

Unitarian

VOL. 90, MARCH 2008 • THE FIRST UNITARIAN SOCIETY OF MINNEAPOLIS

From the Minister

It seems to me extraordinary that it has actually been ten years since I visited Minneapolis for my first conversation with the FUS ministerial search committee. I remember touring 900 Mount Curve Ave., wondering what it would be like to preach in this magnificent assembly hall, and do ministry with this historical congregation. Of course, much has happened in that decade—the turn of the millennium, the election of a Republican administration, the terrorist attacks of 9/11, the death of Paul Wellstone, the beginning of an American war in the Middle East, the continuing evolution of the cyber-universe—a rather breath-taking slice of history, all things considered. In that time, I have come to feel very much at home in this building, in this pulpit, in this community, and I have grown to love the history of this congregation, and to feel great excitement about its future.

It was a delight to be reminded of this ten year anniversary by a very lovely surprise celebration, quietly organized by Adele Hansen, Barb Weatherhead, and I'm sure many, many others. (I suspect that Steven was also in the thick of it, but he's not saying...) The declaration of the many ways in which we have successfully ministered together, and your appreciation, as well as the specially written and performed song, and the soup lunch and cake featuring frogs everywhere, were all fun and moving. Together they spoke of the strong covenant that has come to exist between us, in which I take pride, comfort, and pleasure every day, but especially on that festive morning. It is a joy to be your minister, and a great privilege to serve the work of our shared values in the context of this enduring institution. Thank you to everyone who participated in planning this recognition and to all who came to celebrate.

As we look forward to the next decade in the life of FUS, one shared longing seems to arise in all of us, which is for deeper, more meaningful connections among our members. We want to be engaged by all that happens here; to be recognized in both our unique giftedness and our needs. We want this community to call forth the best that is in us; to help us grow into the larger souls that it is possible to become when others believe in us enough to hold us accountable for the ways in which we nurture our inner lives. This yearning is completely natural; these are the connections that all human beings are designed for, by the very evolutionary pressures that have made us a social species, as a strategy for survival. And yet this engagement does not come about without effort; it will only happen if we each extend ourselves to reach for it. That is why finding community will never work just by showing up in the pew on Sunday morning, and waiting for it to descend. Perhaps the spirit of god may come in this way, for those who believe, but as humanists we should not

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Order of Service
announcements are
appreciated by noon on
Wed. of each week. Please
email your submission(s) to:
info@firstunitariansociety.org

Newsletter submissions
are due by the 10th of each
month and should be sent to
[newsletter@
firstunitariansociety.org](mailto:newsletter@firstunitariansociety.org)

Assembly and Forum Previews

Forums are at 9:30 am in the Lower Assembly Hall.

■3/2/08 FORUM:

“Making a Difference on Global Climate Change: Local Efforts and Policy Opportunities”

Presenter: Lisa Herschberger, Environmental Research Scientist and UU

The 2006 UU Statement of Conscience on the Threat of Global Warming/Climate Change is a call to action for individuals, congregations and the UUA. Many local organizations are working to reduce global warming: EJAM, MEP, CEM, MUUSJA,—the list goes on. Who are these groups and how are they approaching the problem? What policies are they recommending to reduce Minnesota’s greenhouse gas emissions? Where are the opportunities for significant improvement?

■3/9/08 FORUM:

“Men Against Destruction - Defending Against Drugs and Social Disorder (MAD DADS)”

Speaker: V J Smith, President of the Minneapolis Chapter of MAD DADS

The Minneapolis Chapter of MAD DADS seeks to bring about positive change and encourages, motivates and guides committed men and women in the struggle to save children, communities and themselves from the social ills that presently plague neighborhoods. In keeping with the commitment the FUS Social Action Committee has made to improving the quality of life in North Minneapolis, there will be a social justice collection taken during the assembly for the MAD DADS organization.

