

Unitarian

VOL. 83, MAY 2007 • THE FIRST UNITARIAN SOCIETY OF MINNEAPOLIS

From The Minister

One of the items to be considered at our Annual Congregational Meeting on May 9 is the proposed Congregational Covenant. This document, which you will find as an insert page in this newsletter, was prepared by the Safe Congregations task force, and has been endorsed by the Board of Trustees. At the Annual Meeting, we will vote on formally adopting it as part of our shared understanding about how our community works, and the accountability that we have to one another.

The process of self-evaluation that led to the creation of this covenant statement took place over the course of several years, and examined many aspects of our life together. The Safe Congregations task force reviewed our Society's insurance coverage, met with representatives of the fire department, and initiated periodic fire drills. As a result of this task force, we had observation windows installed in all the RE classroom doors, and began doing formal criminal back ground checks on all our employees. Recognizing that part of what makes a congregation safe is that everyone understands our expectations of one another, and knows how to proceed when there is a question about those expectations, the task force proposed this covenant. It was reviewed by the staff and the board, and finalized based on changes suggested in these groups. For the past year, we have been seeing this covenant as in force on a trial basis, and have presented it in a Sunday Forum and at a Conversation with the Trustees. It has been included in our new member orientations. Response has been uniformly positive, and it seems we are prepared for a vote to adopt it at this Annual Meeting.

Congregational covenants like this one usually do not arouse much interest – until an issue arises that it is intended to address. At such moments, these statements of expectations and procedures tend to be scanned fiercely and closely, when participants are defining their positions about an incident, or a questionable pattern of behavior. These are precisely the times when we do not want to have to make the rules up as we go along; when it is important that everyone understands as clearly as possible how we have structured our process. We are in a good place to adopt such a statement at this moment, when there is not any controversial problem immediately before us.

I invite you to read the proposed covenant and implementation procedures carefully. Its provisions include, for example:

- That members of the Society will not to harass, bully, intimidate or physically or verbally abuse others;

Continued on page 4

CONTENTS

From The Minister.....	1&4
Forum/Assembly Preview....	2-3
Membership News.....	4
FUS Annual Meeting.....	4
From The Ministerial Intern.....	5
Music News.....	5
Religious Education.....	6&7
The Alliance News.....	7
Social Action.....	8
The FUS Foundation.....	8
Events & Announcements.....	9-11



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

Forum and Assembly Previews

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

■5/6/07 Forum: Camp Quest: The Secular Summer Camp

Presenter: Rick Rhorer and Norm Barrett

Camp Quest is for children ages 8-17 who wish to share a camp experience with Unitarians, atheists, agnostics, freethinkers, humanists, or whatever terms might be applied to those who maintain a naturalistic, not supernaturalistic, world view. The program and mission of Camp Quest will be discussed, along with highlights from the first three years of the Minnesota Camp Quest. The Minnesota camp is one of six Camp Quests in North America. Rick Rohrer is Chair of the Board of Minnesota Camp Quest, and Norm Barrett is the Program Coordinator.

■5/13/07 FORUM: New Work Happening with UUSC

Presenter: Panel Discussion: Minnesota UU Social Justice Alliance & Prairie Star District Social Justice Network

Join us for a lively discussion with Nancy Heege (Prairie Star District Executive), Ralph Wyman (MUUSJA Director and Organizer) and local UUs working on Global Warming, Reproductive Rights, Voting Rights and GLBT Equality. Learn what's new and exciting about these UU social justice efforts! The monthly social justice collection at the May 13 Assembly will be in support of the Minnesota UU Social Justice Alliance & Prairie Star District Social Justice Network

■5/20/07 FORUM: Youth Boston Trip Report

Presenter: Coming of Age Youth

Hear the tales and see the pictures from the Senior High Youth Group's trip to Boston this year. We had a fantastic trip and are anxious to share the experience with all of you who have been so supportive of our fundraising.

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

◆5/6/07 ASSEMBLY: "The Music of the Spheres: From Ancient Greece to Quantum Mechanics"

Speaker: Dr. Leesa Morrow

Dr. Leesa Morrow, psychologist and member of the FUS Chorus, will discuss the emotional power of music that is based on the science of acoustics. She will trace these ideas from their origins in ancient Greece to their modern day expression in quantum mechanics. The FUS Chorus and Orchestra will perform works that illustrate this compelling idea.

