a country barn dance. Don't miss this wonderful morning!!!

May 14th will feature the Eclectics as they perform on our much loved "Flower Sunday."

See you on Sundays!

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



Dr. Gabriela Díaz-Alatraste
Associate Music Director
612-377-6608, ext. 106
orchestra@firstunitariansociety.org

The FUS Office (and building) will
be closed for Memorial Day Holiday
on Monday, May 29.

*R.E. Next Year Registrations in by May 14 could win
a gift certificate to French Meadow Bakery & Cafe!!*

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 Tinch**, 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 Life

I hope that I am not proven wrong! Someone recently asked me if FUS had trouble getting R.E. teachers and I replied that we have a particularly devoted congregation to our children and youth and thus we have not had trouble with recruiting teachers. It made me nervous right after I said that because claiming something like that is always the kiss of death.....we will probably have no one sign up for teaching. At least that was the nightmare I had the other night.

So, please set all of our minds at ease and volunteer in some capacity to be with our children and youth in the coming church school year. Would you rather just sit in church.....probably, but that won't get our children and youth educated in our religious liberal religion. Do we want this religion to be one that is carried on? Do we want this to be a nurturing haven to our children? Do we want our youth to grow up with a passion for social justice? It doesn't happen without the support of people who are willing to spend a portion of their FUS time teaching and being with our children and youth.

Take a turn, learn something new yourself, meet the other children/youth in your child's class, and see what the kids do when they are out of sight in our classrooms. There is a whole world that is operating during service, an important world and you need to place yourself in that world once in a while. In their youth service, our senior high youth will talk about the importance of everyone pitching in to make this world a better place. This spirit of volunteering begins right at home.....our FUS home.

MAY NEWS:

Please submit your religious education forms for next year. This is a way for us to make sure our information is correct and class list up to date. We are trying to have all forms in by May 14th. BONUS: If your forms are in by May 14th, you will be entered into a drawing for a gift certificate to the French Meadow Bakery & Cafe!!!!

On May 21 and 28th there will be no regular R.E. Classes. On May 21st, all children and youth are invited to participate in the senior high lead youth service and on May 28th (Memorial Day weekend) there will only be care for our littlest ones.

One June 4 we will do our annual Religious Education Carnival.....games, prizes and good eats to finish off our R.E. Class Year!!

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



Action for Racial Justice

The First Unitarian Society of Minneapolis
& the Minnesota UU Social Justice Alliance
invite you to:

Action For Racial Justice

Friday, May 5th, 2006 at 7:00 pm
Upper Assembly Hall at First Unitarian Society

Speaking: Gary Delgad

*Opening remarks by Bill Sinkford,
President of the UUA*

AND

Saturday, May 6, 2006

9:00 am to 2:00 pm

Racial justice training for UUs! How To: Take Action For Racial Justice

With Trainer: Gary Delgado, Ph.D.

- Build your awareness, skills, and strategies.
- Gain an analysis of structural racism; test your ideas about how to respond to structural racism.
- Learn what it means to "advance racial equity" - in the community, & in public policies.

\$10 for lunch and materials, limited class size
register today by calling Jo at 612-600-7483
directions at www.firstunitariansociety.org or
612-377-6608

Gary Delgado, Ph.D., the
Executive Director and
Founder of the Applied Re-
search Center in Oakland,
California (www.arc.org), is
a nationally recognized re-
searcher, lecturer and activ-
ist on issues of race and social justice. He has worked exten-
sively in both the organizing and the academic communities. His analytical work includes over 30 articles and studies on social change practice. Gary was one of the initial organizers of the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now (www.ACORN.org), a lead organizer with the National Welfare Rights Organization, and cofounder and director of the Center for Third World Organizing (CTWO). In 1988, he received the prestigious Bannerman Fellowship for activists of color in its first year. He was recognized as a Hellraiser by *Mother Jones* magazine in 1996, and was profiled as a one of 61 Visionaries by *Utne Reader*.