■3/16/08 FORUM:

“The Changing Face of The Senior: The Minnesota Senior Federation and What It Does”

Presenters: Krishna Seshan and Lee Johnon

The Minnesota Senior Federation (MnSF) is a justice and advocacy organization providing seniors with unbiased information about health care options in Minnesota. In some ways, it is a unique institution in the US. Director Lee Johnon will give a brief intro, and Krishna Seshan, Founder and Director of Project Enable will discuss many common characteristics between Japan and Minnesota and how each may face the coming needs of the less-abled seniors.

Assemblies are at 10:30 a.m. in the Upper Assembly Hall.

◆3/2/08 ASSEMBLY:

“*Dona Nobis Pacem: A Call For Peace*”

Presenters: Colin Corner, Grace Echaury, Dr. Gabriela Diaz-Alatryste and the FUS Chorus and Orchestra

Please join us this moving morning as we present works that express our longing for peace and reconciliation.

Program:

Vanhal’s *Double Bass Concerto*, Colin Corner

Mahler’s *Kindertotenlieder*, Grace Echaury

Vask’s *Dona Nobis Pacem*, FUS Chorus and Orchestra

Dr. Gabriela Diaz-Alatryste, conductor

◆3/9/08 ASSEMBLY:

“Of Price and Value”

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Kendyl Gibbons

It is said that a cynic is one who knows the price of everything, and the value of nothing, and we have an instinctive sense that values are different from prices. How is what we most value connected to what we are willing to pay for? How does what we are willing to pay for give shape to our lives and communities? And how can we make our money serve our truest values? Don’t forget to change your clock for Daylight Savings Time, or we’ll miss you this morning!

◆3/16/08 ASSEMBLY:

“*Humanity’s Child*”

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Kendyl Gibbons

These days, I picture the triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem over a path strewn with palm leaves, with the disciples holding a banner proclaiming “Mission Accomplished.” Days later, the prophet of peace died in agony at the hands of corrupt religious and military oppression. Five years ago, our nation launched a war that was meant to end in triumph, and today our young men and women continue to die—and live—in agony. The crucifixion is not a one-time event, but a story that we seem doomed to repeat again and again. On this Palm Sunday, what shall we make of this old image, so often reiterated?

Assembly and Forum Previews

Forums are at 9:30 am in the Lower Assembly Hall.

■3/23/08 FORUM:

Spring Equinox Celebration and Breakfast

Join us for the Spring Breakfast at 9:00 a.m. in the Lower Assembly Hall and the Sing-along at 9:45 a.m.

Assemblies are at 10:30 a.m. in the Upper Assembly Hall.

◆3/23/08 ASSEMBLY:

“The Pageant of Spring”

Speaker: The Seasonal Celebrations Group

Today we pause to mark the vernal equinox and welcome the new season. We will take a closer look at this age-old practice of hailing the springtime and reflect on its value for us still today. With music, song, poetry and prose we will express our own longings to be rejuvenated as the natural world springs back to life.

■3/30/08 FORUM:

“What’s Your Social Justice Passion?”

Presenter: Jo Haberman

FUS Social Action Committee members will facilitate a discussion about the fundamentals of organizing for social justice. Change begins when people identify what they are passionate about—and get into working relationships with others who share those passions. If it’s not important to you, you won’t get off the couch to make it happen! But what happens next—when you’re off the couch and in motion? Come join the discussion about how change happens.

◆3/30/08 ASSEMBLY:

“On Becoming a Grown Up, Part One”

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Kendyl Gibbons

We understand what it means to come to physical maturity and our culture has at least a few expectations around the meaning of emotional maturity, even though we may not ever achieve them all. Part of the point of religious community is to help us grow into the less obvious qualities of spiritual maturity, for this is what enables us to conduct our lives with dignity, grace, and meaning. What are those qualities, how do we assess them, and what does it look like when we are in the process of acquiring them?

From the Minister: *Continued*

be waiting for magic. The connections that we long for must be built, over time, by people who show up again and again in one another’s lives, and work together for some meaningful goal.

