



# THE FIRST Unitarian

VOL. 88, NOVEMBER 2007 • THE FIRST UNITARIAN SOCIETY OF MINNEAPOLIS

## From The Minister

Once again, as the program year is fully underway, it comes time for the Minneapolis Downtown Clergy Interfaith Forums. We began in October, but several events are still to come in the month of November. We will gather at Hennepin Avenue Methodist on Thursday, November 1, for presentation and response on the topic “The Role of Jerusalem in Christianity; Stories of Suffering and Sacrifice.” November 8 we will meet at Central Lutheran to consider “The Role of Jerusalem in Islam; Visions of Transfiguration,” and we will conclude on November 15 at Temple Israel with “The Role of Jerusalem in Our Day; Hopes for Peace.” I enjoy these interfaith discussions; they have traditionally been very stimulating, and I encourage you to check them out.

Additionally this fall, we will be celebrating the premier of the one hour documentary about our January trip to Jerusalem. Plan to join us for this festive event on November 29 at the Children’s Theater Company; we’ll begin with an informal reception, view the program, and then have responses from the travelers, and questions and comments from the audience. Ticket price will be \$15.00, to help defray the costs of producing the video, and each purchaser will receive a copy of the DVD. Exact times are not established as of writing, but by the time you receive this newsletter, you should be able to find them at the website, [journeyinfaith-MPLS.org](http://journeyinfaith-MPLS.org). We will surely make an opportunity to show the video at FUS, but it would be splendid to have some folks with me at the premier.

As you will read elsewhere in this newsletter (p. 12), the FUS board has engaged the services of a UUA music consultant, to help determine how our congregation can make the best use of music as a vital component of our ministry. Stefan Jonasson, the UUA’s liaison to large congregations, recommended this process after his visit here last fall, and the UUA is helping to fund our music consultation. Mark Slegers, our consultant, is a well respected UU musician, who currently serves as music director at the Portland, Oregon UU church, which boasts a diverse, dynamic program. Enclosed in this newsletter, you will find a survey form, which I encourage you to complete, sign, and return to the FUS office. We will forward these to Mr. Slegers in advance of his site visit at the end of November, to help him formulate his questions and recommendations. While he is here, he will meet with various groups and individuals to get a sense of their vision for the place of music in our congregation. In addition, everyone is invited to

*Continued on page 4*

### CONTENTS

From The Minister.....	1&4
Forum/Assembly Preview.....	2&3
Music Notes.....	4
Religious Education.....	5
The Alliance News.....	6
Stewardship Corner.....	7
Social Action.....	8
Membership News.....	8
From The Ministerial Intern.....	9
From General Assembly.....	10
Events & Announcements...	11-13

Join US for the 9th Annual  
FUS Thanksgiving Dinner



See page 11.

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

# 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

## ■ 11/4/07 FORUM: “The Secret Is Out: Gun Deaths and Injuries Are Preventable”

**Presenter: Heather Martens, President of Citizens for a Safer Minnesota**

From 2000 to 2006, gun injuries have risen 76 percent in Minnesota and 100 percent in Hennepin County. Gun homicides in Minnesota rose 60 percent from 2000 to 2005. The media continue to tell us the old story that gun deaths and injuries are inevitable in this country. But prevention is not only possible, it's imperative. Find out how leaders in public health and law enforcement in the past year have begun to change the conversation, and the paradigm, nationwide and in Minnesota.



## ■ 11/11/07 FORUM: “Community Development on the City’s North Side – Bricks & Mortar, Heart & Soul”

**Presenter: Sherrie Pugh, Executive Director of Northside Residents Redevelopment Council**  
Sherrie Pugh is Executive Director of Northside Residents Redevelopment Council, an organization established in 1969 to empower the residents of the Near North/Willard-Hay Minneapolis neighborhoods to be the primary agents for the improvement of social, economical and general livability standards of the neighborhood. Sherrie's extensive background in community development around the country has allowed her to provide needed wisdom, perspective, savvy, and resilience to a critically important area of our larger community — at a time of great changes and challenges. What is working, what lessons are being learned, and what do we all need to understand about North Side community development issues and trends? Sherrie will also update us on Heritage Park and the Habitat work so many FUS members have helped with.

The FUS Social Action Committee organizes Forums at least monthly; affordable housing is the theme for November. The Monthly Social Justice Collection during Assembly on November 11 will be directed to Habitat for Humanity.

## ◆ 11/4/07 ASSEMBLY: “Wisdom of the Tender Heart” Speaker: Rev. Dr. Kendyl Gibbons

The tradition of Dia de los Muertos (the Day of the Dead) calls upon us to confront the reality of death as a constant companion in the course of our everyday lives, and urges us to remain in relationship with the community of the dead whose memories continue to influence us. In a culture that demands constant emotional fortitude and resilience, how can we learn to cherish what loss, grief, and memory have to teach us? The FUS Chorus and Orchestra will enrich our reflections with another superb musical requiem.

