



THE FIRST Unitarian

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From The Minister

I moved to Minnesota the summer before Jesse Ventura was elected governor in 1998, and it may be that this has skewed my perception of the state. One of my favorite things about the iconoclast in the governor’s office was his steadfast refusal to issue pro forma endorsements of the annual National Day of Prayer. Most state government leaders, with their eye on their political futures, mumble supportively when the federal administration proposes this event every year, but Jesse didn’t knuckle under. It’s about to come round again this year; May 3 is the designated National Day of Prayer for our nation. What’s a humanist to do?

I can suggest two possible responses; perhaps you can think of others. Brian Sapient, of the Philadelphia-based Rational Response Squad says, “We want to make a public statement about how nonreligious people can observe the so-called National Day of Prayer. We atheists are now calling May 3rd “Gift of Life Day.” In the past three years, Gift of Life Day has become a tradition among New York City atheists. Last year, members of New York Center for Atheism celebrated Gift of Life Day by giving blood at the New York Blood Bank in upper Manhattan. A group of atheists arrived together to donate their life-giving blood and then celebrated together in a small anteroom with coffee, juice and light refreshments supplied by the Blood Bank. Previous year activities have included filling out organ donor cards, and collecting food for a food shelf distribution center. Ken Bronstein of the NYCA says, “It’s simple, it’s positive, it’s effective. Come on, Agnostics, Atheists, Freethinkers, Humanists, Secularists, Nonbelievers, Separation of Church and State advocates, join us in our humanitarian protest against the Day of Prayer! Show the world that while religious people are on their knees, Atheists are on their feet giving of themselves to humanity.”

So, think of May 3 as “Gift of Life Day,” and give of yourself to make the world a better place for other people. Give blood, collect food, or find another way to show a commitment to healing the world through action rather than supplication.

Another response is to make plans to attend the breakfast conference at the Minnesota History Center on May 6, sponsored by the UU congregations of the Twin Cities. This will be the first morning after its arrival in St. Paul that the original Declaration of Independence will be available for viewing — we will be the first ones to see it! Joining us will be Prof. Kristen Fischer from the History Department of the University of Minnesota, with a presentation about the real faith of the Founding Fathers. Her work helps to dispel the mistaken notion that America was founded on the basis of Christianity, or by men who considered themselves orthodox Christians, or who even agreed among themselves about what that would mean. The truth is

online at: www.firstunitariansociety.org/newsletter

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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

Forum and Assembly Previews

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

■5/4/08 FORUM: “*Journeyman: American Boys at a Crossroad*”

Presenter: Kevin Obsatz

We will preview a segment of the film *Journeyman*, a one-hour documentary about rites of passage, mentoring, and male culture in America. The film examines an emotional and social crisis evident in American boys that is finally emerging into our cultural consciousness due to the ever-increasing problem of gang violence and academic failure among America's teenage boys. *Journeyman* will soon be shown on public television stations. Kevin Obsatz, the cinematographer, codirector and editor of *Journeyman*, will speak with us about the film and the issues it raises.

■5/11/08 FORUM: “Mothers for Peace”

Presenter: The Women's Awareness Group and the Social Action Committee

“Our sons shall not be taken from us to unlearn all that we have taught them of charity, mercy and patience,” Julia Ward Howe, 1870. Mother's Day was first organized 138 years ago by abolitionist, suffragette and poet Julia Ward Howe. In 1870 she organized a Mother's Day for Peace to promote peace and speak out against war. On May 11, 2008, we at FUS will honor the work of mothers and all others who teach patience, charity and mercy. There will be poetry, songs and words of inspiration from our members.



Julia Ward Howe

■5/18/08 FORUM: “Men Against Destruction — Defending Against Drugs and Social Disorder (MAD DADS)”

Presenter: 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.