Because this pervasive longing can only be satisfied by engagement that happens over time, and through shared participation, there are no short cuts to it. God will not descend and provide it; no program, however innovative, can make it happen; and no staff, no matter how enthusiastic, can spoon feed it to us. Therefore, the community that each of us will find here at FUS is the community that we give of ourselves to build. Whether in Discovery Groups, or Caring Circles, or support meetings, or awareness groups, or planning task forces, or program committees, it is always by face-to-face encounters that connections are made, and community woven. Think of it this way: not only is your own experience of meaningful engagement dependent upon your showing up, so is someone else’s. If you’re not there, the person to whom you might have said something extremely helpful will be left without that support, and both of you lose the opportunity for connection. If in our frenetic and fragmented culture, we do not pause to reflect and to reach out to others, we will all end up isolated, and that’s not healthy for human beings, either individually or collectively.

The future of this congregation is as bright as the sum of our intentions to know and accept one another, to listen as we would wish to be heard, to understand as we would wish to be understood, and to weave our lives together into a community of shared memory and promise. Let’s let that light shine!

Rev. Dr. Kendyl Gibbons
Senior Minister

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Religious Education

My father died mid-February. He was 91 and smart as a tack to the end. His body just gave out. I am grateful that I visited him on the day he died...amazing considering I live in Minneapolis and he lived in Florida.

My sister and I stayed long enough to clean out his house, a task that I know a lot of you have done, too, after your parents have died. It is crazy how meaningless stuff becomes. We pitched like mad and it was disconcerting to a collector like me. I don't like my life filled with clutter, but I do like my life filled with colorful, fun things...the more the merrier. I, of course, thought of my children going through my things and throwing out my this or that. I thought maybe I should give up this collecting thing. I know my kids won't want my reindeer ears or my beaded pig. I was feeling guilty for a while for having—things. Isn't the point of life what you do and not what you have? I have been telling kids that for years! Stop this mad collection of peace symbols, or Day of the Dead things, or things with glitter! Who cares?



And then I was sad. No more snow globes for me? No more wind-up toys that jump or sing? Then it became clear. The point is not that everything should be meaningful to everyone. Dad got his smiles from his things and it was okay that after he went they went. My stuff makes me smile and in this tough world anything that can bring a smile to your face, I say hold it tight...and look at it often!

My daughter Morgan just called and when asked, she confirmed that she is not keeping my maracas shaped like skulls and it didn't faze me a bit. I just gave them a few shakes just for the heck of it...and laughed. May you fill your space with fun, and meaningful things that brighten your days.

Jan Devor
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Mystery Friends

The Mystery Friends party is March 9 in the Dietrich room following the service. It is very important that you be there. If for some reason you can't, please tell your friend and make alternative plans to meet! Also tell Jan Devor!

March 23: No Regular RE Classes

There will be no regular RE classes on March 23, but there will be nursery and pre-school care. We will be celebrating the Spring Equinox here that day. Easter and the Spring Equinox fall on the same day this year. We will begin with all children and youth in service and then the children will do our traditional Easter Egg Hunt. See other parts of this newsletter for everything that is happening that day.

Chalice Lighter Club

For children who are finishing up grade three or higher, we are starting another session of Chalice Lighter Club. There will be two meetings: March 28 and April 18 with initiation on April 27. The meetings will be at 6:00 p.m. at FUS, starting with a pizza dinner. One parent attends with each child; the sessions are about an hour and a half long. This is such a wonderful thing to do with your child. Be sure to sign up with Jan Devor.

Playgroup

Don't forget to come and have some fun at the UU Playgroup on March 8 and 22

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 in the "Newsletter" folder in the FUS office, or made by mail, fax (612-377-2151) or email to newsletter@firstunitariansociety.org.

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



Membership News

Member News

Dan and Kristianne Buechler had a healthy baby boy on January 11. His name is Julian Henry and he weighed in at 6lbs, 10 oz.