◆5/13/07 ASSEMBLY: Flower Celebration "The Unfolding Gesture"

Speaker: Rev. Kendyl Gibbons

The poet Denise Levertov writes, "So much is unfolding that must complete its gesture; so much is in bud." The ritual of sharing flowers at this time of year when so much is in bud is one of our tradition's most meaningful gestures. Bring a blossom for each member of the family, from your garden, or from the local flower stand. Add them to the vases as you enter, and when you leave the Assembly, receive a different flower to take home with you, as a symbol of the way our gifts are shared in community. This morning we celebrate our the newest members of our Chalice Lighters club. A special collection in support of the work of the UU Service Committee will also be received. The monthly social justice collection at the May 13 Assembly will be in support of the Minnesota UU Social Justice Alliance & Prairie Star District Social Justice Network

◆5/20/07 ASSEMBLY: "Coming of Age Sunday"

Speaker: Rev. Kendyl Gibbons and the Coming of Age Class

Join Kendyl, Jan, the Coming of Age Class and the Eclectics for a morning of celebration for our Coming of Age Class. This special service gives our eighth and ninth graders a chance to read their own belief credos and to give the congregation a peek into the lives and thinking of this age group. Meaningful, inspirational, and moving...not to be missed! Come give your support to our youth as they stretch themselves and participate in a true UU Rite of Passage.

Forum and Assembly Previews

■5/27/07 FORUM: A New Direction for Minnesota's Energy Policy

Presenter: Bruce Nelson

The requirement that by 2025, 25 percent of our electricity be generated by renewables is already law. And by the time of this program there will likely be a law requiring a complete revolution of how the annual \$100 million investment by Minnesota's energy utilities in energy conservation will be invested. This talk will address how these changed policies may affect us, and what each of us can do to accelerate the transition to what may someday resemble a sustainable culture and economy. For the past 30 years Bruce Nelson has conducted statewide energy conservation programs at the Minnesota Energy Office. Bruce is chair of the FUS Forum Committee.

◆5/27/07 ASSEMBLY: "White Roses"

Speaker: Kendyl Gibbons

Sophie Scholl was a 24-year-old graduate student in Munich in 1943 when she was executed by the Gestapo, together with her brother Hans and a small circle of university friends. Their crime was treason; they were found guilty of "discouraging the German war effort" by distributing mimeographed pamphlets protesting the Nazi regime, and urging their fellow students and citizens to resist and oppose it. On this Memorial Day weekend, we consider the various meanings of patriotism, and the power of people of all ages to challenge the powers and structures of evil. We also honor the achievements of several Boy Scouts within our congregation. A sermon discussion will follow the Assembly.

Membership News

On Sunday, April 15, our Upper Assembly was filled to overflowing with members and visitors in town for the Prairie Star conference. The service featured the magical cantata, "Sources," with music by Jason Sheldon of Nashville and words by our own minister Kendyl Gibbons. The work highlighted the sources of our living tradition. Those who were fortunate enough to be present on Sunday experienced the vitality of this tradition we celebrate.

For me it provided powerful confirmation of why we come together in community. Here we affirmed the inherent worth and dignity of the individual, we acknowledged the importance of the free and responsible search for truth, and we joyfully sung of peace, liberty and justice for all. For members of FUS and for our UU

guests this was a moment of deep appreciation for our connections, one to another.

While our community celebrates our connections, we also grieve our losses. On March 23, 2007 longtime member Robert Metcalf died. Then in April Bob Zack left us after a brief illness. They will be missed.

Reminder: New name tags are now \$5.

Jo Franco
Membership Coordinator

612-377-6608, ext. 104
membership@firstunitariansociety.org

Longtime member of FUS
Robert E. Metcalf
died March 23, 2007.

A memorial service was held at
Michael Servitus Unitarian Society
in Fridley on March 29, 2007.



We acknowledge the death of
Bob Zack
December 29, 1917 - April 12, 2007
A memorial service was held at FUS
on April 16, 2007.

From The Minister, continued

- That volunteer leaders will not to use Society facilities or resources to which they may have access for purposes other than their assigned role;
- That professional leaders will not to speak on behalf of the Society unless formally authorized to do so;
- That those who work with children and youth will abide by the UUA statement of ethics regarding work with children and youth.

The implementation section describes how a Response Team is formed when a concern about these expectations is raised, and how it carries out its work.

Our hope is that all of these statements appear very obvious, that they should almost go without saying – yet we hope by saying them clearly, to prevent painful misunderstandings or disappointment in the integrity of our community.

We also hope that everyone who can possibly attend will be with us for dinner and the Annual Congregational meeting on Wednesday, May 9. Dinner, for which there is no charge, begins at 5:30, and the meeting will be called to order at 7:00. Other items on the agenda will include voting on the operating budget for 2007-2008, as well as electing new board members.

I look forward to seeing you there!

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



FUS Annual Meeting

Prepare for the Annual Meeting by
attending the

Conversation with the
Trustees

Sunday, April 29

Noon in the Chalice Room



The First Unitarian Society
of Minneapolis
2006-2007 Annual Meeting

Wednesday, May 9

7:00 PM

Free Dinner downstairs starting at 5:45.
At the meeting, you will:

- Vote on Voting Rights Resolution
- Vote on Green Sanctuary proposal
- Vote on Bylaws
- Vote on Strategic Plan
- 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!

