



THE FIRST Unitarian

VOL. 79, NO. 1 THE FIRST UNITARIAN SOCIETY OF MINNEAPOLIS AUG/SEPT 2006

From The Minister

How great it feels to be back in the thick of things at FUS, after my wonderfully renewing sabbatical! The annual congregational meeting last night was a bright culmination of a very positive and productive year for the Society. Many thanks go to Chris Bubser and the Board for their careful preparation of the agenda, and for leading a crisp, fun meeting that covered a lot of ground without ever getting bogged down. Together we approved a responsibly forward-looking budget, as well as important resolutions about stopping the use of torture, and encouraging instant run-off voting. We said good bye and thanks to folks leaving the board, and leaving the congregation for new adventures elsewhere in the world, and we honored Bob and Margaret McCoy as the third recipients of the Dueltgen Congregational Service award. We thanked the Sabbatical Committee for their excellent service, and heard a report on the beginnings of the work of the new Strategic Planning Committee. Prior to the meeting being called to order, we enjoyed a delightful *free* indoor picnic dinner – this may have something to do with our best attendance in a long time!

I am particularly interested in another item that was presented to the congregation at this meeting; the Statement of values and expectations for FUS members. In case you weren't at the annual meeting, or didn't get a copy there, you can find a copy of this statement in this newsletter – it's the green enclosure. This document comes from the work of the Safe Congregations taskforce over the past two years. This group examined many levels of our community life, including practical matters like screens for the windows, and the need for a fire drill. We met with representatives of the fire department, and our insurers, to discuss risk management.

Another issue which the UUA suggests that a Safe Congregations taskforce consider has to do with policies of behavior, especially for those in leadership, and those who work with children. While every community hopes it will never happen in their group, accusations of misconduct are far more destructive in congregations that do not have policies in place for addressing them than they are where such policies have been formulated and publicized. The document which is now before the congregation has been developed with consultation from the Board of Trustees and the staff, and is ready to put forward for wider consideration. It has been presented at membership orientations for the past year, to give new members a sense of our community expectations.

Policies such as this serve several functions. Perhaps most importantly, they help us all as members to be aware of what constitutes acceptable standards within this community of liberal values. In addition to that, they also protect the congregation in two ways. In the event that an accusation of misconduct is made, where no such policy exists, both members and leaders are often unsure of how to proceed. They may either try to sweep the problem under the rug, and keep everything secret, which can result in even greater damage being done, as well as undermining the integrity of the community. Or they may err in the other direction, with everyone publicly advocating his or her opinions and conclusions, which generally makes for lasting hurt feelings and a lack of structure, respect,

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The First Unit

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Special
Summer
Assemblies
Pull-Out
Listing
(see separate PDF file)
And
Membership
Expectations
Document
(see separate PDF file)

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-Alatraste--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: A Gift for a Lifetime

It is with appreciation that I wrap up the current Sunday School year. So many people have pitched in to make this a church home for the children and youth at this Society. So many have worked to plan lessons, chaperone overnights, go to conferences, organize social justice activities, invite speakers, fundraise for GA and Unity Summer, support the Unity Summer Program, do special projects, and on and on it goes. The senior high youth group in their service told us that it takes a village to raise a child and it is *so* true here at the First Unitarian Society. We all need to mentor future generations and we all need help to instill in our children the values that we want carried into the future. The religious education volunteers and supporters are doing their part to raise thoughtful, caring future generations and we should all be grateful to them.....I know that I am.

June 4th will be the last Sunday in the "regular" Sunday School year. On June 4th there will be a fun Carnival for all K-6 grade kids to attend in the Chalice room. They will start in service and go almost immediately to the Carnival. This has become a fun tradition here.....games, treats and laughs.....a great way to end the program year.

The senior high will be ending their program year on June 4th with a social service project! They will be working that morning (gathering at 9:30 a.m. here at FUS) at the Agape Nursery Center refurbishing the playground. The Social Action Committee has provided the funds for this project and the two groups will combine efforts to get the work done. If you would like to go along with these groups, just see Jan Devor.....the more hands the lighter the work!