Morgan Rock, our publications coordinator in the office, had her baby girl on January 18, weighing in at 6 lbs, 15 oz. Her name is Bridget Joy.

Both parents and children are doing well. We wish both families joy and patience on these momentous occasions! Congratulations.

Eat 'n' Meets Continue this Spring

Please continue to join us for the popular and delicious Eat n'Meet Wednesday night programs. The balance of the topics and menus are listed below. We are always looking for volunteers for set up and kitchen help, so think about grabbing some friends from your Discovery Group, or UU play group, or RE parent groups, and signing up for one Wednesday. The sign up sheet is on the Ask Me table. A great way to make connections here at FUS.

NOTE: The March 26 program will be a book discussion on 3 Cups of Tea by Greg Mortenson. We have several copies of this at the bookstore. It is an easy read, but plan ahead to have time to read it.

March 10 Bass Concert by Colin Corner

Our very own Colin Corner, who plays with the Minnesota Orchestra, will be having a recital in the upper assembly hall on Monday, March 10, starting at 8:00 p.m. The concert is free. Don't miss this chance to hear some extraordinary bass playing.

March Birthdays

Join me in wishing the following a most grand birthday this month:

Hossein Akhavi-Pour
Ken Barklind
Andy Berman
Willem Boss
Jacquie Friend
Jo Franco
Kendyl Gibbons
Max Green
Walter Griffin
Kegan Hackett
Dawn Kuzma

Skip Lajoy
Jeff Langaard
Lily Nederveld
John Nordquist
Dick Owen
Tina Riewe
Madeline Simon
Helen Sinning
Sue Tincher
Oscar Tix
Ned Watson

Teresa West

Membership Coordinator

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membership@firstunitariansociety.org

March 2008 Menu & Program

Dinner 5:45 p.m. Lower Assembly Hall

March 5	Guatemalan Dinner	Wanda McCaa & Clara Asp
Roast chicken, refried black beans, guacamole, rice, fresh cheese and fried plantains.		
March 12	Home Style Chicken	Mark Gibbons
Baked organic chicken with home-style potatoes, green beans, mixed green salad, a vegetarian entrée, pies.		
March 19	Boston Baked Fish	Mark Gibbons
White baked fish, Boston baked beans, cut corn, red potatoes, clam chowder, Boston Bibb lettuce salad, macaroni and cheese, corn bread, Boston cream pie.		
March 26	Middle Eastern	Katy and Hossein
Greek salad, hummus with pita bread, tabouli, chicken, rice with vegetable, fruit, cookies		
<i>Vegetarian options are always available.</i>		

Program 7:00 p.m. Dietrich Room, FREE

March 5	Can we Build the Beloved Community through Political Action?, Steven Protzman
March 12	Understanding Generational Differences, Deb Magnuson
March 19	Ballroom Dancing Lessons, Uttara and Thue Rasmussen
March 26	Book Discussions on <u>3 Cups of Tea</u> , Greg Mortenson, Carol Koepf



Alliance News

Alliance Meeting

At the February luncheon lecture, Tony Siebenaler-Ransom informed members about storm water runoff and what it means to FUS. We also enjoyed an open house hosted by FUS staff members in the newly renovated office, which was funded in part by the Alliance.

At our meeting, slated for Wednesday, March 5, we look forward to hearing Kim Pearson speak on pandemic influenza. The schedule is as follows:

Luncheon tickets sales: 10:45 a.m.

Program: 11:00 a.m.

Lunch: 12:00 p.m.

A short business meeting will follow lunch.

Please call Olive Sarkinen by Sunday, March 2 if you would like to attend.

Annual Women's Retreat

The annual women's retreat, co-sponsored by the Alliance and the Association of Universalist Women at First Universalist Church, is coming up April 4-6. The gathering will take place at Koinonia Retreat Center near Annandale, and will include lots of reflection, friendship, fun and learning. Contact Dianne Rowse for more information at 952-894-8185.