From the Minister, cont'd.

a major article based upon a presentation I did for HUManists at the 2003 General Assembly, and that revision process was both time-consuming and intriguing. I believe that the piece will be published in the Summer 2006 issue under the title "Human Reverence." I was also asked to collaborate with one of our prominent UU composers to create a choral work using the six sources from our Purposes and Principles statement. This cantata is scheduled to have its premier on June 11, and perhaps next year the FUS chorus will be interested in presenting it here. While we were in the midst of this major work, we also accepted a commission for a hymn/anthem celebrating music; that piece is complete, and we even got paid for it!

With the luxury of free time, I have achieved a previously unprecedented level of housekeeping, and completed a number of fix-it projects. The last of these will be planting six miniature lilac bushes in front of my house, as soon as the weather is suitable for them to be shipped. You should see my linen closets; they will probably never look like this again! I was able to travel with Mark to the UUA's Mid-size Congregation Conference in Phoenix, and take in the interesting sessions while he managed the video taping as an official volunteer. From there we drove to Palm Desert, and spent several days getting warm and visiting with my sister. The highlight of that trip was a 20 mile bike ride - pretty much all downhill! - through Box Canyon in the midst of the San Andreas fault. It was spectacularly beautiful, and quite inspiring.

As many of you already know, Mark's sister, Charity Moretti, died very suddenly and unexpectedly at the end of March. At our wedding 32 years ago, Charity was one of my bridesmaids; she was just fifty years old when she died, leaving 21 year old twins and a 16 year old son. Her life path had led her to a different faith community from ours, but had also wrought in her a generosity of spirit that I admired very much. I was grateful to be able to spend most of a week with the gathered family (nine remaining siblings, plus spouses, nieces, nephews and friends), and I know that I have only begun to realize how much we will all miss her. Mark and I are extremely grateful for all the lovely cards and kind messages of sympathy and support we have received. Each one helps.

I expect that I will be recounting more of the specific learnings and productions from this sabbatical time with the FUS community as we come back together and move forward into the next chapter of our ministry with one another. I shall always be thankful for having had this time to renew my energy and refresh my spirit for the work I love, and I look forward with much eagerness to the future we are going to share.

Rev. Kendyl Gibbons, Senior Minister
612-377-6608, ext. 116
minister@firstunitariansociety.org

From the Music Committee

Dear FUS Congregation:

The annual meeting is nearly here. We, the members of the Music Committee, encourage all FUS members to attend and let your voices be heard!

We have had a great year musically. We have enjoyed wonderful presentations from the Eclectics, the Orchestra, the Adult and Children's Choruses and varied solo performers. We have enjoyed a wide range of musical styles, thoughtfully chosen to complement the messages shared during all the Assemblies, including the Summer Assemblies.

All of this has been accomplished with no operating budget (except for the maintenance of the instruments)! We agreed to have our operating funds help pay Gabriela's salary to bring her back. We have managed to keep the music program "afloat" primarily through the generous contributions of chorus and orchestra members to the Music Restricted Fund, as well as occasional contributions from society members. The Restricted Fund is intended to be a "Rainy Day Fund," yet it has become the lifeblood of the music program. We need to change this and bring this wonderful program back to financial health.

What can you do? Give generously to the Society at large knowing that all the programs are what make FUS an amazing vibrant place!

Scott Sandberg and Timothy Palmquist
for the Music Committee

UU Notable News

Here is a list of the most recent additions to the online Harvard Square Library (www.harvardsquarelibrary.org):

1. [Liberal Religion: A New Renaissance](#) -- A color illustrated story of twentieth-century Unitarian and Universalist leaders who changed public life in the arts, sciences, government, and religion.

2. [Remembering UU Books](#) -- by and about Unitarians and Universalists from 1961 to 1963.

3. [Are We Immortal?](#) -- A centenary illustrated review of the Ingersoll Lectures on Human Immortality introduced by President Charles W. Eliot and delivered by notables such as William James, beginning in 1896.

4. [Harvard University President, Charles W. Eliot](#) -- A biography of the eminent Unitarian educator.

5. [James Luther Adams](#) -- A biographical sketch of the notable Unitarian Universalist minister and teacher.

6. [More Than 100 Countries](#) -- A selection of postage stamps from the more than 100 countries having viewers of our liberal religious Harvard Square Library communicating from Cambridge, Massachusetts.

If you have questions, fiery comments or sober recommendations regarding online Harvard Square Library articles, please contact Herb Vetter at hfvetter@post.harvard.edu.