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

◆5/4/08 ASSEMBLY: “A View from the Curb”

Speaker: The Rev. Dr. Kay Jorgensen

This assembly will be led by The Faithful Fools Street Ministry, co-founded by Sr. Carmen Barsody OSF of Little Falls, MN, and UU minister Kay Jorgensen, who will be preaching. Kay came to Unitarian Universalism through the Society and was ordained here at FUS in 1987. This is the ten-year anniversary of the work of the Fools, which reaches to Nicaragua, Vancouver, Canada and other cities around the United States. Music will be presented by Will Agar and Mary Stoyke. They have been associated with the Society for about 35 years and they have been popular musicians in Minneapolis through live performances in many venues and by the release of their music on CDs.

◆5/11/08 ASSEMBLY: “Songs My Mother Taught Me” Music Sunday

A tribute to motherhood. The FUS Chorus and Orchestra will present beautiful music to honor all mothers. Come and enjoy this morning as we celebrate Mother's Day with highly spirited gypsy songs and dances!

“Idylle” from *Suite Pastorale* by Emmanuel Chabrier

Romanian Folk Dances by Bela Bartok

Gypsy Songs by Antonin Dvorak

The Monthly Social Justice Collection gathered today will be directed to social justice scholarships for youth.

◆5/18/08 ASSEMBLY: Youth Service

Speaker: FUS Youth

Come see and hear a group of talented FUS youth. In true youth style, the topic is yet to be determined, but if you have been to other youth services, you know that the youth always present an insightful and meaningful service. Combined into this service will be Flower Communion and OWL recognition. Simply your presence will support our youth. Don't miss this chance!!

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.

■5/25/08 FORUM: “Winter Soldier”

Presenter: Brandon Day

Brandon Day, leader of Iraq Vets Against War, Minnesota Chapter, will share his experience as a recent participant in “Winter Soldier.” He was one of the hundreds of Iraq and Afghanistan veterans who traveled to the D.C. area between March 13 and 16 to provide testimony of their experiences at “Winter Soldier: Iraq and Afghanistan.” The event was named “Winter Soldier” to honor a similar gathering 30 years ago of veterans of the Vietnam War. “Winter” soldiers, according to founding father Thomas Paine, are the people who stand up for the soul of their country, even in its darkest hours. Brandon has an important story for all to hear.



◆5/25/09 ASSEMBLY: “The Next Monument”

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Kendyl Gibbons

Like many of my Boomer generation, I consider Maya Lin’s somber black granite slash in the earth engraved with the names of all the soldiers who died in Vietnam to be a brilliant memorial, physically evoking our national ambiguity about that tragic war. One day in the not-so-distant future, our collective consciousness will be called upon to create a monument to the devastation now unfolding for half a decade in Iraq. What haunted emotions will we want that structure to elicit in the beholder? How does one remember the nobility of human heroism and the unconscionable waste of human lives in the same moment of awareness? Memorial Day weekend seems the appropriate time to consider such questions. This Assembly will be followed by a sermon discussion.

■6/1/08 FORUM: “Immigrant Rights”

Presenter: The Minnesota Immigrant Rights Action Coalition (MIRAC)

We will be hearing from a member of MIRAC about federal and state issues of the immigrant population of Minnesota including legalization, deportations, use of public services and equity.



◆6/1/08 ASSEMBLY: “Bread for the Journey”

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Kendyl Gibbons

I am always struck by the careful thought with which serious backpackers decide what to take with them on a camping adventure, and the consequences of what they choose to bring along or leave behind. What about our life journeys? How do we prepare for them, what is essential to bring with us, and what sustenance might we find along the way? We will celebrate the reception of new members at this Assembly.



From The Minister

continued

far more ambiguous, and far more fascinating, than the mythology. The event will take place from 8:00 to 10:00 a.m., at the History Center, and there will be a modest charge to help cover the cost of the breakfast. Seating is limited, so contact Kendyl for more information.

On its website, the National Day of Prayer Task Force says this:

The Task Force was a creation of the National Prayer Committee for the expressed purpose of organizing and promoting prayer observances conforming to a Judeo-Christian system of values. People with other theological and philosophical views are, of course, free to organize and participate in activities that are consistent with their own beliefs. This diversity is what Congress intended when it designated the Day of Prayer, not that every faith and creed would be homogenized, but that all who sought to pray for this nation would be encouraged to do so in any way deemed appropriate.