In the afternoon on June 4th there will be a meeting at 1:00 p.m. for ALL the youth, chaperones, and families of the youth going to GA this year. We have 10 youth going with Helen Anthony, Diana Allen, Pamela Wolfe and Mark Gibbons being the sponsors and Jan and Cory Devor chaperoning. Richard Seurer and the Hutchinsons will also be with us! A fabulous group!

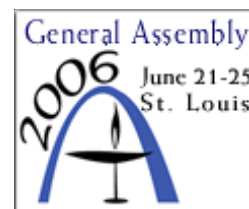
On June 11th the Summer RE Program will begin here. This is a newly organized program and should be fun for the children that come to church on Sundays this Summer. Leading the team will be Amanda Harrington. Amanda is an FUS member and is finishing her Master's degree in social work! We are thrilled to have her leading the team. Working with her will be Jen Winters, a college student at Augsburg College who will be doing an internship here for a class that she is taking. She is a UU and a great, enthusiastic person and

we are lucky to have her with us. Along with these two adults will be a team of teenage caregivers each Sunday (they are being recruited now!) There will be a program for the school age kids, a baby room and a pre-school room! The summer assemblies have been just fabulous and we are seeing more and more families attending during the summer. It is with thanks to the Board that funding for a more complete children's program has been attained. Drop in whenever this summer at FUS and have a great summer Sunday morning for your whole family!

On June 17th, the Unity Summer Program will begin. Casey Magnuson, Brynan Thornton, Louise Dixson, and Andy Gremillion will be participating from this church. This year there will be a total of 25 youth placed in social service settings, including 5 youth from the Hmong High School! Thanks to all who contributed money to help this program exist. It is a powerful experience for our youth!

On June 21 we will be leaving for General Assembly and coming home on June 25!

May you all take some time to slow down and enjoy the slower pace of summer. Love to you all.....



Jan Devor

Director of Religious Education

612-377-6608, ext. 108

Music Notes

Gabriela and I would like to thank all of you who have contributed your time and talent to the music program this past year. We really appreciate all the energy, commitment, and love you have brought to FUS through your gift of music. We hope everyone has a lovely summer and that you continue to sing and play, whether in the woods, in your shower, or at FUS!

Take good care,

Barb Brooks, Music Director

612-377-6608, ext. 106

chorus@firstunitariansociety.org



Dr. Gabriela Díaz-Alatrisme
Associate Music Director

612-377-6608, ext. 106

orchestra@firstunitariansociety.org

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From the Summer Minister

JOIN US THIS SUMMER FOR SUNDAY ASSEMBLIES

This summer I join the Summer Assemblies (SA) Committee, led by Jean Toll and Gary Blegstad. We welcome you to the refreshment of services "of, by, and for the people" here at FUS. For months the SA Committee has been preparing services to nudge us into reflection and talk about our values. And, with the help of our now fulltime Religious Education Director, Jan Devor, we will offer RE programming for ages 4-11!

Past successful elements of the Summer Assemblies are still with us: music by ourselves - including the Eclectics, the Asp Family Singers, and several members of all ages, our fully-staffed child care for infants and toddlers, our "coffee" hour, seasonally adjusted with iced tea and lemonade, song, theatre, current issues, wise children's stories, and moments for all of us to reflect on where we are going in our lives!

Don't lose touch. Be with us all summer or whenever you can. See you summer Sundays!

Rev. Wendy Jerome

P.S. See the insert in this newsletter for the previews!

From the Minister, cont'd.

and dignity.

Where a Statement of Values and Expectations does exist, along with an implementation procedure, congregational leaders can proceed with confidence to confront an accusation. Even though the process will necessarily be unpleasant, it can be handled in a way that protects the well-being of the community. And, should litigation arise as a last resort, the fact that such policies are in place serves to demonstrate the good faith efforts of the congregation to create a safe environment for its members.

I urge you to look over the statement, as well as the implementation procedures, and think about them carefully. We will take the coming year as a time of conversation and feedback, before considering a congregational vote at the 2007 annual meeting. I hope that we will have an opportunity for focused discussion at a forum this fall, and at a Conversation with the Trustees following an Assembly on another Sunday. In the meantime, if you have responses or suggestions, I would be happy to receive them in writing, either in my office mailbox, or by e-mail.