## ◆ 11/11/07 ASSEMBLY: “Failure to Attribute” Speaker: Rev. Dr. Kendyl Gibbons

The pollsters tell us that identified atheists are one of the most unpopular and mistrusted groups in our culture. I want to suggest that this perception is something more complex than mere prejudice or adamant orthodoxy; it lifts up a genuine moral conundrum — of which Michael Vick is only the latest casualty. Developmental psychology and artificial intelligence may help us throw some light on how we might improve our public image.

A special offering in support of Habitat for Humanity will be received this morning.



# 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

## ■ 11/18/07 FORUM: “Wilderness Journey: Power, Privilege, Trust, Accountability & Identity”

**Presenter: Rev. Dr. Bill Gardiner**

Rev. Gardiner will introduce the “Wilderness Journey” DVD, featuring first-hand interviews with UUs who participated in the Empowerment Controversy in the UUA from 1967-1970. The Empowerment Controversy involved the votes taken by the General Assembly to fund the Black Affairs Council and support the work of the Black UU Caucus (BUUC) — involving issues of power, privilege, trust, accountability and identity. The Empowerment Controversy brought a difficult aftermath of grief and guilt — most members of BUUC and many of their white allies left the UUA. What can we learn from this important period in the history of our faith community? Discussion of the film will continue in the open roundtable discussion following the Sunday Assembly (light lunch available, 11:45 a.m. — RSVP to Jo Haberman [jojane@juno.com](mailto:jojane@juno.com)).



## ■ 11/25/07 FORUM:

No Forum today due to the holiday weekend.



## ◆ 11/18/07 ASSEMBLY: “On the Journey Toward Wholeness”

**Speaker: Rev. Dr. Bill Gardiner**

Rev. Gardiner will address the history of involvement in racial justice issues by Unitarian Universalists from the civil rights revolution until today, including the powerful response made by Unitarian Universalists to Dr. King’s call to Selma. He will offer further reflections on our involvement as a faith community in the late sixties in the Empowerment controversy, the silence about race in our denomination during the ‘70s and ‘80s, and the re-engagement on issues of racial justice in the ‘90s. This year is the 10th anniversary of the passage of the Journey toward Wholeness resolution which called us to become an anti-racist, multicultural faith community. How far have we come?

Bill Gardiner served as Director for Anti-racism and Social Justice Empowerment Programs in the Department for Faith in Action at the UUA in Boston from 1990 to 2004, and is currently an anti-racism consultant for the UUA.

Open roundtable discussion follows at 11:45 a.m. (Light lunch available — RSVP to Jo Haberman [jojane@juno.com](mailto:jojane@juno.com).)

## ◆ 11/25/07 ASSEMBLY: “How Not to Plant the Seeds of Violence”

**Speaker: Rev. Dr. Kendyl Gibbons**

Mahatma Gandhi’s grandson Arun recounts that shortly before his death, the world’s great advocate of nonviolence gave the boy a list of the seven “blunders” that he called “passive violence. These mistakes, he claimed, prepare the ground for armed conflict and oppression, and lasting peace can never be achieved until they are confronted and overcome. As humanists seeking to cultivate our personal and collective ethical lives, we might be well served by taking another look at the seeds we hope not to plant. A sermon discussion will follow this assembly.

# From The Minister

*continued*

an all-congregation forum on Friday, November 30, for a public discussion of music as part of our life together.

Taste in music is a very personal matter, and nowhere is diversity more evident than in the variety of styles and traditions that inspire people musically. We know that in order to do justice to our message of freedom and reason in religion, FUS must embrace many different kinds of musical preferences, and be committed to excellence in several types of musical expression. This principle has always been understood; the question before us now is whether we are making the best possible use of our finite resources in attaining that goal. I share in the hope of the board that this consultation will bring us new energy, understanding, and commitment to a shared vision of music enhancing our life together as a congregation and our work in the world.

A last note: Those of you who enjoyed the excitement of our performance of the "Sources" cantata last spring may be pleased, as I was, to learn that it will be presented as part of the Opening Celebration at the UUA General Assembly next June in Florida. Anyone who sang the cantata is especially invited to attend GA and be part of the choir.

**Rev. Dr. Kendyl Gibbons**  
**Senior Minister**  
612-377-6608, ext. 116  
[minister@firstunitariansociety.org](mailto:minister@firstunitariansociety.org)



## Remember to Fall Back on Sunday, November 4.

# Music Notes

It is lovely to be back in the Twin Cities after a very successful run of "Figaro" and "Don Juan Giovanni" at the American Repertory Theatre in Cambridge, Massachusetts. It was a stimulating time living in the middle of Harvard Square. I also had the pleasure of visiting Concord, Massachusetts, where I was moved by the sites of the American Revolution as well as the gravesites of many famous writers including Emerson, Hawthorne, Thoreau and Alcott. What a beautiful area!