I say, let's take them up on it, and celebrate the diversity and freedom upon which our nation was truly founded. Let learning and service be our visible prayer.

Rev. Dr. Kendyl Gibbons
Senior Minister
612-377-6608, ext. 116

Celebrate Flower Communion

at Assembly May 18, 10:30 a.m.



Bring a flower, receive a flower.

FUS 2007-2008 Annual Meeting



Wednesday, May 14, 7:00 p.m.
Free Dinner in the Lower Assembly Hall
at 5:45 p.m.

Highlights of the Meeting include:

- Report on the Strategic Planning Process
- Report on the Music Program surveys
- Report on Green Sanctuary Project
- Approve 2008-09 Budget
- Approve the Congregational Covenant
- Presentation of the Annual Dueltgen Award

No reservations are necessary, but contact the office by May 7 if you require childcare. See you there!



Conversation with the Trustees
Prepare for the Annual Meeting by attending the Conversation with the Trustees on Sunday, May 4, noon in the Chalice Room.

Religious Education

This is a religion without a creed, but I would like to replace that “c” word with another “c” word and that is commitment. The fact that we don’t have a creed that we all can memorize and recite makes it especially necessary for families to have the commitment to come to church and help their children figure out how they want to act and be in the world. This creedless religion requires time and energy from adults to guide our young ones and teens in their religious journey. It requires commitment that going to church is a family routine in order for the children to get the most out of the RE program along with the adult modeling that goes on in this community. The RE program has only 35 hours in a year to help children learn about Unitarian Universalism, world religions, gain Bible literacy and to instill in them a sense of social service commitment, and to give them a

moral base. It takes parental commitment to insure that your child has the tools to sort out political events that have religious underpinnings. It takes commitment to get up, get out, and get here. You do it for sports, why not for a religious background for your

children and youth that will sustain them throughout their lives?

Here, this commitment is shown by many families as they teach Sunday School and work on committees that help the RE program. Coming soon in a packet to you will be the RE registration forms.

PLEASE VOLUNTEER to help the future not only by registering and then coming to church, but by helping to teach in the RE program. It is so important that you make a commitment to help teach.

As the sign on the front of the church says: “This is a religion that gives values, connections and makes sense.” Come experience it in 2008-09 by registering your family in RE today, and teaching Sunday School.

Jan Devor
Director of Religious Education
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jan@firstunitariansociety.org

THE FACTS for MAY:

- ☛ There is the OWL overnight on May 2. Check with Deb Snouffer or George Hurchinson for details.



- ☛ The RE Teacher Appreciation Event is Sunday, May 4 at the Park Lanes Tavern. Yes, we will eat and bowl a few lanes and have a good time. Child care is here at FUS starting at 4:00 p.m. and reservations are required for both. RSVP to Jan Devor.



- ☛ The last Sunday School Class is May 11. All children in third grade and up are requested to come to the May 18 youth service. This will also be the OWL recognition, and the Flower Communion Service. There will be a movie that day for the littler ones, K-2, if they don’t want to stay at the service.



- ☛ On May 25, Memorial Day weekend, there won’t be any childcare or RE classes.
- ☛ On June 1 the traditional RE Carnival in the Chalice Room will wrap up another wonderful year in religious education.



Service Auction

A big thank you again to all the volunteers, donors and bidders who made this year's service auction a record breaker. At this writing, the net amount earned was about \$24,000.



\$10,000 will be going to the Sound Committee to pay for new sound equipment already installed or yet to come. The Bid-a-Need portion of the evening will go to purchase a defibrillator for our building. Another one will go tofor Holding Forth the Word of Life Church, our sister church on West Broadway. The balance of the proceeds will be used by the Social Action Committee in several ways: \$6,000 to equip the infant room in the third 24/7 child care center being developed by the Holding Forth congregation, this one in St. Paul, which builds on the successful 20-year history of their centers in North Minneapolis; continue to give financial support to social justice work in the greater community that meets our criteria and reflects our humanist values; setting aside money to help fund a potential new staff position, recommended by the Long Term Planning Committee, to work with the existing staff and committees in expanding the social justice work in this congregation.