From the Intern

Imagining Spring

It happens to me every spring, usually in the month of May. I walk through the aisles of the greenhouse nursery, filling my red wagon to overflowing with plants and relishing the sense of possibility that I find there. I can spend a full hour at the racks of paper seed packets lined up in rows with their colorful pictures of flowers and vegetables and other leafy promises, imagining how these might unfold from tiny seeds bearing no resemblance whatsoever to the plants they will become.

This season is full of such wild acts of imagination, not the least of which, in my house, is my unflinching ability every spring to regard the gnarled patch of dead plant stalks in the back yard garden and to see it in green rows of healthy plants surrounded by blossoming borders. I actually believe this will be the year that my seeds will sprout and grow tall and plentiful, that I will keep the weeds from invading the raspberry patch, that I will remember to water my hanging flower pots daily Every year in May I can see it clearly – the beautiful and bountiful garden that could be.

These are acts of the imagination that we need so much right now, not only in our gardens but also in the world. We need our imaginations, more than ever today. We need to believe that this gnarled patch of our war-torn world holds different possibilities, perhaps invisible to the eye, but surely known deep in the heart and soul.

“What if?” says the poet Adrienne Rich, “is the first revolutionary question, the question” she claims, that “the dying forces do not know how to ask.”

Certainly, “What if?” is a revolutionary question. It is also the gardener’s question. And the poet’s. And the child’s. And the question we might all ask as we plan and plant our gardens this spring, and as we plan and plant our future in this world.

As I go out this month to fill my red wagon with plants in the nursery, I am also wondering, what are the “what if” questions that are alive in my imagination today? It’s a question worth asking, I think; it makes room for possibilities – whether in my own life, in this community and the others in which I belong, or in the world at large.

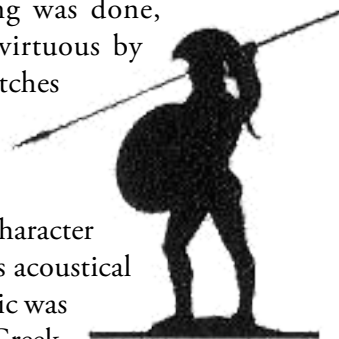
Like seeds held in the palm, there are so many possibilities that await our planting, in this and every season. What if . . . we begin our planting now?

Karen Hering
Ministerial Intern
612-377-6608, ext. 107

Music News

Please join us for a fascinating Music Sunday on May 6. Dr. Leesa Morrow, psychologist, and member of the FUS Chorus will give a compelling presentation that might possibly change the way you perceive music. As Dr. Morrow writes:

“Music was considered a fundamental part of nature in ancient Greece; it was not a social distraction, it was not merely for entertainment, it was not primarily understood as a form of communication. For the Greeks, music was material, and dynamic, like light and electromagnetism are for us. For the Greeks, embryos and planets were musical instruments. The fighting phalanx was prepared for battle by hearing a repeated series of pitches that were ordered according to specific mathematical ratios. Then, once the fighting was done, the citizen soldier was made virtuous by hearing a different series of pitches that balanced the first in tone and in mathematical ratio. Indeed, for the Greeks, music was a natural force that shaped character through the physical force of its acoustical properties. For the Greeks, music was the sounding proof of life. This Greek philosophy of music is known as the Doctrine of Ethos. As we will see, it anticipated modern quantum mechanics in amazing ways. We will explore this connection and as we do, the transcendent power of music will be evident.”



The FUS Chorus and Orchestra will perform works by Ennio Morricone, John Tavener, and Massenet, among others. Don't miss this provocative, interactive morning!

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

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



Religious Education

When Ginny Groos finished reading the evaluations from the Senior High Schoolers trip to Boston she said, “The message is clear. The trip helped them know who they are, understand what a contribution Unitarians and Universalists have made to this country, and that we are not such an unusual religion after all.” What more could you want from this trip? This trip to Boston was perfect... and I have pretty high standards. Karen Hering prepped them very well with a lesson a month on the history of Unitarian Universalism. Linnea Asp, Scott Eller, and I nailed the itinerary. Pamela Wolfe and Marge Thornton, who are the high school advisors and chaperoned the trip, are just awesome people and connect with the youth so well.

Here’s what we did:

- ▶ Friday: UUA Tour, Duck Boat Tour, Harvard Divinity School Worship with UU ministerial students, group meeting with the Belmont UU Youth Group.
- ▶ Saturday: Walked the Freedom Trail, listened to a talk at Faneuil Hall, walked through the Holocaust Memorial, had a free afternoon during which time most kids went to the Boston Aquarium, ate at Fire and Ice and then went to see the Blue Man Tube Group.



- ▶ Sunday: We went to church in Concord, explored Walden Pond, walked the North Bridge, meditated at the graves in Sleepy Hollow Cemetery, ate a fabulous Easter lunch, saw the movie at the Battle Road Tourist Center and walked Lexington Green.