I anticipate a very stimulating series of Summer Assemblies starting on June 11, and I look forward to bringing the water that I save from my summer adventures – don't forget to collect yours! – to our first gathering in September.

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

Membership News

Three cheers to our newest members of the Society! Angie and Dan Tix had their second child, Oscar William, on March 4th and Peyton Hannelore Olivia was born to Cynthia Nast and Kurt Bertelsen on March 7th. Both families are doing well with their new additions.

Our condolences go out to the family of Gladys King, a long-time FUS member, who died on May 11th. A memorial service was held on May 19th, but memorials may be sent to Winona State University, University of Minnesota Women's Club, First Unitarian Society of Minneapolis, or Michael Servetus Unitarian Church, Fridley.

Have some news you want to share with the Society? Contact Jo Franco at the contact information below.

Missed the Orientation? No worries!

Did you know visitors and friends may become members of FUS at any time during the year? That's right, you don't have to wait until the Fall Orientation sessions (though it is strongly recommended you attend them afterward). For more information about membership, please contact **Jo Franco, Membership and Outreach Coordinator** at (612) 377-6608 ext. 110 or email membership@firstunitariansociety.org.

Who do UU Think You Are?

In my 3+ years working as a religious professional in two separate Unitarian Universalist congregations, it never ceases to amaze me how so many of our visitors have found us after taking Belief-O-Matic, a personality quiz about one's religious and spiritual beliefs. The independent host website www.beliefnet.com, says about the quiz:

"Even if YOU don't know what faith you are, Belief-O-Matic knows. Answer 20 questions about your concept of God, the afterlife, human nature, and more, and Belief-O-Matic will tell you what religion (if any) you practice, or ought to consider practicing."

You answer questions on the topics of afterlife, deities, and suffering. Your quiz results give a percentage breakdown of your "spiritual tendencies" and offers resources to go to for more information. While the essence of the quiz is somewhat campy (a warning states they assume no legal liability for the ultimate fate of your soul), it has become an increasingly popular resource for folks on a religious quest.

So, next time you're online, check it out! At a minimum, you'll be entertained for ten minutes. But you may find something surprising about yourself, too!

One Last Thank You

On behalf of the FUS staff, I'd like to thank all the volunteers who made Sundays possible this year, including, but not limited to: greeters, ushers, coffee hour help, library and bookstore volunteers, and audio-visual controllers, and RE teachers. Your smiling faces and helpful hands make the Society a great place to be at each week!

Farewell!

Dear First Unitarian Society,

I am filled with both excitement and sorrow. As some of you already know, my family and I will be relocating to Iowa in mid-June. In August, I will become the full-time ministerial intern at the Ames, IA congregation. I will be their first intern, and both the congregation, and their minister, Rev. Brian Eslinger, are very excited – as am I! This is, I expect, the final step for me to take before becoming fellowshipped and finding a UU congregation of my own to serve. I am honored to serve under another of our movement's amazing ministers.

And yet, Minneapolis is home to us now. I can't believe we have lived here for almost 7 years. My children were born here, I graduated from Seminary here, and after serving FUS as a part-time intern, I found a home with you.

Being your intern was a wonderful experience, but what you have taught me after my internship is just as important. By taking board minutes for several years, I got the feel of the cycles of congregation that an internship could not provide. Being Kendyl's assistant has taught me about some of the nitty-gritty details of being a minister - like what a lot of bizarre mail you get! And, of course, being the Summer Minister in 2005 deepened my understanding of ministry as I stood in front of you to welcome you each Sunday morning.

So that is my sorrow. And yet it is also a joy – to have been part of a congregation of amazing people; to have had such enriching experiences; to have learned so much, and had so much encouragement. Thank you for helping to form my understanding of my faith and of my ministry. Though I will miss you, I take comfort in knowing that I carry your positive thoughts and encouragement with me. Thank you.

With much love, Dawn Cooley

Foundation News

Appreciation Apprecia

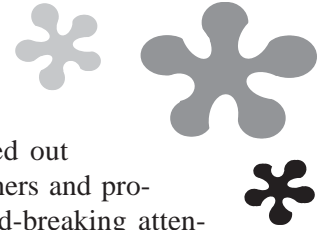
The Foundation wishes to acknowledge with deep gratitude a substantial gift in the name of the Douglas Alan & Elizabeth Bruce family. The gift was made in appreciation for the service on April 2nd about organized labor with music by the Eclectics. The gift will be used to further the religious principles and community life of the First Unitarian Society that were so important to Alan and continue to be important to Betty. Thank you!