The success of the Service Auction is a testament to the importance of having many skilled and willing volunteers. It's risky making a list because someone is bound to be left out, but to all who attended, think about those you saw selling tickets before and at the event, handling registration, serving beverages, making and serving food, setting up the displays, recording donations, providing music, checking out and cleaning up. A huge pat-on-the-back goes to Sue Tinchler, who recorded all the donations as they came in, and put together the catalog and printed the bid sheets. Another huge pat-on-the-back goes to Molly Illes for her leadership in facilitating smooth check in and check out processes.

We are very grateful to all the businesses who provided items and certificates. Please patronize their businesses when you can, and thank them for their generosity.

Enjoy your dinners, concerts, plays, vacations, tours, parties, spa day and other community connections coming your way as the result of your generous participation in this event!

Stewardship Corner

At FUS, STEWARDSHIP is FOUR-PART HARMONY.

It's CHALLENGE; It's COMMITMENT;
It's RECOGNITION; It's REWARD.

The song can be lineal and sequential; but
it also can be circular, or even random;
and
here at FUS, in the Spring of 2008,
STEWARDSHIP is especially, CELEBRATION!

We're on a roll, so it's time to sing, and
if we all join in, the music will be
FABULOUS!!

We set a pledge target for 07-08 of \$424,000,
and we're well on our way to meeting that goal
so

The FUS Board has set a new target for 08-09.
It's a CHALLENGE. It's a COMMITMENT to share.

It's a \$450,000 target,
And we can reach it, if all of us join in the song.

The target is A 5% RISE IN EVERY 08-09 PLEDGE;
That's only five pennies per dollar, or
FIVE DOLLARS PER HUNDRED.

But we can do it, and even do far more if we also
DONATE FROM OUR UPCOMING FEDERAL
REBATES.

Then, if we make our goal, there will be
RECOGNITIONS
and
REWARDS.

There will be a RECOGNITION HONOR ROLL !!
AND THERE WILL BE FABULOUS REWARDS !!

A 5% pledge increase will earn 4 Eat 'N' Meet tickets;
A 7% pledge increase will earn 6 Eat 'N' Meet tickets;
A 10% increase will earn 6 Eat 'N' Meet tickets... PLUS
a \$20.00 punch card for the coffee cart!

AND EVERY PERSON WHO ALSO CONTRIBUTES A
FEDERAL REBATE
Will earn an EXTRA CELEBRATION, also
DELIVERED IN SONG!!!

WOW!!

Stewardship Corner

HOW TO HANDLE YOUR FEDERAL REBATE: Invest in A GREENER FUS FUTURE



Uncle Sam Wants YOU To Do Your Part

You know the drill. The Bush Administration calls its plan an ECONOMIC STIMULUS PACKAGE, so it wants you to take your upcoming rebate (funded by your tax dollars) and put it into splurging at the MARTS — Wal and K — and other such places, to PUMP UP the consumer economy. But we HUMANISTS have a better idea. It's called SPLURGING AT FUS.

Your Stewardship, Building and Grounds, and Green Sanctuary Committees have banded together to create a SPECIAL FUS STIMULUS PACKAGE. We call it THE GREENING FUND, because it's a unique opportunity to launch a dedicated resource to support key environmental improvements at our Humanist home.

Here's the deal! First, we upgrade our 50-year-old boiler to make it more energy efficient. That \$27,000 investment should save enough annually to pay for itself in roughly seven years. Second, we replace windows and screens in the education wing to reduce heat loss in winter, aid ventilation in summer and enhance security. A bid for those improvements is \$79,000, and, if we can, follow with further investments in lighting and other energy improvements.