Please mark Sunday, Nov. 4 on your calendars as the chorus and orchestra will be performing "Lux Aeterna" by Morton Lauridsen. We have started a tradition of performing a requiem text on "Dia de los Muertos" or "The Day of the Dead" as they do in Mexico where this occasion is observed. Requiems are performed throughout all of Mexico in honor of the dead. Kendyl will be observing the day with beautiful rituals and words to be followed by the requiem performance. The piece we are performing is a gentle mystical work which, I believe, captures the essence of light, life, and death.



On November 18 the Eclectics will provide music to enhance the assembly on racism. This should prove to be a thought-provoking Sunday with both stimulating words and music. Don't miss this important Sunday!

Again, it's great to be back at FUS! See you on Sundays.

**Barbara Brooks**  
**FUS Music Director**  
612-377-6608, ext. 106  
[chorus@firstunitariansociety.org](mailto:chorus@firstunitariansociety.org)

# Religious Education

“So How Are the Children?”

Well, ask Mary Delvo teaching Kindergarten, Leif Carlson and Bill Karns teaching first grade; Lynn Borden and Angelique Frederiksen teaching second grade; Rose Day and Kurt Bertelson teaching third grade; Jon and Kerry Boese teaching fourth grade; Christie Eller and Alice Ellis teaching fifth grade; Deb and Jeff Magnuson teaching sixth and seventh grades; Deb Snouffer and George Hutchinson teaching OWL; Pamela Wolfe and Marge Thornton as Senior High Advisors; Tracy Reid, Leslie Watson, Andrew Sinning, Katrina Lassegard and Ruth Hamlin, who are interacting with our youth in the Game Room; Tracy Reid, Jane Jacobs, Jodi Horne, Joyce Blomquist and Keren Price holding the little ones in the nursery; and Heidi Iwanski, Maria Vincze, Angela Dhruvan, Kevin Walsh and Marit Appeldoorn, who are making the preschool classroom a wonderful place to be.

All of these people plus substitutes and the RE Committee have worked together to make this a wonderful place for our children and youth. I am always so impressed and indebted to our volunteers who care enough about the future of this congregation and Unitarian Universalism to work with our children and youth. Every Sunday I run around trying to facilitate the wonderful ideas that the teachers are bringing to the classroom. THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU, TO ALL OF THE SKILLED AND DEDICATED TEACHERS. The life and strength of this congregation is bound up with the religious education program, and we should continuously be asking, “So, how are the children?” and “What should I be doing to be sure that the children are doing well?”

**Jan Devor**

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

COMING UP

Starting on November 18 the Holiday Session in Religious Education will begin. We are thrilled to be having again the NORTHERN CLAY CENTER bringing its Claymobile to FUS to have the whole Sunday Religious Education program (except OWL) involved in a project making clay bowls. This has been a huge hit in the past when we have done it and we are looking forward to THREE SUNDAYS this year of bowl making (Nov. 18, Dec. 2 and 9). We will sell the bowls on Dec. 16 after service. Who is getting the profits? This year in honor of the UUA Association focus we will be sending the profits to a UU-supported school in the Khasi Hills of India. These Unitarian schools are open to children of all faiths and in many villages this is the only school available to these children.



THANK YOU

to

*Dave Leussler and his band for the wonderful Harvest Moon Dance in October. Dave has a wonderful way of making sure that everyone is comfortable and having a great time. I can still see the smiles on people's*



*faces! And to Mibs Pearson, who taught us to line dance, and to the Arts and Crafts Discovery Group for making the festive ribbon bracelets. What a great evening!*

Each bowl will be sold with a card saying, “Be radical. Teach a child to read. Then they can think for themselves. Wage Peace. This bowl was purchased in support of education in the Khasi Hills of India.”

WHY NOT BUY A BOWL, GET THE GREAT CARD, FILL THE BOWL WITH SOME GOODIES AND PRESENT IT TO THOSE ON YOUR PRESENT LIST THIS HOLIDAY SEASON?!

If you enjoy working creatively, we would love some aides in each classroom to help the Northern Clay teachers implement this program. See me if you could help out.

Looking forward to some fun and meaningful times ahead!

# The Alliance News

---

All who attended the Harvest Moon Dance enjoyed a wonderful evening of fellowship, dancing, refreshments and live music by the Eclectics on Sept. 29. Thanks go out to the musicians and David Leussler, who called most of the dances; Alliance members who baked treats — Ruth Agar, Jean Christensen, Gretchen Clemence, Dorothy French, Claire Olson and Mibs Pearson; people who served lemonade and goodies — Ruth Agar, Dorothy French, and Sue Tincer; and Mibs Pearson who replaced David Leussler at the mike for a few dances. The Alliance is proud to be a cosponsor with RE for this successful event.