Gratitude Gratitude Gratitude

Remember: There will be no newsletter published for the month of July. Next deadline is July 10 for August issue! Thank you.

Success Stories

Spring Eat 'N Meets Hailed a Success Again!



The Eat 'N Meet crew rolled out another series of successful dinners and programs, concluding with a record-breaking attendance, FREE dinner on May 10 prior to annual congregational meeting. We tried new foods this season, like Middle Eastern fare, and kept some now-old favorites, like Mongolian Stir-fry. A super sized thank you goes to Mark Gibbons and his volunteer kitchen crew, Katy Ghiasi and Pam Meade for planning a spectacular program speaker lineup, and the countless volunteers who made each Wednesday night Eat 'N Meet possible. If you're interested in getting in on next year's fun as a dinner volunteer, please see Katy Ghiasi or Jo Franco.

THE 2006 AUW/FUS ALLIANCE WOMEN'S RETREAT A SUCCESS!

Over the weekend of April 21-23 accompanied by gorgeous weather, eighty UU women gathered at the Koinonia Retreat Center on the shores of Lake Sylvia near Annandale, MN. Months of planning culminated in a wonderful gathering of women from both the First Universalist Church and the First Unitarian Society.

The weekend consisted of an opening ritual; a keynote address by Rev. Claire Cassell on "Expanding our Connections: Heart to Earth"; several playshop and workshop sessions which involved creating music, moving yoga, arts and crafts; a knitting project which will result in knitted bears to be sent to Africa to young people affected by HIV/AIDS; writing workshops; exploration of a personal religious place led by Sarah Barber Braun; nature hikes led by our own Dianne Rowse; a discussion group lead by our own unsurpassable Ruth Agar; massages; a "Sensation Station," a "Meditation Station" and a "Conversation Station." Our own Wanda McCaa taught a beading project in the Craft Chapel. And there were opportunities for singing and exercise and dancing throughout the weekend.

Most importantly, it was an opportunity for women of all ages to enjoy one another for two days of activities and great food. And it was a chance for the women of FUS to connect with the women of First Universalist Church. This is the 7th Annual Retreat. The women from the FUS comprised 1/8th of the registrants. We hope to increase that number to 15 to 20 percent next year. We urge our women of FUS to consider joining in on the 2007 Annual AUW/FUS Alliance Retreat which will be held in late March at the Mt. Olivet Church Retreat Center near Lakeville. Call Gretchen Clemence or Polly Peterson (we're in the FUS directory) for more information.

Habitat for Humanity

Habitat for Humanity Summer 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.

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



Denominational News

PSD 2007

FUS will host the Prairie Star District Meeting in April 13-15, 2007. Members willing to assist with these efforts may contact Chris Bubser or Gary Joselyn.

PSD 2007 Logo Artist Wanted

Artistic ideas needed by end of June! The theme of the 2007 Prairie Star District Annual Conference will be "Nurturing Our Faith Communities," with the keynote speaker an expert on youth ministry. Our FUS planning committee needs YOUR IDEAS for a logo to use on the brochure and other publicity for the meeting. Submit your ideas to the FUS Office before the end of June. Questions? Contact Jenna Hutchinson, 612-926-7778 or jrkhutch@isd.net

Social Action

MUUSJA Celebration & General Meeting Thursday, June 8, 7-9 PM Unity Church-Unitarian

This year Minnesota UUs have done some amazing work for social change. Now it's time to celebrate! We cordially invite all UUs to join in honoring our work in marriage equality (UUs Out For Marriage) and global warming & energy alternatives (UU EcoMinds) and reflecting on what it means to be doing this work *collectively* as Unitarian Universalists. The gathering—on **Thursday, June 8th from 7 to 9 PM** at Unity Church-Unitarian in St. Paul—will feature the Rev. Rob Eller-Isaacs, Unity's co-minister and a longtime social activist. Rob will discuss how our UU theology and legacy can help strengthen and ground our social change work. We'll also hear an update from our UU Affordable Housing Partnership. Refreshments will be served. MUUSJA—the Minnesota UU Social Justice Alliance—brings together UUs from around the state to work collectively for social change. Please RSVP by June 4 to Betsy Allis at erallis@aol.com or 612.871.6946.