Membership Updates

The Alliance is a dynamic group of dedicated members and friends of FUS. We form friendships, exchange ideas, give service and support to the Society, promote liberal religion, and encourage and inspire personal growth. Please know that the Alliance welcomes new members at any time. Annual dues are \$25. If you are interested in becoming a member, contact Angie O'Neill at 612-722-0784.

Music Notes

Gabriela and I are very excited about our March Music Sunday. This Sunday will be extraordinary in the sense that so many different people will be drawn together to create this memorable morning of music. We are thrilled to feature Colin Corner, a member of FUS, as he will play the Vanhal Concerto for double bass and orchestra. Colin, a member of the Minnesota Orchestra, has also generously given his time to the FUS orchestra and it is our absolute delight to hear him play this virtuosic work. It is somewhat rare to hear this magnificent instrument with all of its color and range played as a solo.

Mezzo-soprano Grace Echauri returns to the Society to sing Mahler's "Kindertotenlieder." Grace was featured as "The Best of 2007" in Mexico for her performance in the title role in the world premier of the opera "Frida" as well as her unforgettable performance of the Mahler Second Symphony. The "Kindertotenlieder" with poetry by Friedrich Rückert, is a collection of poems, from the perspective of a parent, about children who have died. Ruckert lost three children in his own life and his poetry reflects his profound grief and sorrow over his unspeakable loss.

The final piece, "Doan Nobis Pacem" by Latvian composer Peteris Vasks, is a desperate call for peace. This eastern European work features the strings of the orchestra as well as the chorus. As March is world peace month, all congregations have been encouraged to present works that feature the "Dona Nobis Pacem" text. We are thrilled to join the call. This will be a morning not to be missed!

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

FUS Cabaret

**Do You Enjoy Playing Music?
Do You Enjoy Hearing Music?**

Mark your calendar for a fun-filled evening of entertainment at the

FUS Cabaret

Featuring Our Home-Grown FUS Talent

Saturday, May 31 7:00 p.m.

FUS, Lower Assembly Hall

\$5.00 Admission (advance ticket purchase); \$7.00 at the door

*Light snacks and refreshments will be served
in a comfortable, bistro-like atmosphere*

Stage 1: Recruiting the Musicians

Do you sing or play an instrument? We would love to hear from you! Start thinking now of a song or two that you would like to perform.

All types of musical acts (high school age, thru adult) are encouraged to participate.

- **Are you a singer with sheet music, in need of accompaniment? We will put you in touch with an accompanist**
- **If several singers show interest in performing as a group but aren't sure where to start . . . we will help put you in touch with other singers and an accompanist.**
- **Do you play piano and/or guitar, and are you willing to accompany a solo singer or a vocal group? Great! Let us know!**
- **Are you a solo musician *without* need of accompaniment? Great - you're all set! Just sign up!**
- **Do you play in a musical group? Great - we look forward to hearing your group's perform!**
- **If you are interested in playing in an ensemble and are looking for other musicians who might be interested in joining you . . . let us know. We will do our best to help connect like-minded musicians.**

***NOTE for Ensembles: If your group includes some people who are not members of FUS, that's great. We'd love for them to participate in this fun event!**

Please complete and return the sign-up form on the reverse side to the FUS office (Mailbox for "FUS Cabaret") no later than 4/20/08.

Childcare will be provided for the event (\$3 per family)

Musicians are asked to attend the sound check / rehearsal (Friday, 5/30/08 7:00 p.m., Lower Assembly Hall)

Tickets will go on sale beginning May 4 during Social Hour.