The Alliance opened its program year with a fascinating look at the research of Dr. Kathryn Sikkink on the topic “Do Human Rights Trials Really Work?” Coming up on November 7 we will hear Kelli Clement speak on “Achieving Racial Justice.” Program meetings are held the first Wednesday of November, February, March, April, May and June in the Dietrich Room. The schedule is as follows: lunch ticket sales at 10:45 a.m., program at 11 a.m., lunch at noon, with a business meeting immediately following. The cost is \$7. If you are interested in attending a meeting, contact Olive Sarkinen at 763-544-6168.

December 1 marks the date of the lovely Holiday Tea hosted by the Association of Universalist Women at First Universalist Church. Alliance members are invited to join them at this festive event from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. The address is 3400 Dupont Ave. S., Minneapolis, 55408.

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.

## Membership Updates:

We were saddened to hear of the death of Alliance member Edna Sanders on September 29. At the time this went to print, the memorial reception was scheduled for Oct. 27 at 11:00 a.m. at FUS.

We welcome these new members: Barb Lutz, Kirsten Langsetmo and Marnie Youngdale.

Please note these updates to the Alliance membership booklet:

Langsetmo, Kirsten — 2645 France Ave. N., Mpls., MN 55422, 763-588-3918, wolfpots@aol.com

Lutz, Barb — 5720 York Ave. S., Edina MN 55410, 952-926-1173, lutzbarb@msn.com

Riggs, Linda-Beth — e-mail: lbj@usjet.net

Robin, Jan — new e-mail: janrobin@comcast.net

Soderlund, Elin — e-mail: Elin@tcinternet.net

Weitzel Pat — new address as of Oct. 7: 10662 57th Ave. N, Plymouth, MN 55442  
(phone & e-mail stay the same)

Youngdale, Marnie — 4300 W. River Pkwy., #373, Mpls., MN 55406, 612-724-7160



# Stewardship Corner

---

## *Recapping the Fiscal First Quarter*

Those of you who have read this column regularly since the start of the current fiscal year know that your Stewardship Committee has directed much of its attention to three related matters:

(1) New Pledge Forms: To help the FUS Trustees as they try to anticipate accurately the level of pledges being committed for the current budget year, we need completion of new forms. (PLEASE, if you haven't done this yet, DO IT! If you have, many thanks.)

(2) Cash Balance News: It has been mostly good since July 1, and it's still positive.

(3) Plan Making: We've been urging a positive response to the storm water separation issue raised by the city of Minneapolis, noting that we see the positives of making certain related changes in our building and its surroundings. We have even encouraged the notion that every member and friend of FUS try to anticipate going beyond annual pledges to commit to making some level of financial contribution to the longer term physical enhancement of this Humanist religious home (our house).

## *Looking to the Future*

Now, as most of you know, the Strategic Planning effort, championed by the FUS Board and contributed to in dozens of discussions with members and friends over a period of many months, has been summarized in a fine document presented on September 30 to the congregation by Kendyl Gibbons, Jim Tincher and Bob Aderhold. That document is POWERFUL both as a SUMMARY and as a CATALYST. The Strategic Plan gives definition to what your Stewardship Committee likes to think of as "Articles of Stewardship." In combining summary and catalyst it urges all of us to actions — small and large — that can advance the future of our community and its communication both "inside" and "outside" our "house". The document calls, in fact, for "enhanced communication," referring both to IN-REACH and OUT-REACH as part of this communication and challenging us to give of our time, financial resources, creative energies, leadership and sharing. It asks for a positive response, and one is coming.

Three facets of sharing are, in fact, even now being supported through the outreach of FUS committees and the FUS Board. So, this month, the Stewardship

Committee wants to celebrate the connectedness that they define.

(1) Members of the Membership Committee have made plans for contacting all congregants of FUS, aiming to "check in," hear desires, joys and concerns, and in this way identify types and levels of involvement sought by all folks who call FUS "home."

(2) Members of the Building and Grounds and Stewardship Committees are collaboratively probing on behalf of the FUS Board and the "Green Team" for best ways to link the solution to our mandated storm water disposal requirements with major improvements for the Groveland entry portion of our building and the anticipated enlargement of Walker Art Center's Sculpture Garden, just to the north, on Groveland.

(3) "Communication" is being recognized by your Stewardship Committee as not only meaning verbal sharing among those who are now members of the FUS family. Communication is also being seen in the form of a Groveland-overlooking glass elevator — a beacon in our cultural corner of this city — that would join seamlessly three levels of our "house" to celebrate IN-REACH for us and OUT-REACH to hundreds of Sculpture Garden visitors suddenly made curious to learn more about our "home;" perhaps thereby even discovering the desire to seek affiliation with FUS and the Humanist experience we have come to treasure here.