The target can seem challenging, but rebates for singles are to be \$600, and for couples filing jointly, \$1200. Thus, if each of us contributes at least half of our rebate — more if possible — to the FUS GREENING FUND, we'll raise over \$120,000. And the payment process will be both simple and joyful.

To contribute, just write a check to FUS and note in the memo line "Greening Fund." Or, if you prefer, use the Society's hi-tech secure online donating system, making sure your contribution is listed in the "other" box on the donation page. Recognize that your contribution will not be seen as an increase in your fiscal year pledge. That will be a separate target. But your Greening Fund donation will be fully tax deductible, just as your other contributions in support of the Society are. And it will help to show Uncle Sam how creatively responsible we at FUS can be! Breathe deeply, smile, then do it. You'll feel great! (Questions to Roger Clemence of the Stewardship Committee at FUS.)

Membership News

FUS Orientation Meetings Are Coming Up!

We are holding Orientation sessions for visitors to help familiarize them with FUS, Unitarian Universalism, and our activities here. Attendees can then decide about membership. The dates for this program are: May 4 *and* May 18, 2008, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. in the Dietrich Room at FUS.

New Member Sunday follows on June 1. If you have questions about any aspect of FUS or would like more information, please feel free to contact me, Teresa West, at 612-377-6608, ext 104 or via e-mail at membership@firstunitariansociety.org. I am also here every Sunday. Ask for me at the greeter's table when you arrive or meet me at the Minister's Tea for visitors after each service on the left side of the Upper Assembly Hall. I look forward to meeting you!

FUS Involvement in Pride Festival

The FUS Membership Committee is very excited to be sponsoring a booth at Pride this year. The Festival will be held June 28 and 29 at Loring Park. We are currently looking for volunteers to staff the booth in two-hour increments. Please stop by the Ask Me table in the Lower Assembly Hall to sign up for a shift. We are looking forward to outreaching to our neighbors to share our values and heritage of humanism.

Membership Updates

- ☛ Chuck and Olive Sarkinen wish to thank everyone who continues to support their grandson Zachary with their thoughts and good wishes. He is headed to the Mayo Clinic for triple stem cell transplant. All of our thoughts are with him.
- ☛ Our sympathies go to Elin Soderlin and her family on the death of her husband, Ed. We also extend our thoughts to Marian Behrends after the death of her sister Louise McLean, known as Lou to friends and family.
- ☛ Ruthie Pearson, life member of FUS, died on March 31, 2008, two days before her 89th birthday. She will be remembered fondly by many friends for her caring loyalty and sense of humor. She was an admirable Unitarian. There will be a private family service. A celebration of Ruthie's life will be held at a future date. Memorials preferred to The Foundation Fighting Blindness, PO Box 17279, Baltimore, MD 21297-0495.



May Birthdays

Many Happy Returns to May Birthdays! Please note that in the last month's newsletter, those were April birthdays, not March, as it was listed in the title.

Don Asp
Charlie Bachman
Carol Barnett
Rita Bauer
Angie Dhruvan
Carol Griffin
John Gross
Amanda Harrington
Jenna Hutchinson
Gary Joselyn



Mary Ann Lundquist
Ana Martiniez-Tapp
John Moede
Sadie Nederveld
Walter Nelson
Fred Olson
Nathan Rock
Robert Tapp
Charles Thiele

Teresa West
Membership Coordinator
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membership@firstunitariansociety.org

Social Action

Northside News Update

The Social Action Committee at the First Unitarian Society focuses much of its resources, both financial and volunteer time, in north Minneapolis. During the past month we sent \$6,000 to Agape Child Development Centers to equip an infant room in their new center. We also purchased a defibrillator for our sister congregation, Holding Forth the Word of Life, with service auction funds. Girls in Action continues to be a volunteer opportunity. Some of us attended the monthly forum held at the PEACE Foundation on March 27, where we heard Dr. David Welch



speak about the impact of the media on families. On April 24, FUS members who attended the kick off to their Peace Summer events, heard about the fun runs, 5 K walks and the FLOW, an arts crawl along West Broadway. They will be looking to their allies (we are one) to help as participants and volunteers. Get more information on the Social Action table.