Event Sponsored by the FUS Music Committee. Questions? Contact Cindy Pichotte at (612)823-7104

FUS Cabaret: Musician Sign-Up Form

Event Date: **Saturday, May 31, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. Lower Assembly Hall**
Rehearsal / Sound Check: **Friday, May 30, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. Lower Assembly Hall**

Return this form to the FUS Office (Mailbox "FUS Cabaret")
First Unitarian Society of Minneapolis
900 Mount Curve Ave
Minneapolis, MN 55403

Return this form no later than 4/20/08

Name: _____

Phone#: [____] _____ E-mail: _____

SOLO VOCALISTS OR SOLO INSTRUMENTALISTS:

Song(s) you are interested in performing (up to 2): _____

Instrument you will be playing (including voice, if applicable): _____

Do you need an accompanist? YES NO If so, indicate preference: PIANO GUITAR

DUETS / GROUP PERFORMANCES (GROUPS THAT ALREADY EXIST):

Will you be playing in a duo or group that already exists? YES NO If yes, list names of the other musicians, and the instruments they will be playing. Only one signup form is needed for your entire group.

List songs (up to 2): _____

INSTRUMENTALISTS INTERESTED IN CONNECTING WITH OTHER MUSICIANS TO PERFORM:

If you are you a musician who is interested in connecting with other musicians to do ensemble music, then list what instrument(s) you play, other instruments needed, and list ideas of music you would like to perform:

Instrument(s) I play: _____ Other instruments I'd like to team up with: _____

Song ideas / musical styles of interest: _____

Do you need vocalist(s) for your group? YES NO If so, provide more specifics: _____

If we are able to identify some other interested ensemble players, would you be willing to serve as a "point person" for the group? YES NO (This would involve contacting the other musicians, arriving at consensus on the music to perform, obtaining sheet music or lead sheets, and arranging a couple of rehearsals.)

SINGERS INTERESTED IN PERFORMING IN A SMALL VOCAL ENSEMBLE

If you are you a singer who is interested in connecting with other singers to do a vocal performance, then indicate your vocal range, and list ideas of music you would like to perform: Soprano Alto Tenor Bass

Song ideas: _____

Do you need an accompanist? YES NO If so, indicate preference: PIANO GUITAR

If we are able to identify some other interested singers, would you be willing to serve as a "point person" for the vocal group? YES NO (This would involve contacting the other singers, arriving at consensus on the music to perform, obtaining sheet music, arranging a couple of rehearsals, and contacting the accompanist.)

PIANISTS AND GUITARISTS:

We are looking for pianists and guitarists who would be willing to accompany solo musicians and vocal ensembles. If you are interested in being an accompanist for individuals or groups, check "yes" below and indicate what instrument(s) you play. YES, I'd like to be an accompanist. I play PIANO GUITAR BOTH

Stewardship Corner

Continuing successes confront us with a challenge.

You've seen the success of physical changes in the FUS office spaces. Fresh paint, new carpet, crisp new organization of furniture and filing, fine places to sit, and beauty joined with order in Kendyl's office: all combine to lift the spirit in the dark days of winter. That joy alone is great. But there's more.

There's the fine financial contribution to the costs of remodeling provided by the FUS Alliance. (Another grand example of their quiet support we should all celebrate with our thanks!) And there's the generosity of a dozen members, with a combined contribution exceeding \$10,000, that brought a critical \$10,000 match from the FUS FOUNDATION. That combination has let the FUS TRUSTEES move ahead with a property line survey contract and has encouraged them to ask the Building and Grounds Committee to bring in the property appraisal bids and soil borings needed to link storm water solutions with better entry possibilities for the Groveland side of our building. These successes have been reinforced by annual pledging that has continued to keep income above expenses. There is much to celebrate!!



Thank you for your donations on Association Sunday. The UUA reported FUS members contributed \$6,680.

The challenge, then: Are we as a congregation ready to contemplate a long range Capital Campaign? It looks like we're getting closer to the question.

FUS has made the final payment of \$40,406.54 on long standing loan from the Foundation. The Foundation generously agreed to not require the interest payment on the final payment.

The Board of Trustees has contracted to have a field survey of FUS property, building, site improvements and topography.