## *A Reminder of Earlier Action*

We found opportunity and challenge combining at the start of this century with our HOUSING HUMANISM CAMPAIGN. When we replaced fogged windows in our Upper and Lower Assembly spaces with a beautiful and functional new window wall we were thrilled with the results. Then we praised ourselves for having the courage to accept a major financial challenge in order to achieve a critical social and environmental goal.

We rose to a challenge then, and we can do it again. But are we ready? Will we recognize and embrace this part of "communication?" Words of caution will be needed; BUT WE ALSO NEED BRAVE WORDS OF SUPPORT, and we need financial commitments. Never forget Daniel Burnham's challenge: "Make no little plans," he said. "They lack the power to stir men's minds."

LET'S BEGIN!

# Social Action

## Tutoring and Mentoring Opportunities for FUS Members and Friends

Last year FUS members volunteered tutoring time at North Community School with the Girls in Action program at North and Edison High Schools. As a group, we met monthly at the Bean Scene, Penn Ave. and W. Broadway in N. Mpls. to share our experiences and to do problem-solving. These volunteer opportunities allowed us to develop personal relationships with students and teachers as well as providing us with learning experiences regarding social issues such as education reform, racism and poverty. Below is a list of programs that need tutors/mentors in the coming year. Any FUS member tutoring or mentoring is invited to join the monthly discussion group at the Bean Scene. Volunteer coordinators from one or more of the settings may also join us. Contact Carol Koepf for details, 952-893-2383; carolkoepf@comcast.net.



### Great Volunteer Opportunities!

**Become an evening tutor** for the North Minneapolis community. Inspire a student today and help create a better Minneapolis community! Become a tutor one hour during the evening and help a student who may struggle with coursework achieve success! To learn more about how you can help a student, contact Lisa Bryant at the Minneapolis Urban League at lbryant@mul.org, or call her at (612) 302-3143.

**North Community School**, 1600 James Ave., (formerly North High School), Grades 6-12. School hours only. *Immediate need: assistance with afternoon algebra class (anytime between noon and 3:00 p.m.) and 1st period 10th grade English class (8:30 - 9:45 a.m.).* Contact: Elizabeth.Lasley@mpls.k12.mn.us

**Jefferson Community School**, 26th and Hennepin Ave. FUS member, Leif Carlson is a teacher there. The school is multicultural, grades k-8. Contact info: kris.prince@mpls.k12.mn.us.

**Girls in Action** — This is mentoring program for girls at North, Roosevelt and Edison High Schools was developed by Dr. Verna Price. The curriculum focuses on personal empowerment and career planning, and is delivered by consultants working under Dr. Price's direction. Volunteers assist the consultants. For more info. contact Carol Koepf, 952-893-2383; carolkoepf@comcast.net.

# Membership News

Happy Continuation of Fall — I hope you are enjoying the change of seasons and preparing for the hibernation months. We all need community during the dark days, and I encourage you to strengthen and enlarge your circle of acquaintances and friends at the remaining Eat 'N' Meets and Soup Lunches for the year.

### Eat 'N' Meets

**November 7:** Fish dinner, topic is "Discussion with the Minister," Rev. Dr. Kendyl Gibbons speaking.

**November 14:** Early Holiday Dinner, topic is "The Jesus Seminar: Its Relevance for UUs," led by Gary Blegstad.

Eat 'N' Meet Dinners are served at 5:45 p.m. in the Lower Assembly Hall. Suggested donations per meal: Adults \$7, Children \$3, Maximum \$15 per family. A vegetarian option is always available.

Eat 'N' Meet Programs are held in the Dietrich Room at 7:00 p.m. and are free.

### Upcoming Soup Lunches

#### November 11 & December 9

Soup lunches are held in the Lower Assembly Hall at 11:30 a.m. immediately following Assembly.

Donations are accepted.

New Member Sunday is November 11

We are delighted to welcome new members into our society during the assembly on November 11. Please take a moment to introduce yourself to them during the soup lunch following assembly.

**Teresa West**

**Membership Coordinator**

612-377-6608, ext. 104

membership@firstunitariansociety.org

November Birthdays — Please help me to acknowledge the turning of another year for the following members and friends. If your name should appear here and it does not, please let us know and I can add the birth month to our records.