During all of this famous UU’s were pointed out, Unitarian Universalism was explored, connections made between our youth and other UU youth, and information gained about what it takes to study for the UU ministry. It was incredible.

Our youth group was outstanding! Not a complaint to be heard! At our nightly meetings they issued thank yous to the chaperones and behaved themselves at the Eliot and Picket House Bed and Breakfast. The group bonding was great. I was so proud of them the whole trip!



These are some parts from student evaluation forms:

“The information we were given at FUS (on UU history) was great. When we went to Boston all of the dots connected, bonding with the group was fine and bonding with the Belmont kids was even better. Boston has so much heritage and so much of our UU past is intertwined with so many monumental events. I thought this trip was one that I will never forget.”

“Understanding UUism defines pride for me. I now wear my chalice not only as a symbol of my denomination, but as a sign of awareness and pride. It is a trophy of life that I can wear forever. I now have a newly found pride in who I am and what I believe in (including myself).”

“Going back to the roots of Unitarianism and seeing all those historical sites was an amazing experience. It showed me the amazing impact a person can have. And seeing the work of these influential and rebellious UU only goes to emphasize the point. The entire trip was like going through a timeline of UU through the ages – from the revolution to the civil war to the suffrage era to the civil rights era to modern Harvard Divinity School. Seeing all their impacts was life-changing.”

The Senior High Boston youth are giving a Forum on May 20 to show pictures of the trip. I hope that you all can come, even though you will see the world’s ugliest picture of me that I promised I would not delete!

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



*Images from the high school trip:
Left: Thoreau’s cabin and Old North Bridge.
Right: Harvard Divinity School’s crest.*

Religious Education

MAY ACTIVITIES:

Saturday, May 5, OWL orientation for parents for next year's class of 7/8th graders. This will be at FUS from 2:00 until 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, May 6, the Senior High youth group will be planting and working on the Agape Nursery School playground. Dan Tix has lead this environmental project and the youth wanted to continue the work they began last year at this very site.

Sunday, May 13, will be the Chalice Lighters Club initiation.

Sunday, May 20, the Coming of Age class will present their credos at the service. This is so special and not to be missed!

Sunday, May 27, will be Boy Scout Recognition Sunday. Nico Eller and Corwin Diamond will be recognized for completing the Eagle Scout Badge and Kenny Neimeyer will be recognized for completing the Religion and Life Badge.

Sunday, June 3, graduating seniors will be recognized and there will be the RE Carnival to celebrate the end of regular RE programming before the summer Chalice Camp begins.

The Alliance News

☞ April 4 – Peter Olin, Director, University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, gave us an interesting and very informative talk about what is currently happening at the Arboretum, including programs, research, exhibits and hints at future possibilities. We have lots to enjoy when the Alliance heads to the Arboretum in June!

☞ May 2 – Program and Annual Meeting
Sarah Chevallier will speak on “Advances in Curing Alzheimer’s.” We start taking money for lunch at 10:45 am, the program begins at 11 am, with lunch at noon and our Annual Business Meeting will follow as lunch winds down. Call Olive Sarkinen at 763-544-6168 by April 27th if you are interested in joining us.

☞ June 6 – Field Trip to the U. of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum

Plan to meet at FUS by 9:30 am. As you arrive, please stop by and pick up a parking permit. Gretchen Clemence will be at the front curb with them. The permit needs to be placed on your dashboard and will allow you to park in the neighborhood for the duration of our trip. The bus will leave at 10 am and return at around 3 p.m. Our time at the Arboretum will include a flower pot lunch, tram ride around the grounds, and hopefully some free time to walk in gardens near the main building and to browse in the gift shop. The cost for the bus will be covered by The Alliance. The cost of our visit to the Arboretum is \$23. We are asking that participants pay a reduced rate of \$18, (with the Alliance covering the extra \$5 each) but we would gladly accept the full payment of \$23 should someone feel moved to pay the full amount. Please note that once received, the payment is non-refundable.

☞ The deadline to sign up and pay for this fun outing is Wednesday, May 2nd. Payment will be accepted at the May Alliance meeting, or you can send it to the Alliance Treasurer, Suzy Sewell, 4164 Coffman Ln, Minneapolis, MN 55406. We have room on the bus for 43 in seats and two in wheelchairs. We look forward to a fun day together. Please know that we welcome visitors at any of our meetings!

UU Playgroup

Terrific UU fun for toddlers and preschoolers and their families! Come to the last UU Playgroup of the year here at the First Unitarian Society. We have the Chalice Room filled with large motor equipment that delights the kids! Slides, riding cars, big balls, climbing structures, bikes and more. Or if the weather allows, we will make use of our outside playground. It is a casual hour and a half and you can come and go to suit your schedule. This is a great way for parents to connect and children to make friends here at the Society. Details: Saturday morning, May 19, 10:00-11:30 am. In the Chalice Room or outside playground, depending on weather. Free, no reservations necessary...just show up and have fun! Bring your own snacks. Sponsored by Religious Education.