The Listening Project

The FUS Social Action Committee is starting a “listening project,” visiting with members and friends to learn more about how the work of social justice is part of our FUS identity. If you get a call, we hope you will take a little time (45 minutes to an hour) to discuss your key interests and issues — and future directions for the social justice program at FUS. If you would like to ask for a conversation, let the committee know by signing up at the Social Action table during social hour after the assembly.



Habitat for Humanity Volunteer Opportunity

Members of the First Unitarian Society and other Unitarian congregations in the metro area are sponsoring a week-long “work camp” during the week of June 16, 2008. “Work Camp” is the term used by Habitat for Humanity to designate a time when work on a site is sponsored by one group, financially and with construction volunteers.



The location of the build is 7707 - 89th Ave., Brooklyn Park. Work hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. You can work one day, two days, three days, etc. No half-days, please. There are jobs on the site for every skill level. Some people spend some of their vacation on a Habitat site. Think about that — no expense, food provided, a learning experience, meet new like-minded people and very little carbon footprint!

Other ways to contribute to the week —

If you are not up to construction or don't have the time, you can still be part of the experience by becoming a site host or by providing food for the construction workers.

To get more information, find Jerry Edwards during social hour. Jerry was our site coordinator last year and will be again this year. You can also go to the Social Action table during social hour or contact Carol Koepp.



From The Intern

Dag Hammarskjold writes "I am being driven forward into an unknown land. The pass grows steeper, the air cold and sharper; A wind from my unknown goal stirs the strings of expectation. Still the question: Shall I ever get there? There where life resounds a clear pure note in the silence."



Where has the time gone? It seems like only yesterday that our journey together into an unknown land began and I was writing my first column, introducing myself to you and sharing my goals for our nine months together. And now here I am in the final days of my internship, thinking about my answer to the question many of you have asked me about what comes next.

As my internship ends, I will continue my vocation as a pipe organ designer; my company will finish building and installing several new organs this year. Also, I have been asked to serve as your coordinator/ministerial presence for summer assemblies and look forward to being with you on Sunday mornings until early September. I hope each of you will participate in summer assemblies with your presence and as a volunteer.

In the fall I will take the last three classes required for my Masters of Divinity, completing the degree I began as a part-time student six years ago. In the spring I plan to take my unit of Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE), which will be four hundred hours of service and education as a chaplain at a local hospital or other care setting.

In March of next year I hope to go to Chicago to meet with the Ministerial Fellowship Committee, which grants ministerial status in the UUA. During this meeting, I will preach a ten-minute sermon, and then spend about 45 minutes answering questions from the committee about my experiences and training, my education, and my understanding of the many facets of UU ministry. This includes our history and polity, world religions, administration, religious education, pastoral care and social justice. If all goes well during this meeting, I will be cleared for search once I complete my CPE, and I will begin looking for my first church. My long range plans are to serve

a congregation as a half-time minister and continue my work as a pipe organ designer.

It's a long and demanding process to become a UU minister; many times I have asked the question, "shall I ever get there?" sometimes humorously, sometimes in utter frustration. And I imagine that at points in our lives we've all asked the same question as we pursue a long-held dream or goal. It is my hope for each of us that when we seek an answer, that "pure clear note in the silence," and we reach a moment of understanding, we will know once again that being both human and a Unitarian Universalist is a call to celebrate and affirm the journey rather than the destination.

Steven Protzman
Ministerial Intern
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intern@firstunitariansociety.org

Summer Assemblies

Come Celebrate the Human Community!

You're invited to join us at FUS on Sundays at 10:30 a.m. this summer for engaging and diverse lay-led programs, uplifting music, and the opportunity to sustain and deepen our connections with one another.



Summer Assemblies needs the help of our whole community so look for the sign up table or contact Martha Hardesty to volunteer as an usher or greeter, bring and arrange flowers, staff the library, share your gift of music, or serve refreshments.