Astrid Alexander

Joey Beltran

Gabriella

Bernstein

Tanya Cornelius

Ari Bogen-Grose

Tom Fisher

Frank Evans

Katy Ghiasi

Mike Illes

Nellie Jerome

Bernadine Joselyn

Sarah Kenyon

Joel Linck

Jean Mulvahill

Carolyn Olson

Kieran Rettler

Andreas Rosenberg

Terri Stark

Celeste Stokes

Olivia Thornton

Kevin Walsh



# From The Intern

---

Another month has flown by and as the cycle of the year continues to turn, it is truly autumn. I've put my usual baskets of mums out around the house and have marveled at the color of the sky on crisp sunny days. Is the sky always that blue or is there something about the fall that gives it such depth and intensity? We do live in a beautiful world.

Along with reflecting about the change of season and the awe and wonder I find in nature, I find myself thinking about the many reasons we are together as a spiritual community. One of those reasons is our calling to make the world a better place. As you may know, I'm a member of First Universalist Church and I'd like to share with you a motto that is frequently used over there: "This is the work of our church."

This motto reminds us that gathering in sacred community as human beings and Unitarian Universalists comes with an ethical responsibility to pursue social justice in our world. We can do this by seeking to know our vocation, that place in our lives where "self meets service" as Parker Palmer says, where we live out those deep aspirations inside that call us to minister to one another.

There are many ways to engage in the work of the church and I'd like to share some thoughts and information about ways to get involved.

On Monday, October 1, I was one of the volunteers from FUS at Project Homeless Connect. We spent the day at the Minneapolis Convention Center helping homeless people connect with things they needed, including housing, employment, medical care, eyeglasses, a state ID, even a pair of shoes. As they found what they needed and left, we gave them care packages containing toothpaste and toothbrushes (donated by FUS), shampoo, deodorant, soap and other hygiene products. Thank you to our senior high youth for helping assemble these care packages the day before the event. I can tell you that people were very grateful to receive these basic necessities that they cannot afford to buy.

Project Homeless Connect happens twice a year and is a great volunteer opportunity. There is a 1-1/2 hour training session prior to the event and you are given all the information you need to be an effective volunteer. I experienced the event as well organized, safe; there was plenty of support and staff who were well prepared to answer questions. The next Project Homeless Connect Days

will be in April and December 2008. Please consider this opportunity to engage in the work of our church.

I'd also like to invite you to participate in the democratic process that is central to the American way of life by writing to your federal elected officials this month to share your views on the war in Iraq. Do you believe the war is wrong? Or do you believe the war is necessary to help end terrorism and bring stability to Iraq? As our representatives make decisions about this war, they want to know what their constituents think about it! It's good to email and call, but writing a letter is the best way to influence the decision-making process in Washington. So write and tell them how you feel and what you think about this issue. Don't forget that they work for us!

Jean Toll has created a list of addresses for our US Senators and for the Representatives of the Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Congressional Districts. I invite you to pick up a copy of this list in the social hall and let your representatives hear your voice. Thank you, Jean, for providing this information and your help in launching this letter writing campaign.

There are many other opportunities to answer the call to do social justice work. FUS has a very energetic and hard working social justice committee and there are many different projects and issues they are passionate about. If you feel a call to join in this work, please contact the social action

committee to find out how you can get involved with this very important part of the life and work of our community.

Another opportunity to do the work of our church is serving on my internship committee. I'd like to say thank you to the members of this committee who have committed their time and energy this year to observe my ministry to you and give me feedback about my strengths and growing edges. Thank you, Leif Carlson, Cory Devor, Phil Duran, Jerry Edwards, Jane Jacobs and Margaret McCoy for helping me with your wisdom and insight as I continue to discern what it means to be a Unitarian Universalist minister.

It is my hope and wish that each of us will continue to discover how we can do the "work of our church" as we continue our journey together exploring what it means to be Unitarian Universalists and human beings seeking to be our fullest selves.

**Steven Protzman**  
Ministerial Intern

# From General Assembly

---

## The General Assembly of the UUA in Portland: Report and Social Justice Statements

A forum about the UUA General Assembly (GA) was held on UUA Sunday, October 14, 2007, at which several of us reported on attending the Portland GA in June. We spoke about important events that we saw, such as the Ware Lecture featuring historian Rashid Khalidi proposing that we have entered a new Cold War in the Middle East, a wonderful session with Rev. Robert Fulghum (the *Everything I Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten* guy), the history of Beacon Press with the publishing of the Pentagon Papers, hearing from Daniel Ellsberg, Senator Mike Gravel and past UUA President Robert West. We attended programs on important social justice issues such as racism and peace, and programs to help us grow our congregation. We participated in the decisions of the UUA as delegates at the plenary sessions. At the October 14 forum, we did not have the list of social witness decisions that were made at the General Assembly on Sunday June 25, so we wish to let you know what those were.