School Supplies Needed

Two years ago we collected household supplies for the newest Hmong immigrants. Last summer we held collections for food shelves specifically for the Asian population. This summer the Social Action Committee is collecting school supplies for the Hmong Academy in Minneapolis. Watch the Social Action table for specific details and then watch for good school supply sales!

Thank you! Thank you! Than

Roll Call Please!

*In response to a question raised at the Annual Meeting, here's the answer:
The First Unitarian Society of Minneapolis reported to the Unitarian Universalist Association in January 2006 a membership total of 509.*

Events & Announcements

News from The Alliance

At its annual meeting on May 3rd, Alliance members conducted elections for new officers. Gretchen Clemence and Arlene Breckenridge will share the Triumvirate position being vacated by Ruth Agar, Suzy Sewell will replace Shirley Maxwell as Treasurer, and Eileen Reagan takes over from Uttara Rasmussen as Corresponding Secretary. When Gretchen Clemence became part of the Triumvirate, her Membership Chair position became vacant. Angie O'Neill was named to take her place. We thank those who have served on the Alliance board and welcome our newest officers!

If you are thinking about membership or would like to learn more about Alliance, please join us at our final program of the year on Wednesday, June 7th. FUS Board Member Madeline Simon will introduce and present the film, "Peace One Day." Please note that 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 this meeting, call Olive Sarkinen at 763-544-6168.

The Alliance welcomes its newest members, Rose Day, Phyllis Galbraith, Polly Peterson and Dianne Rowse. Have a wonderful summer!

Exonerated is Coming!

Mark your calendars: The award-winning play, **The Exonerated**, is coming to the First Unitarian Society on Saturday evening, September 9, 2006. The play will be performed by Frank Theatre and is co-sponsored by the FUS Social Action Committee. It will be a benefit performance for Oasis Crisis Intervention Center and Kulture Klub, an organization that connects local artists with homeless youth. The entire play is taken from interviews with people who were sentenced to death row and then exonerated. In 2003 the NY Times called this play "The #1 play of the year ... intense and deeply affecting ... " It is "hard-hitting, powerful, and socially relevant," according to the Hollywood Reporter. Watch for more details at our summer assemblies and in the September newsletter!

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?
Grades K-6

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.

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!

The FUS Trustees
invite everyone to the
**Annual
Ice Cream Social**
following the service
to conclude our
05-06 program year on
Sunday June 4, 2006

Art in the Gallery:

Wild Women and Shy Angels

Sandra Self, Karen Searle and Sally Roscoe came together during a doll-making project at the Textile Center of Minnesota. Dollmaking, and all art, serves as a bridge between the seen and the unseen, linking us to the mythic and archetypal aspects of our lives. These dolls serve as messengers from the Wild Woman, who is described as being "elusive as a shy angel." To receive these messages one must slow down, breathe and connect with one's inner self. The dolls will be on display through June 25.

The FUS Office (and building) will be closed for Independence Day Holiday on Tuesday, July 4.

justFair Lobby Day

Over 5,000 people rallied on the Capitol lawn at OutFront Minnesota's *justFair Lobby Day*.

“In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends.”

-Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

At *justFair Lobby Day* on Thursday April 27, Tyrone Terrill of the Saint Paul Human Rights Commission invoked these words of Dr. King at the Rally for Fairness. The more than 5,000 people gathered on the Minnesota Capitol lawn responded with thunderous applause. That's because over the past several months, more and more friends of the GLBT community have ended their silence. So many allies joined their GLBT brothers and sisters that this year, 92% of Minnesota legislators met face-to-face with fair-minded constituents at justFair Lobby Day! That means people came from nearly every corner of the state to stand together and show their power.