Childcare and Chalice Camp will be provided, Maureen Hunt will be coordinating music, and Steven Protzman will be coordinating the services.

See you this summer!

The Alliance News

At the April luncheon lecture Barb Lutz spoke to members about "Military Careers for Women — At What Cost?" In May, we look forward to hearing about Barbara Weatherhead's trip to the Middle East. This will be followed by lunch and our Annual Meeting. The schedule is as follows: luncheon tickets sales 10:45 a.m., program 11:00 a.m., lunch at noon followed by the meeting. Please call Olive Sarkinen by Sunday, April 27, if you would like to attend. Thank you!



The Alliance sends out heartfelt thanks to bakers Jean Christensen, Shelley Shreffler, Colleen Curran and their awesome work crew for the delicious cinnamon rolls on Sunday, March 16. As usual, the enticing aromas coming from the kitchen drew crowds to purchase and enjoy the fresh-baked treats.

Membership Updates:

Contact the FUS Office at 612-377-6608 for this information.

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.

Music Notes

Our final music Sunday on May 11 will be a tribute to mothers. Some of us lucky folks still have our mothers in our lives, but many people have lost their precious moms. The FUS Chorus and Orchestra will present Dvorak's "Gypsy Songs" in honor of all mothers. One of the most famous songs in this cycle is "Songs My Mother Taught Me," a stunningly poignant poem about the cycle of love and loss with this important relationship. Many of you will recognize it, I'm sure. These gypsy songs also reflect the spirit of freedom and oneness with nature that these groups of people experienced. Come dance with us!



The Bartok dances are full of earthy rustic energy with lots of great fiddling and folk flavor! Whee! Come and join us as we explore the exotic world of the gypsy.



Please mark your calendars and bring your lovely mothers to this Sunday morning event.

Barbara Brooks
FUS Music Director
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chorus@firstunitariansociety.org

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



Smart Gifting and Estate Planning May 4, Noon in the Dietrich Room

In these times of financial volatility, the FUS Foundation is offering a timely seminar by tax expert and attorney Robert Collins on ways to protect your assets and develop smart gift planning strategies.

Bob is a partner specializing in tax issues with Lindquist & Vennum in Minneapolis. In addition, he is an adjunct professor at William Mitchell College of Law in St. Paul, where he teaches or has taught courses about income tax for partnerships and LLCs; wills and trusts; advanced estate planning; and charitable gifts and foundations. During the last 15 years he has given more than 30 presentations for Minnesota Continuing Legal Education, including “Partnership Income Tax for the Trusts and Estates Practitioner: A Checklist,” at the 2007 Minnesota Probate & Trust Law Conference. In 2002, Bob helped establish



and was a presenter at the Minnesota CLE’s Charitable Planning Institute; in 2003, he helped establish and moderated at Minnesota CLE’s first seminar on Income Taxation for Estate Planners; and in October 2003, he gave the case law update at Minnesota CLE’s Elder Law Institute.

FUS Cabaret



Saturday, May 31
7:00 p.m.
Lower Assembly Hall

\$5.00 in advance
(\$7.00 at the door)

Mark your calendar now for the FUS Cabaret a fun-filled evening of entertainment, featuring our home-grown FUS talent!

- Enjoy solo and ensemble performances in a wide range of musical styles
- Light snacks, wine and soft drinks will be served
- Childcare available (\$3.00 per family)

Tickets on sale during Social Hour,
beginning Sunday, May 4

Questions? Contact Cabaret Committee members: Cindy Pichotta, Kevin & Linda Robertson, Kerry Boese, Tim Palmquist, Leesa Morrow, or Mibs Pearson

Event Sponsored by the FUS Music Committee

Save the Date! Friday evening, June 20th Summer Solstice Celebration

Lower Assembly Hall



If you would like to get involved with this event or join others doing poetry or music, contact Audrey Kingstrom.