Annual Meeting

Prepare for the Annual Meeting
by attending the
Conversation with the Trustees
Sunday, May 7
12:00 noon in the Dietrich Room

The First Unitarian Society of Minneapolis 2005-2006 Annual Meeting Wednesday, May 10th 7:00 p.m.

Free Dinner downstairs starting at 5:45.

At the meeting, you'll:

- vote on supporting Instant Runoff Voting
- vote on the UUSC's anti-torture petition
- approve next year's budget
- and more!

No reservations are necessary, but contact the office at least a week in advance if you require childcare. See you there!

Service Auction Wrap-up

Thank You, Thank You, Thank You...

...to all the volunteers, donors, and bidders at this year's service auction, Winds of Change. We netted over \$18,000 including enthusiastic response to the "Bid-a-Need" item, new screens for classroom windows. We will be able to buy more than twice the amount hoped for. If you have lingering questions or concerns about this year's auction, call 952-893-2383. Or, if you want to be at the top of the list to help with next year's auction (it's never too early) call the same number. Thanks again for supporting the First Unitarian Society!

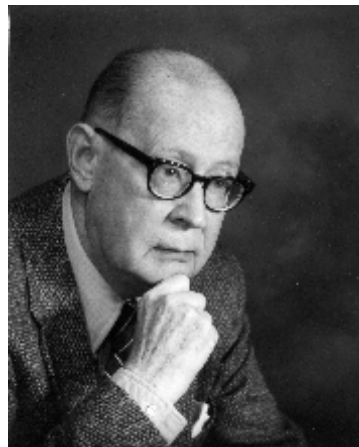


Remember: There will be no newsletter published for the month of July, so plan ahead for the summer events, and get your information in either by May 10 for the June issue, or by July 10 for the August issue! Thank you.

Former FUS Organist

HEINRICH FLEISCHER
1912 – 2006

Heinrich Fleischer, a member of the First Unitarian Society since 1967 died on February 28. At Dr. Fleischer's request, we held no memorial service, but the University is planning a memorial concert sometime in the future. Also at his behest, a committee of his students prepared an obituary specifically for inclusion in this publication. This is a condensed



version, with editorial assistance from John Schneider.

Dr. Heinrich Fleischer died in Crystal, MN, at the age of 93. The cause of death was the result of respiratory complications following the flu. At his death, Fleischer was Emeritus Professor of Music at the University of Minnesota.

Heinrich Fleischer was born April 1, 1912, in Eisenach, Germany, the

birthplace of J.S. Bach. A direct descendant of Martin Luther, he studied at the same Latin school where both Luther and J.S. Bach had earlier attended. He received his Ph.D. in musicology from Leipzig University in 1939. In 1941, during World War II, Fleischer was drafted into the German Army. He served in the Signal Corps in the Soviet Union until 1943, when a severe auto accident ended his military service.

After serving as organist in the same Leipzig church where Bach played in the 18th century, Dr. Fleischer migrated to the U.S. in 1948 and in 1949 accepted a visiting professorship at Valparaiso University.

Fleischer became a United States citizen in 1957. In America, Fleischer's professional life included composing, and editing, as well as becoming a prolific "concertizing organist," touring the country from the Atlantic to the Pacific, from the Gulf of Mexico north into Canada, presenting hundreds of organ recitals. He was a devoted scholar and teacher of Bach's works.

Fleischer's tenure at the University of Minnesota began in 1959. Together with his teaching and duties as University Organist, Fleischer held church organist positions at Grace University Lutheran Church and later, after 1968, at the First Unitarian Society of Minneapolis. He retired from the U of MN as Professor Emeritus in 1982 and from First Unitarian Society in 1985.

It is a testimony to his memory that today his students, and, in turn, their students, are adhering to his teaching and performance goals, and are actively championing excellence in the art of organ playing.

Habitat for Humanity

Summer Habitat for Humanity Volunteer Opportunity

The Unitarian Universalist Affordable Housing Partnership (UUAHP) member congregations are taking responsibility for providing 15 to 18 volunteers for one week during June to help build a house. The dates are June 12 through June 16. All skill levels are welcome. You can volunteer for one day, two days, the whole week. Some people use a few of their vacation days working on a Habitat site. Work hours are 8:30 to 4:30. You will be working with other Unitarians, possibly volunteers from a corporate sponsor and/or volunteers from another church. You may meet and work with members of a family buying a Habitat home. Putting in hundreds of "sweat equity" hours is a requirement for a qualifying family. The exact location of the build has not yet been determined.