Help Needed:

We are looking for a kind soul to supervise the game room during the Forum time from 9:30 to 10:15 a.m. from mid-April through the end of May. You could do this; please see Jan Devor.



Social Action

Minnesota UU Social Justice Alliance General Meeting

Sunday, May 20, 2007, 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.

First Unitarian Society

UUs in Interfaith Partnerships & Coalitions: The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly

Interfaith work can be powerful and rewarding, delivering social justice outcomes and important relationships. Interfaith work can also be tense and disappointing, delivering challenges and frustrations we are not always prepared to deal with. What are some local experiences working in interfaith contexts? What are the lessons we can take from successes and struggles? How can UUs become more effective interfaith partners for social change? Panel discussion will include Rev. Kendyl Gibbons from FUS, who recently returned from a trip to Israel/Palestine with an interfaith group of local clergy; Carol Koepp who has worked with Habitat for Humanity; and Lisa Herschberger who has worked with Congregations Caring for Creation.



PLUS - Report on MUUSJA strategic planning; introduction of new staff member, Ralph Wyman; and updates from MUUSJA working groups. Connect with other UUs working for social change! Bring an appetizer or a beverage to share. See you there! Questions? Contact: RWMUUSJA@gmail.com



The FUS Foundation

Honoring the Past

Assuring the Future

“The future happens very quickly...” Those of us of a certain age know how fast the years have flown and, increasingly, how important the First Unitarian Society is to us - and we want to be sure its humanist message continues long after we are gone. So we have made sure the FUS Foundation is included in our estate planning, and we invite you to do the same. The Foundation has eight different designated Funds and, as a donor, you can choose the fund that is most important to you. We are featuring just two of them in this month’s newsletter.

The Hendrickson Hopp Religious Education Fund arose out of the generosity of Paul and Vienna Hendrickson (1976) and Emerson Hopp (1984 & 1991). Earnings from the Fund are used to enrich the children and youth religious education program at FUS – beyond the annual RE operation budget. Funds have been used for many special events, art and music programs, aiding youth in social action activities, for equipment that enhances the program, as well as the installation of the safety windows in RE classrooms to meet the recommendations of the Safe Congregations Committee. The Religious Education Committee works with RE Director Jan Devor; their requests are submitted for approval to the FUS Board of Trustees. Jan says that Hendrickson Hopp funds have made a crucial difference in the RE program.

The Foundation Unrestricted Fund is used to award grants to support novel ideas and projects that will forward the FUS mission. These can include enhancements to the building and grounds, support of social service projects, enrichment of our young people’s RE experience and public outreach. Funds can be awarded directly or as matching grants. Recent awards totalling over \$14,000 have been given to support improved sound amplification and recording capability in the Upper Assembly Hall including construction of an upgraded area for electronic equipment, redecoration of the Groveland Terrace entrance signage, support of the FUS history project and celebration of the 125th Anniversary as well as support for our senior high students to travel to Boston to visit UUA headquarters and various UU historical sites. If you have an exciting idea for a project, the FUS Foundation Board encourages you to submit a grant proposal. All proposals for projects that foster new growth and development at FUS will be considered. All applications are reviewed by the Unrestricted Fund Committee (Chuck Blomquist, Susan Barton and Hossein Akhavi-pour). Final decisions are made by the full Foundation Board. Additional information and applications are available on the website, through the FUS office, or on the bulletin board in the FUS Lower Assembly Hall.

Thank you, Mibs Pearson

A Big Thank You to Service Auction Volunteers!

<i>Polly Peterson</i>	<i>Madalyn Cioci</i>	<i>Jean Toll</i>
<i>Barbara Weatherhead</i>	<i>Mark Gibbons</i>	<i>Wanda McCaa</i>
<i>George Hutchinson</i>	<i>Carole Hurd</i>	<i>Max Green</i>
<i>Jenna Hutchinson</i>	<i>Adele Hansen</i>	<i>Wendy Andberg</i>
<i>Mibs Pearson</i>	<i>Vaughn Carlson</i>	<i>Marge Thornton</i>
<i>Ray Scheurers</i>	<i>Marcy Leussler</i>	<i>Brynan Thornton</i>
<i>Joyce Blomquist</i>	<i>Ben Clemence</i>	<i>Roscoe Bendtsen</i>
<i>Chuck Blomquist</i>	<i>Lisa Helminiak</i>	<i>Sharee Buell</i>
<i>Becca Bracket</i>	<i>Kay Dawson</i>	<i>Corwin Diamond</i>
<i>Fred Olson</i>	<i>Jean Christiansen</i>	<i>Mary Jacobs</i>
<i>Carole Rydberg</i>	<i>Lyn Bordon</i>	<i>Maureen Carlson</i>
<i>Leif Carlson</i>	<i>Jim Tincher</i>	<i>Sam Karns</i>
<i>Jim Lynsky</i>	<i>Bob Aderhold</i>	<i>Nico Eller</i>
<i>Jeff Magnuson</i>	<i>George Greene</i>	<i>Brendt Hutchinson</i>
<i>Jo Haberman</i>	<i>Audrey Kingstrom</i>	<i>Jane Jacobs</i>
<i>Lucy Wang</i>	<i>Dave Morse</i>	<i>Jane Deitl</i>
<i>Maxine Dickson</i>	<i>Sean Peterson</i>	<i>Carol Koepp</i>
<i>Scott Eller</i>	<i>Cindy Pichota</i>	<i>Jim Krohn</i>
<i>Linnea Asp</i>	<i>Kevin Robersons</i>	<i>Bill Olgren</i>
<i>Christa Landon</i>	<i>Ryan Sutter</i>	
<i>Sue Myron</i>	<i>Gary Blegstad</i>	