Events & Announcements

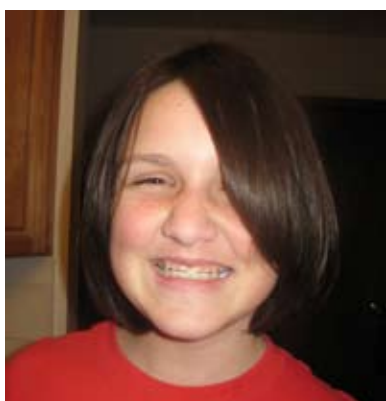
Green Team Meeting

Join the Green Team on May 20 at 7:00 p.m. in the Heritage Room to continue the planning and implementation of the action plan. All are welcome.



Locks of Love

Holly Stein donated 14 inches of her hair to “Locks of Love” and is now sporting a great new (shorter!) hairstyle!



FUS Board Tidbit

The FUS Board expresses their appreciation to Carol Koopp and the Service Auction Committee for their great work in organizing the successful Auction.



Women’s Awareness Group

The May meeting of the Women’s Awareness Group will be held on Monday, May 12, at the home of Barbara McKernan. Kirsten Langsetmo is the cohost. FUS women are invited to come at 6:30 p.m. for a potluck dinner, followed by a lively discussion of “Ecology —From Your Front Yard and Boulevard to the Far Reaches of the Planet.” Please refer to your Membership Directory (or contact the FUS Office at 612-377-6608) for Barbara’s street address and Barbara and Kirsten’s phone numbers to RSVP and for directions.

FUS Staff

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Minister@firstunitariansociety.org

Minister Emeritus: Khoren Arisian

Director of Religious Education: Jan Devor, ext. 108
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Ministerial Intern: Steven Protzman, ext. 107
Intern@firstunitariansociety.org

Music Director: Barbara Brooks, ext. 106
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Associate Music Director: Dr. Gabriela Díaz-Alatríste, ext. 106, Orchestra@firstunitariansociety.org

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Building Stewards: Cirilo Hernandez, Pedro Gonzalez

Office Hours: Mon. – Fri. 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.;
Sunday, 9:00 a.m. to Noon.

The First Unitarian is published once a month. 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.



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The First Unitarian Society

OF MINNEAPOLIS

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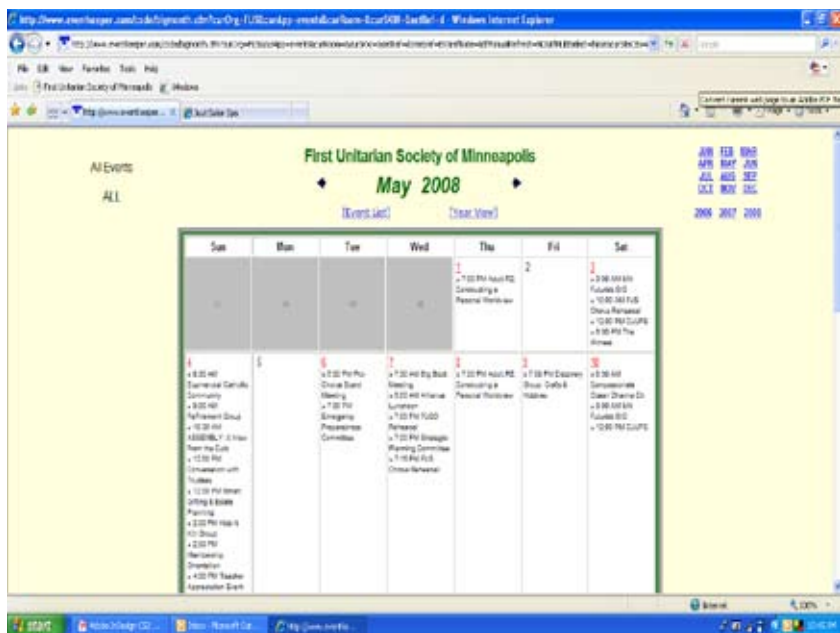
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May 2008



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.