Social Action

GO! Northside 5K Fun Run/Walk

Saturday, May 31

The PEACE Foundation is looking for volunteers from its community partners to help with and/or participate in its 2nd annual PEACE Across the Northside spring mobilizing event. They are looking for:

- **GO! Squad Partner**

Help plan activities and recruit people to cheer on runners on a block surrounding the race.

- **Race Recruitment**

Help recruit people to run/walk in the race.

- **Pledge Team**

Organize a pledge running team to participate in the race and raise resources for valuable Northside initiatives.

- **Fundraising**

Help raise funds to support GO!

- **Volunteers**

Organize volunteers for the race or festival.

If you are interested in any of the above and would like help organizing FUS members to join you, let the Social Action Committee know. If you are interested in learning more about the PEACE Foundation, visit the Social Action table most Sundays or go to www.citypeace.org

Financial Update

Total income year to date: \$365,195
Year to date budgeted amount: \$348,875
We're ahead of budget by \$17,000.

Year to date expenses: \$332,355
Year to data budgeted amount: \$336,232
Expenses are below budget by \$4,000.

Bob Calgren
Finance Director
612-377-6608, ext. 112
fin-adm@firstunitariansociety.org

From The Intern

As I write this column, I have just returned from the Meadville-Lombard Winter Institute, which was held in Chicago February 8–10. The title of this institute, sponsored by our UU seminary in Chicago, was “Can We Build the Beloved Community through Political Action?” and featured keynote speakers Dr. Melissa Harris-Lacewell, associate professor of politics and African-American studies at Princeton, and Rob Keithan, director of the UUA Washington Office for Advocacy.

This institute was an excellent opportunity to explore what beloved community means and how Unitarian Universalists can use the process of politics both in our congregations and in the world to move towards it. Harris looked at the current political situation in our country and the many things that divide us as a people, including race, social and economic status, and gender. She talked about how our brains affect the way we see things and make decisions about how things should be, a science known as heuristics.

She also posed challenging questions: How do we fix our many divisions? Can we? What exactly is broken that needs to be fixed? How do we create beloved community and what does it look like? How will we know when it has been achieved and is it even possible?

Keithan explored the model of strategic planning, developed by the UUA as a useful means for choosing the best social justice issues for a congregation or group of people. This process uses the four categories of grounding, accountability, fit, and opportunity to determine which issues might be the best use of a group’s energy and resources, given that no group can or should work on every issue.

I came away from this Institute strengthened in my belief that people are hungry for beloved community, that it is our calling as Unitarian Universalists to work for its creation, to engage in the political process of struggle, negotiation and failure that comes with this work, and to know that as we engage in the work of building beloved community, we are offered the possibility of personal transformation as well as the opportunity to transform our world.

During our Eat ‘n’ Meet on Wednesday, March 5, I will talk in more depth about what I learned during the Winter Institute. Join me that evening to reflect on what beloved community means in our modern global age, to examine how we choose to use the power and resources available to us as individuals and as a religious community, and to discuss some practical and appropriate ways to engage in political activity.

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Office Hours: Mon. – Fri. 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.;
Sunday, 9:00 a.m. to Noon.
Main phone number: 612-377-6608

Events & Announcements

Spring Equinox Celebration!

Wednesday, March 21, 7pm



Come welcome the arrival of Spring with us on the Vernal Equinox. We are celebrating with festivities during the time of the regular Eat n' Meet program. Dinner will start at 5:45 p.m. in the lower assembly hall, with time for an Egg Hunt for kids and the young at heart. The intergenerational program will start at 7:00 p.m., including music, poetry, time

for reflections, and nature. (Even if we can't be outside, we are bringing it indoors!)

Girls in Action Receives National Attention

According to the Feb. 7 issue of the Mpls. Star Trib., the Girls in Action mentoring program for girls, now in four Minneapolis high schools, is expanding to a high school in suburban Detroit. People from Chicago, Philadelphia and Los Angeles are also wanting to learn about the program from Dr. Verna Price, the program's founder and director. Members of the FUS Social Action Committee have shown support for the program financially and through volunteer assistance. Dr. Price spoke at FUS last year. Congratulations to Dr. Price and Girls in Action!