A Thank You to the Staff

An event like this would be impossible without a hardworking and responsible staff. They really got into the rhythm of the preparation and into the creative problem-solving necessary from time to time. Jan Devor arranged for and supervised the child care. Cirilo Hernandez and Pedro Gonzalez cleaned the building from top to bottom, set up the required tables and made necessary storage space available. Will Hegeman's calm and respectful help continues to be essential, solving the several technology problems that popped up. Bob Calgren set up a Service Auction accounting system so that when we report final figures to the congregation, we can be sure that they are accurate. Morgan Rock answered questions about the event via phone and in person and will continue to do that. Thank you all!

And More - - -

We urge you to patronize the many businesses who so generously donated to the auction - and mention that you appreciate their support. Quite a few are small and are engaged in businesses that are environmentally and socially responsible.



Mark Your Calendars - - -

Next year's Service Auction will be on March 8, 2008. See you there!

FUS Staff

Senior Minister: Rev. Dr. Kendyl Gibbons, ext. 116
Minister@firstunitariansociety.org
 Minister Emeritus: Khoren Arisian
 Intern Minister: Karen Hering, ext. 107
Intern@firstunitariansociety.org
 Director of Religious Education: Jan Devor, ext. 108
DRE@firstunitariansociety.org
 Music Director: Barbara Brooks, ext. 106
Chorus@firstunitariansociety.org
 Associate Music Director: Dr. Gabriela Díaz-Alatrisme,
 ext. 106, Orchestra@firstunitariansociety.org
 Membership Coordinator: Jo Franco, ext. 104
Membership@firstunitariansociety.org
 Congregational Administrator: Will Hegeman, ext. 101
Office@firstunitariansociety.org
 Publications Coordinator: Morgan Rock, ext. 110
Newsletter@firstunitariansociety.org
 Finance Director: Bob Calgren, ext. 112
Fin-adm@firstunitariansociety.org
 Building Manager: ext. 105
Rooms@firstunitariansociety.org
 Building Stewards: Cirilo Hernandez, Delfino Veronica,
 Pedro Gonzalez

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

Room Reservations

Jennifer Kohl, who managed FUS room reservations, has decided to look for a new full-time position. We wish her well. To help members with their room reservation needs, we've made the Building Manager phone extension the new "Reservation Hot Line." If you have a room reservation or other building related question, call the office at 612-377-6608 and select Extension 105 for the Hot Line. If you have internet access, send all room reservations and other building questions to rooms@firstunitariansociety.org.



Events & Announcements

Habitat for Humanity Volunteer Opportunities for June

The First Unitarian Society along with other metro area Unitarian Universalist congregations will have a week-long build with Habitat for Humanity during the last week in June, June 25 - 29. We will be building in Heritage Park, the mixed income housing development at the intersection of Olson Memorial Hwy. and Lyndale Ave. The exact address of the site is not know yet. Habitat For Humanity is building in Heritage Park with the help of a group of downtown congregations, Congregations Building Communities (CBC). Work was stopped for over a year because of rising prices of materials and land. Thanks to fund-raising efforts going on in the downtown congregations and the Unitarian congregations belonging to Unitarian Universalists Affordable Housing Partnership (UUAHP), Habitat is able to return to this important site. Habitat for Humanity has a commitment to build 55 units at this site. They have finished 17 at this point. If you would like to volunteer during this work week please sign up at the Social Action table downstairs after the Assembly or call Carol Koepp at 952-893-2383. We will need construction volunteers as well as volunteers to provide lunch or mid-afternoon snacks. Thanks for your help!



PEACE Across the Northside 2007 - May 19, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Over 1,000 neighbors from North Minneapolis and around our community will stand together, side by side stretching across the Northside. We'll make a collective statement that peace will prevail over the violence in the city this summer. Then we'll gather at Penn and Broadway (Bean Scene Restaurant) for a rally and community celebration. People from around the community are organizing friends, co-workers, parishioners, politicians, and neighbors to be part of this event showing support for North Minneapolis.