The silence was ended by allies like Saint Paul Mayor Chris Coleman and ELCA Bishop Lowell Erdahl, who gave impassioned speeches about GLBT human rights. Eliot Seide of AFSCME, Javier Morillo of SEIU, and Tim Stanley of Planned Parenthood also spoke, stressing the need for progressive organizations to stand with the GLBT community. Polar explorer Ann Bancroft ended the rally by comparing the struggle for GLBT equality to her adventures: "Expedition people are by nature hopeful people. Nothing comes easily nor quickly, and the journeys are often very long. Like my long expeditions, we as a community face similar conditions to those on the ice. Sometimes uncertainty of our leaders' moral compass, the harshness of a sometimes hateful tongue and sometimes a chill in the air as we move through the legislative session. But like on an expedition, our perseverance will prevail."

justFair Lobby Day was a huge success--we had our biggest turnout ever, keeping it firmly rooted as the largest state lobby day for GLBT equality in the country, but our work doesn't end after lobby day. OutFront Minnesota has persevered for 20 years, and we'll continue to work to make our state a better place for GLBT Minnesotans for many years to come. For more information, please visit www.outfront.org.

Amherst UUs offer intimate view into Emily Dickinson's world

Admirers of America's most enigmatic poet are invited to immerse themselves in her work and her life this autumn as part of the 2006 Emily Dickinson's World bed-and-breakfast weekend, Friday, October 13 - Sunday, October 15.

This tenth weekend of private tours, lectures, poetry and music takes place at the height of New England's famed fall foliage season--a time when, in Dickinson's words, "The Maple wears a gayer scarf / The field a scarlet gown." The cost of the educational weekend, \$360 per person, includes two nights' lodgings, four meals and all admissions. Bed and break-

fast are provided by members of the Unitarian Universalist Society of Amherst, who open their homes to participants as part of the UU Society's biennial fundraising event.

For a brochure and registration materials, write to the Unitarian Universalist Society of Amherst at P.O. Box 502, Amherst, MA 01004; phone 413-253-2848, ext. 1; e-mail a request to unitar@crocker.com; or visit <http://users.crocker.com/~unitar>.



The First Unitarian Society

OF MINNEAPOLIS

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

Aug/Sept 2006 Events

Sunday, June 4

9:00 AM Refirement Group
9:30 AM Forum
10:30 AM Assembly (Last of Program Year)
12:00 PM Social Action Committee
6:30 PM Humanist Center

Monday, June 5

5:30 PM Yoga Class
5:30 PM ProChoice Resources

Tuesday, June 6

7:00 PM Earth Centered Spirituality
7:30 PM Food Addicts Recovery Anon.

Wednesday, June 7

11:00 AM Alliance Monthly Meeting

Thursday, June 8

7:00 PM R.E. Committee

Friday, June 9

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

Saturday, June 10

9:00 AM Summer Assemblies Committee
3:00 PM Wedding Rental

Sunday, June 11

10:30 AM Summer Assembly
7:00 PM The Good Life DG

Monday, June 12

5:30 PM Yoga Class
6:30 PM Women's Awareness Group

Tuesday, June 13

7:00 PM Earth Centered Spirituality
8:00 PM Food Addicts Recovery Anon.

Thursday, June 14

7:00 PM Stewardship Committee

Sunday, June 18

9:00 AM Refirement Group
10:30 AM Summer Assembly
1:00 PM Artists' Reception

Monday, June 19

5:30 PM Yoga Class

Tuesday, June 20

7:30 PM Food Addicts Recovery Anon.

Wednesday, June 21-Sunday June 25

General Assembly in St. Louis, MO

Thursday, June 18

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

Friday, June 23

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

Saturday, June 24

12:00 PM Wedding Rental

Sunday, June 25

10:30 AM Summer Assembly

Monday, June 26

5:30 PM Yoga Class

Tuesday, June 23

7:30 PM Food Addicts Recovery Anon.

Sunday, July 2

10:30 AM Summer Assembly

Tuesday, July 4

Building Closed

Thursday, July 6

7:00 PM Summer Assemblies Committee

Sunday, July 9

10:30 AM Summer Assembly

Sunday, July 16

10:30 AM Summer Assembly

Monday, July 17

5:30 PM Yoga Class
7:00 PM Yoga Class

Sunday, July 23

10:30 AM Summer Assembly

Sunday, July 30

10:30 AM Summer Assembly