For safety reasons, children under the age of 14 are not allowed on-site. Teenagers 14-15 must have one-to-one supervision from a parent or adult friend. One adult supervisor is required for every four 16 or 17 yr. olds working on the site. 18 year olds do not need supervision but they cannot act as supervisors for younger people.

Want to help but can't be on site? How about bringing a mid-morning or mid-afternoon snack for the workers? Another possibility would be to organize a crew of cooks to provide lunch for the workers for one day. You will be the most popular people on the site.

UUAHP will be considered a Contributing sponsor. This means that we will need to raise at least \$6000 as well as providing volunteer labor. The First Unitarian Society will hold a special collection on May 7 to raise our share of this amount.

Contact Carol Koepp to volunteer or with questions or concerns: 952-893-2383; ckoepp@mn.rr.com



Sabbatical Wrap-up

A Request from the Radical Sabbatical Committee

Now that Kendyl's sabbatical is over, the Sabbatical Committee would like some final feedback on how it all went from your point of view. What worked? What didn't work? What did you like most? What did you like least? Mention anything you think is relevant!

We will use this information to build a set of "best practices" for sabbaticals. We'll use this set of practices when planning for future staff sabbaticals here at FUS, and we'll also share the list with other congregations as they head into sabbatical planning.

You can send feedback to any member of the Sabbatical Committee:

Susan Barton: stevensbarton@aol.com
Roger Clemence: cleme001@umn.edu
Linnea Asp: linneaasp@comcast.net
Scott Eller: seller@bestlaw.com
Jenna Hutchinson: JRKhutch@isd.net
Steve Anthony: santhony@mn.rr.com

Thanks!
Steve Anthony
for The Sabbatical Committee

Foundation News

Age has its advantages

If you are looking to supplement your income while providing a gift to FUS through the Foundation, a Charitable Gift Annuity may be for you. With a Charitable Gift Annuity, you make an irrevocable transfer of assets and in return you, or other beneficiaries, receive a specified annual amount for the remainder of the beneficiary's life. If you contribute \$10,000 or more for a Gift Annuity, you will receive lifetime payments based on the value of your gift. In most cases, part of each payment is tax-free. Payout rates on gift annuities are based on age(s) of the beneficiaries at the time of the gift and range from 6% to 12% (the older you are, the higher your guaranteed payout rate). Upon the death of the beneficiary(ies), the remainder assets are paid to the Foundation. You can specify how you'd like your gift used - for the overall support of FUS, religious education, social action, art or music.

If you would like more information about Charitable Gift Annuities, please contact a member of the Foundation Development Committee: Susan and Vince Barton, Curt Dederich, Jodi Horne, Mihs Pearson, or Shelley Shreffler. Of course, you should also consult with your attorney and/or financial professional when considering a Charitable Gift Annuity. After all, wisdom, and a better rate of return, comes with age.

Trustee Tidbit

Hurray for Social Action

The FUS Board of Trustees are pleased to support increased Social Action activity within and by our Society. At the last Board meeting, presentations were made regarding Instant Run-Off Voting, Avian Flu preparedness, the Green Sanctuary process, and UUSC Stop Torture.

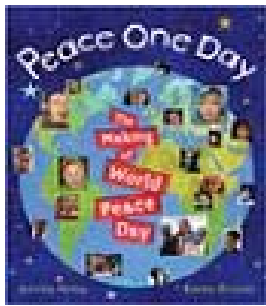


Events & Announcements

News from The Alliance

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. The Alliance welcomes its newest members, Anita S. Duckor and Gloria Wexler.

On Wednesday, May 3rd, Alliance member Jan Sigmund will be speaking on "Voices from Chiapas, Mexico." This is also the day of the Alliance Annual Meeting. Members will hear annual reports and hold an election of officers after lunch.