The Social Action Committee of the First Unitarian Society has made a commitment to the Northside. We are one of the participating organizations of this event. Check out information on the Social Action table during social hour for details about our assigned spot and to sign up to be a participant, or call Carol Koepp, 952-893-2383 for information. It's a fun and important event!

20th Annual Minnesota AIDS Walk

Pledge Your Support / Join Our FUS Team

HIV/AIDS? What have you heard? What do you know? How much do you care? Yes, it's still happening! There's still a need for advocacy. There's still a need for education. There's still a need for care and services for people living with this disease - and by taking part in the 2007 MN AIDS Walk or your support, we hope you'll join our team.



The 2007 Walk will Sunday, May 6, 10 kilometer walk (about 6.2 miles) begins

Minnehaha Park and travels along the Mississippi River. There are six rest stops with restrooms and refreshments for walkers along the route. We invite you to join the FUS Team and collect pledges. Singles, couples and families are invited. We plan to gather at the Park and walk as a group. If you are unable to join our FUS Team, you are encouraged to contribute your pledge. We hope you will stop at the AIDS Walk table in the Lower Assembly Hall after services on Sundays, May 6 and May 13, to register for the walk or to pledge your support - or call Mibs Pearson at 763-545-8790 for more information.

2007 MN
by pledging
you can help.
join our FUS

MN AIDS
take place on
20. The 10
(about 6.2
and ends at

FUS Knitters

Jean Christensen and Jean Toll will host the first of a series of knitting sessions (combined with stimulating conversation, of course) on Friday, May 11 and 25, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. in the FUS library. Long-term as well as wannabe knitters welcome!



Women's Awareness Group

The May meeting of the Women's Awareness Group will be held on Monday, May 14, at the home of Rose Day, 2814 Huntington Avenue, St. Louis Park, MN; Kirsten Langsetmo is the co-host. FUS women are invited at 6:30 PM for a potluck supper, followed by discussion. This month we will have an open forum so bring your ideas, your concerns or current issues, together with a dish to share for the potluck. Please call Rose (952-920-9632) or Kristen (763-588-3918) to RSVP and for directions.

Events & Announcements

MayFaire

Saturday, May 19, 10 AM - 6 PM at FUS

MayFaire is an art show/gift show/celebration of Earth-centered spirituality for mystics with hands, sponsored by CUUPS-Twin Cities, as a benefit to support our programs, and as the last indoor art show of the season. Come for fabulous fair trade finds, jewelry, gift ware, unique summer finery, and healthy plant starts from May Farm. Food includes freshly made salads, cookies, and ice cream sundaes. Yes, both vegans and carnivores will find a full menu! Programming includes chair massage, workshops on Earth-centered spirituality, Morris Dancers, and roundtable discussions. Admission of \$3 includes door prizes (best of all, winners of hourly drawings get to CHOOSE among the prizes!) Watch for flyers for further details. Vendor tables are still available; contact cuupstc@aol.com.

Trip to Israel/Palestine

Unitarian Universalists for Justice in the Middle East (UUJME) is sponsoring a trip to Israel and the Palestinian territories for October, 2007.

UUJME is an Independent Affiliate of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations. The purpose of the trip is to increase our knowledge of the Israeli/Palestinian conflict and to provide moral support for those seeking a just peace. Tentatively, the trip will be of 12 days duration, October 14-25, inclusive. The itinerary will include Jerusalem, the West Bank, northern Israel, and the Gaza Strip. Meetings with civic, religious, political, government, and UN representatives will be arranged. Estimated per person cost, is approximately \$3,500, including round trip airfare from U.S. East Coast. Leading the trip will be Don McInnes, from Cambridge, MA, cochair of UUJME. For an informative website of the trip he organized and led in 2002, see www.uujme.org, and click on "Israel/Palestine trip report." For further information and to reserve a place on the trip, contact Don (don@3mlaw.com, 617-661-9000). The group size will be limited, and places are being filled on a first-come, first-served basis, so if you are interested, contact Don reasonably promptly. Don's daughter, Pamela McInnes, lives in St. Paul and may also be contacted for information about the trip at 651-645-1785.

Art In the Gallery

The current exhibit in the FUS Gallery features art by staff members of WET PAINT. It presents a wonderful variety of works by 13 artists. Be sure to explore their offerings. They will be on display through May 13th. The show that opens on May 20th will feature drawings by Roger Martin and photography by Anna Claussen and Roger Clemence. The two Rogers are Professors Emeriti at the University of Minnesota in Landscape Architecture. Anna, a frequently exhibited photographer, will receive her Master of Landscape



Unity Summer Plant Sale at First Universalist, Sunday, May 13

Please stop by and help support the Unity Summer program. Herbs, annuals and hanging baskets will be for sale. No preordering necessary. Come support our great youth program and choose some flowers for Mother's Day.