Under the auspices of the Commission on Social Witness, there are two social witness processes that take place at GA. One process picks a Congregational year process, congregations engage in on a Statement of Conscience at the GA public stand on these issues is governed by GAs over the years. In Portland, the on, “Moral Values for a Pluralistic “As Unitarian Universalists, we have a values on which our faith is grounded, but through acts of conscience that current Study Action Issue chosen at St.

### Social Witness Decisions Made at General Assembly

lead to a possible Statement of Conscience on Peacemaking at the GA to be held in Minneapolis in 2010.

Study Action Issue and, during a four-study of the issue that leads to voting four years later. The UUA’s lobbying and by Statements of Conscience passed GA passed a Statement of Conscience Society” summarized in the statement, responsibility to give voice to the moral not only with a statement of conscience honor the values we espouse.” The Louis in 2006 is Peacemaking and will

When an issue comes up after the Study Action Issue has been picked or “involve issues which are timely, narrow in focus, and require specific action,” supporters may bring it to the GA as an Action of Immediate Witness by first getting at least 150 delegate signatures on their proposal at GA and then taking various steps culminating in a vote of the delegates. Actions of Immediate Witness passed in Portland include:

- Social Support for the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)
- Support Immigrant Families—Stop the ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) Raids
- Support Comprehensive Sexuality Education Legislation
- Stop U.S. Sponsored Torture—A Religious Call to Action
- Repeal “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell”
- Pass the Employment Non-Discrimination Act with Transgender Inclusion and Protection

More information about the Social Witness statements made at the 2007 GA and previous years can be found at <http://www.uua.org/socialjustice/socialjustice/index.php> .



General Assembly is a wonderful chance to meet thousands of other UUs from all over the country and to have a say in what our religion stands for. You can still “participate” in many of the important events at this year’s GA by checking it out at the website: <http://www.uua.org/events/generalassembly/2007/index.shtml> . If you need any help getting information about this year’s GA, talk to Polly Peterson (612-522-7178) or the FUS office. In addition, consider representing FUS at a future GA in Fort Lauderdale (June 25-29, 2008), Salt Lake City (June 24-28, 2009), or, most exciting of all, (did I mention?) Minneapolis! (June 23-27, 2010).

Polly Peterson (with reference to the cited websites)

# Events & Announcements

Saturday, November 17, 2007

8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

## WORKSHOP ON WHITENESS

### WHITE ALLIES FOR RACIAL JUSTICE: LEARN SKILLS — GAIN UNDERSTANDING!

The Rev. Dr. Bill Gardiner will lead a program on whiteness and white identity. In the morning we will use the video “True Colors.” This video is about the experience of two men — one black and one white — who go to St. Louis to find work, a job and housing. Seeing this video will give us an opportunity to explore issues of white power and privilege.

Later in the day we will be using the new DVD produced by Shakti Butler entitled, “Making Whiteness Visible.” This DVD weaves together the experiences and stories of white women and men — of various ages and backgrounds — who have worked to become clear about what it means to be white. They share what steps they took to move through the stages of denial, defensiveness, guilt and fear so as to be able to make a solid commitment to end racism.

Participants in the program will have an opportunity to reflect with others on their own personal experiences of race and explore how to move forward in the future.

This event will be held in the Chalice Room beginning at 8:30 a.m. for coffee, with the program starting at 9:00 a.m. and going until 5:00 p.m.

## Special One-day Event: Free Gift Wrapping at the FUS Bookstore

On Sunday, **November 18**, any purchase at the FUS bookstore will be gift-wrapped for free! Take advantage of this special offer, and get your holiday shopping and wrapping underway early.



Throughout the month of November, the FUS Bookstore will have selected titles on parenting reduced to half price. These include: *Putting Family First*, *Why Boys Don't Talk*, and *The Teenager's Guide to School Outside the Box*, as well as several others. Stop by and see what wisdom is available at these special savings.

## An Update On Wills

Don't Miss This Opportunity!

Do you have children? A home? Any other assets? If you say yes to any of these questions, you need a will. If you have one, have you reviewed or updated it recently?

The Foundation of FUS will give you the chance to address your questions about wills on Sunday, **November 18** at noon in the Dietrich Room. The session will be led by Bob Collins, FUS member and a leading attorney specializing in wills and taxes.

Call Susan Barton at 612-340-1363 for a reservation. Light refreshments will be served.

## Celebrate Thanksgiving with Your Friends

Come join us at FUS on Thursday, November 22, at 4:00 p.m. for Thanksgiving Dinner. Bring a holiday dish to share. Bring wine if you wish.



For further information contact Jean Toll at [jeangtoll@comcast.net](mailto:jeangtoll@comcast.net) or Clara Asp at [claraandon@aol.com](mailto:claraandon@aol.com) or sign up at the Turkey Table during coffee hour on November 11 or 18. **Deadline for reservations is November 18.** Suggested donation of \$6 (free under 12) for turkeys, appetizers, rolls, table accessories and flowers. Any proceeds will go to Sabathani Food Shelf.