To conclude the year's programs, on Wednesday, June 7th, FUS Board Member Madeline Simon will introduce and present the film, "Peace One Day." **Note:** the program will begin at 10:45 am to accommodate the movie. Luncheon tickets will be sold starting at 10:30 am. To reserve your place at either meeting, call Olive Sarkinen, at 763-544-6168.

Women's Awareness Group Meeting

The May meeting of the Women's Awareness Group will be on Monday, May 8, 6:30 p.m., at Carol Koepp's home, 8448 Little Rd., Bloomington. A potluck dinner will be followed by discussion in which members are encouraged to share their ideas for dealing with an emerging American Fascism. Fascism, according to the Merriam-Webster Dictionary is "a political philosophy, movement, or regime that exalts nation and often race and stands for a centralized, autocratic, often militaristic government." Let's come up with a collective survival plan; maybe even an action plan. Call Carol at 952-893-2383 to RSVP or for directions.

Next year R.E. registrations in by May 14 could win a gift certificate to French Meadow Bakery & Cafe!!

PEACE Across the Northside on May 19

Last year about 25 FUS members were among the over 1000 neighbors from North Minneapolis and around the community who stood together, side-by-side on 26th Ave, stretching across the Northside for this annual event to make a collective statement that peace will prevail over violence.

**PEACE
FOUNDATION**

This year's event will be on Friday, May 19th, 7 pm to 9 pm, rain or shine. Watch for information in your Sunday inserts, at the Social Action table or Ask Me table on how to participate. See you on the Northside!

OutLoud! - Small ensemble of the Twin Cities Gay Men's Chorus: *You Oughta Be in Pictures!* *Songs of the Silver Screen*

Saturday, May 13, 8 pm • Ted Mann Concert Hall
Robert Schlidt, Music Director

OutLoud! brings the big screen to life in this concert celebrating songs from the greatest movie musicals of all time, from *Singin' in the Rain* to *Moulin Rouge*. \$19 - \$39 adults, Children 12 & under 50% off. *Performance ASL Interpreted*. Tickets: 612.624.2345 or Online: www.tcgmc.org

New Folk Collective (newfolk.org)

Final Concert

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

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.

Everything's Coming Up Flowers!

Support our future change agents through the Unity Summer Plant Sale!! Violet order forms are available in the church office. Order by May 7th for pick up at First Universalist on Mother's Day!! Gorgeous hanging baskets, a multitude of perennials and grasses, delicious herbs, tomatoes and peppers and annuals!! For more information contact Jean Buckley at 612-724-4460 or Adele Hansen at 952-927-6035.



Meeting of the Humanists of Minnesota

Deborah Montgomery, St. Paul city council member, will be the speaker at the May 18 meeting of the Humanists of Minnesota. The title of her talk will be "Affordable Housing". 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.

Show your support for
Children Everywhere:
Bring your children and
Attend the Youth Service "It Takes a
Village" at 10:30 a.m.
on Sunday, May 21, 2006

Events & Announcements, cont'd

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.

May 7, 2006, Life Long Learning

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

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

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

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

Celebration of Gerry Johnson's Life

A Celebration of Life for Gerry Johnson, a member of FUS who died on Dec. 22, 2005, will take place Sat., May 20 at 2:00 p.m. in the Dietrich Room and Lower Assembly Hall at FUS. It is very informal and anyone from FUS is invited.

Will You Walk?

H I V ,
AIDS?? What
have you heard?
What do you
know? Yes,
AIDS is still
with us! There's

still a need for research, education, and for care and services for people living with this disease—and by taking part in the 2006 MN AIDS Walk or by pledging your support, you can help! We hope you'll join our FUS Team!

The 2006 MN AIDS Walk will take place on Sunday, May 21st. The 10 km walk (about 6.2 miles) begins and ends at Minnehaha Park and travels along the Mississippi River.

There are six rest stops with restrooms and refreshments for walkers along the route (and even vans to pick up tired walkers). We invite you, singles, couples, and families, to join our FUS Team and collect pledges. We plan to gather at the Park and walk as a group.

If you are unable to walk, you are encouraged to pledge. Stop at the AIDS Walk Table in the Lower Auditorium after services on Sundays, April 30, May 7 and 14, to register for the walk or to pledge your support—or call Mibs Pearson at 763-545-8790 for more information.