Conversation with Trustees: Music Consultant Report

March 16, 12:00 p.m. in the Chalice Room
Mark Slegers, UUA music consultant and music director at the Portland, Oregon UU church, visited FUS in November, spoke to members and staff, and conducted a forum during which he reviewed preliminary findings from music surveys completed by FUS members and friends.

We now have his report containing the findings and recommendations for improving our music program. A subcommittee of the Board of Trustees has reviewed the report as well as the surveys (which were redacted to keep names confidential).

During this Conversation with Trustees, board members will provide copies of the report, present the conclusions from the report and surveys, and propose an action plan for moving forward. Please come and join us. Refreshments will be served.

Barbara Weatherhead
barbweather@comcast.net
612-781-0418

Social Action Committee Meeting

The March meeting of the Social Action Committee (SAC) will be held on March 30 from 12:00–2:00 p.m. This is a change from our usual 4th Sunday of the month. Please mark your calendars.

Power Up for Pro-Choice Lobby Day!

Monday, March 3, 2008 from 6:30—8:00 p.m.
First Universalist Church
3400 Dupont Ave S, Minneapolis

Pro-Choice Lobby Day is Tuesday, March 4, at the Minnesota Capitol. Learn about lobby day, build energy, and commitment! Featuring the how-to and why of Pro-Choice Lobby Day with Kiely Todd Roska, Executive Director of the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice; and UU spiritual reflection by Kelli Clement, UU Seminarian and Co-chair of Seminarians for Choice. FFI contact Cathy Apostle at 952-941-0642 or caquilt51@aol.com.

UU Reproductive Rights/Sacred Choices Campaign:

A collaboration of MUUSJA, bringing UUs together to work collectively for social change, and AUW, the Association of Universalist Women.

The First Unitarian Society

OF MINNEAPOLIS

900 Mount Curve Avenue • Minneapolis, MN 55403-1124

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**DATED MATERIAL
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

March 2008

For an up-to-date listing of events at FUS, check the calendar online at the FUS website.

1. Go to www.firstunitariansociety.org
2. Click on "Calendar" on the left menu bar.

If you do not have access to the web, contact the FUS Office at 612-377-6608 for event information.

First Unitarian Society of Minneapolis						
◀ March 2, 2008 - March 8, 2008 ▶						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
03/02/08	03/03/08	03/04/08	03/05/08	03/06/08	03/07/08	03/08/08
8:30 AM - 9:30 AM Ecumenical Catholic Community Chalice Room			9:00 AM - 2:00 PM Alliance Luncheon Dietrich Room	6:00 PM - 9:00 PM Barb and Beth Recital Rehearsal Barb Brooks Upper Assembly Hall	1:00 PM - 4:00 PM Audit Committee Bob Calgren Dietrich Room	8:00 AM - 9:00 PM Service Auction Carol Koeppe
9:00 AM - 10:15 AM ReFirement Group Shelley Shreffler 612-724-1245 Heritage Room			5:45 PM - 6:45 PM Eat 'n' Meet Teresa West 612-377-6608 x 104 Lower Assembly Hall			10:00 AM - 11:30 AM UU Play Group Jan Devor 612-377-6608 ext108 Chalice Room
10:30 AM - 11:30 AM ASSEMBLY: Music Sunday Upper Assembly Hall			7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Strategic Planning Committee Bob Aderhold Heritage Room			4:00 PM - 10:00 PM Service Auction Barb Weatherhead Lower Assembly Hall
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM Kids N Kin Group Jessica Foster 651-332-0233 Chalice Room			7:00 PM - 8:30 PM Eat 'n' Meet Teresa West 612-377-6608 x 104 Dietrich Room			
3:00 PM - 5:00 PM CUUPS Alcott Room			7:15 PM - 9:15 PM FUS Chorus Rehearsal Barb Brooks Lower Assembly Hall			