The Humanist Center Returns with Two Spring Events

☞ Sunday, May 13: *Technology, "(Im)mortality, and the Rhetoric of Choice"* - Barbara Koenig, Professor of Medicine, Mayo Clinic, College of Medicine and Faculty Associate, Center for Bioethics, University of Minnesota

☞ Sunday, June 3: *Varieties of Humanism* - Robert B. Tapp, Professor Emeritus of Humanities, Religious Studies, South Asian Studies, University of Minnesota

These events are free and open to the public and begin in the Lower Assembly Hall with a social time at 6:30 p.m., the program beginning at 7:00 p.m. and more time for discussion after the event.

The Minnesota Humanist Center is organized by the First Unitarian Society, the Humanist of Minnesota (www.humanistviews.org) and The Humanist Institute (www.humanistinstitute.org).

For further information please contact Matt Stark, 612-377-2211.

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 e-mail to newsletter@firstunitariansociety.org.



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

The First Unitarian Society

OF MINNEAPOLIS

900 Mount Curve Avenue • Minneapolis, MN 55403-1124

612-377-6608 • Fax: 612-377-2151

www.firstunitariansociety.org • office@firstunitariansociety.org

NONPROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
MINNEAPOLIS, MN
PERMIT NO. 3801

**DATED MATERIAL
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

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 - Personnel, History/Archives • Beth Godhes, Liaison - Sunday Assembly, Emergency Preparedness, Youth Adult Committee • Jim Tincher, Liaison - Discovery Groups, Membership, Religious Education • Richard Seurer, Liaison - Building & Grounds, Nominations • Madeline Simon, Liaison - Alliance, Foundation, Music • Bob Aderhold, Liaison - Greater Community, Forum, Summer Assemblies • Lee Schreurs, Liaison - Bookstore/Library, Caring Circles, Finance

Treasurer: Mary Ann Lundquist

May 2007

May 1, 2007		5:30 PM-7:00 PM	Social Commentary Through the Arts DG	3:00 PM-5:00 PM	Gallery Reception
5:30 PM-8:00 PM	Pro Choice Resources Board Mtg.				
6:30 PM-9:00 PM	Mental Health Education & the Legislature	7:00 PM-9:00 PM	Arts & Crafts Discovery Group	May 21, 2007	
May 2, 2007		May 12, 2007		7:00 PM-9:00 PM	Foundation Board
9:00 AM-2:00 PM	The Alliance	8:30 AM-2:30 PM	Compassionate Ocean Retreat	May 25, 2007	
11:00 AM-1:30 PM	The Alliance Monthly Meeting	May 13, 2007		4:00 PM-8:00 PM	Wedding - Ernst
May 5, 2007		9:30 AM-10:15 AM	FORUM: New Work Happening with UUSC	7:00 PM-9:00 PM	Arts & Crafts Discovery Group
8:30 AM-2:30 PM	Compassionate Ocean Retreat	10:30 AM-11:30 AM	ASSEMBLY: Flower Celebration, "The Unfolding Gesture"	May 27, 2007	
9:30 AM-12:00 PM	Minnesota Futurists	12:00 PM-12:30 PM	Ceremony of Grieving	9:30 AM-10:15 AM	FORUM: A New Direction for Minnesota's Energy Policy
2:00 PM-5:00 PM	MacPhail Choir Festival	6:00 PM-7:00 PM	Compassion & Choices of MN	10:30 AM-11:30 AM	ASSEMBLY: "White Roses"
May 6, 2007		6:30 PM-9:00 PM	The Humanist Center of MN		
8:00 AM-9:00 AM	Ecumenical Catholic Community	May 16, 2007			
9:00 AM-10:15 AM	ReFirement Group	7:00 PM-9:00 PM	Membership Committee Meeting		
9:30 AM-10:15 AM	FORUM: Camp Quest: The Secular Summer Camp	May 17, 2007			
10:30 AM-11:30 AM	ASSEMBLY: "The Music of the Spheres: From Ancient Greece to Quantum Mechanics"	7:00 PM-9:00 PM	Stewardship Committee		
10:30 AM-12:00 AM	Coming of Age	May 19, 2007			
May 7, 2007		10:00 AM-6:00 PM	MayFaire		
6:30 PM-9:00 PM	Mental Health Education	May 20, 2007			
May 9, 2007		9:00 AM-10:15 AM	ReFirement Group		
1:00 PM-2:00 PM	Senior Discussion Group	9:30 AM-10:15 AM	FORUM: Youth Boston Trip Report		
5:30 PM-7:00 PM	Eat and Meet	10:30 AM-11:30 AM	ASSEMBLY: "Coming of Age Sunday"		
7:00 PM-11:00 PM	Annual Meeting	1:30 AM-11:30 AM	Soup Luncheon		
May 11, 2007		3:00 PM-5:00 PM	MUUSJA Quarterly Meeting		
5:00 PM-7:00 PM	FUS Knitting Circle				



Check the calendar online at the FUS website. Click on "Calendar" on the left menu bar.