**MINNESOTA
AIDS WALK**
MAY 21, 2006
MINNESOTAIDSWALK.ORG

Eat 'n' Meet

The End of the 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:

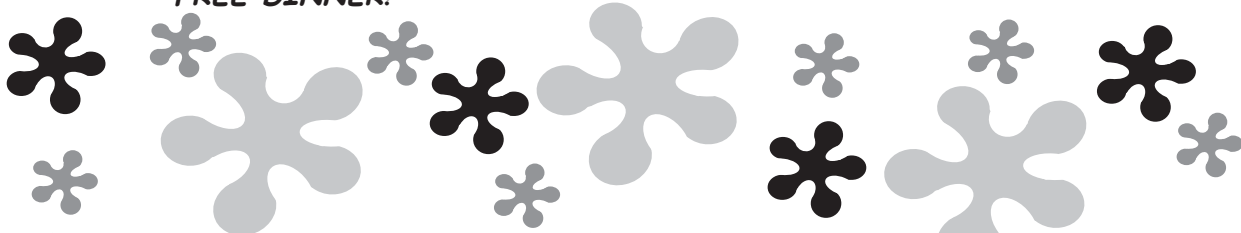
May 3 -- Tex-Mex--guacamole, tortilla chips, taco salad fixings, Mexican rice, ice cream & chocolate sauce

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

FREE DINNER!

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! Donations received to cover the cost of the meal.

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



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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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.
Choose "Calendar" under the
"News & Events" top menu
to view weekly events

May 2006 Events

Tuesday, May 2

7:00 PM Food Addicts Recovery Anon.

Wednesday, May 3

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

6:30 PM Summer Assemblies Committee

Friday, May 5

5:00 PM OWL Class Overnight at FUS

5:30 PM Current Events DG

7:00 PM Action for Racial Justice

Saturday, May 6

8:30 AM OWL Class Breakfast

9:00 AM Racial Justice Training

7:30 PM New Folk Concert

Sunday, May 7

9:00 AM Refirement Group

9:30 AM Forum

10:30 AM MUSIC SUNDAY

11:30 PM Conversation with the Trustees

2:00 PM New Member Orientation

6:30 PM Humanist Center

Monday, May 8

6:30 PM Women's Awareness Group

7:00 PM Workshop Planning Meeting

Tuesday, May 9

10:30 AM Caregiver's Support Group

12:30 PM Caring Circles Meeting

7:00 PM Poetry DG

8:00 PM Food Addicts Recovery Anon.

Wednesday, May 10

Last Spring Eat 'n' Meet!

7:00 PM Annual Meeting

Thursday, May 11

10:00 AM Memory and Memoir DG

7:00 PM Pagan Spirituality DG

7:00 PM RE Committee Meeting

Friday, May 12

5:00 PM Plays & Movies DG

7:00 PM Arts & Crafts DG

Saturday, May 13

CUUPS MayFaire

Sunday, May 14

9:30 AM Forum

10:30 AM Assembly

12:30 PM Memorial Service for Julia Lief

7:00 PM The Good Life DG

Tuesday, May 16

8:00 PM Food Addicts Recovery Anon.

Wednesday, May 17

1:30 PM Senior Discussion Group

Thursday, May 18

7:00 PM Humanists of Minnesota

7:00 PM Stewardship Committee

Friday, May 19

5:30 PM Current Events DG

Saturday, May 20

2:00 PM Celebration of Gerry Johnson

Sunday, May 21

9:00 AM Refirement Group

9:30 AM Forum

10:30 AM Assembly

11:30 AM Soup Luncheon

12:00 PM Social Action Workshop

1:00 PM Compassion and Choices

2:00 PM New Member Orientation

Tuesday, May 23

8:00 PM Food Addicts Recovery Anon.

Thursday, May 25

10:00 AM Memory and Memoir DG

7:00 PM Pagan Spirituality DG

Friday, May 26

7:00 PM Arts & Crafts DG

7:00 PM Academy Award Movie Series

Sunday, May 28

9:30 AM Forum

10:30 AM Assembly

12:30 PM Social Action Committee

Monday, May 29

Building Closed

Tuesday, May 30

8:00 PM Food Addicts Recovery Anon.