P.S. One person has graciously agreed to roast a turkey. Is there anyone else willing to do one?

# Events & Announcements

FUS Music Program Forum,  
Friday, November 30, 7:00 p.m.

What are your thoughts on the music program at First Unitarian Society? Please come to the all-congregation forum on Friday, November 30 at 7:00 p.m. to discuss the power and possibilities of music at The First Unitarian Society. Mark Slegers, Music Director at First Unitarian Church of Portland, will facilitate a discussion on how to achieve the kind of success experienced at the Portland Unitarian Church, the largest music program in the UU denomination, which has 11 musical ensembles and over 300 member-musicians of all ages.

Mark Slegers has been Music Director (now Minister of Music) at First Unitarian Church for 30 years. He received his undergraduate degree from Pacific University in Forest Grove, where he was recognized in May of 2007 as an outstanding graduate. He attended Union Theological Seminary, School of Sacred Music in New York City where he received the Master of Sacred Music degree. While in New York he sang and conducted in various New York churches. He has completed further study in conducting with Dr. Rodney Eichenberger and has also taught music in all levels of music education, including both Pacific University and Reed College. Mr. Slegers was a commissioner/compiler for the Unitarian Universalist hymnbook, *Singing the Living Tradition*, published by Beacon Press. For the past sixteen years he has served as church music consultant to Unitarian Universalist congregations continent wide.

We want to hear your opinions, ideas, and suggestions on how to best express our musical identity at FUS!

Please complete the enclosed  
Music Survey form  
and return it to  
the FUS office.  
Thank you!

Save the Date, Sunday, December 2 for  
The Holiday Temptations and Gift Sale

This is the day when you can stock up your goodies pantry and gift-giving stash at one special sale. We will be set up in the Lower Assembly Hall after the morning services with...



... crunchy biscotti to dip, rich sauces to drizzle, buttery cookies to melt in your mouth at afternoon tea, luscious cakes to slice for dessert, nut-laden treasures to munch...

... scenes of Minnesota's natural beauty in photographs by the Blacklocks, unique artwork on blank cards, Scandinavian imagery in handmade pots, cozy hand-knit items, and much, much more!

These special, one-of-a-kind items will be on sale for your holiday giving and enjoyment at the annual Holiday Temptations and Gift Sale sponsored by The Alliance. All proceeds go to the Alliance, which supports the FUS community in myriad ways. See you in early December!

If you are interested in volunteering to ensure the success of the gift sale, please contact Claire Olson, 612-869-0891 or [claireol@tcinternet.net](mailto:claireol@tcinternet.net). For the bake sale, contact Linnea Asp, 763-551-1558 or [linneaasp@comcast.net](mailto:linneaasp@comcast.net).

Save the Date, Saturday, December 22 for  
Winter Solstice Celebration

Revelers Needed!

Do you like to read poetry and have literary fun with others? Join the Choral Readers! Rehearsal dates: Saturdays, December 1, 8, 15, from 10 a.m. to noon.

Do you like to sing or play an instrument — and enjoy learning new holiday music? Join the Solstice Carolers! Rehearsal dates: Sundays, November 25, December 2, 9, 16, from 4:00-5:30 p.m.

Dress Rehearsal: Thursday evening, Dec. 20 (tentative)

To participate, please contact Audrey Kingstrom  
[akingstrom@comcast.net](mailto:akingstrom@comcast.net)

# Events & Announcements

## Interfaith Service to Latin America

### Important Things You Should Know About Planning Your 2008 Trip with ISLA!

ISLA is introducing trip discounts! Beginning in 2008, discounts for early registration and family members traveling together are available — check the website [www.isla.cc](http://www.isla.cc) and 2008 Trip Brochure for more information.

#### More on the January Trip:

While every ISLA trip is unique, we are especially excited about the JANUARY 2008 trip! ISLA has been collaborating with St. Olaf College to provide students with the opportunity to join an ISLA team as part of their study abroad program. About eight to ten pre-med students will be part of the team traveling to Jalapa in January. They will be preparing for the trip through internships, classes, and reading and writing assignments. In addition to the usual ISLA program work of patient visits and follow up, construction projects and English tutoring, the students and team will be conducting a public health survey that will provide invaluable data for the community and ISLA. Interested ISLA team members will serve as mentors to the students during the trip. This will be a new experience for ISLA and we hope you are able to join us. We welcome all volunteers and have a special need for nurses and physicians who are interested in working with the St. Olaf students.

#### 2008 Trip Dates

March 22 – April 1

June 16 – 27

October 11 – 22

If you have any questions, please contact ISLA Administrative Director Jean Kennedy at [jean@isla.cc](mailto:jean@isla.cc) or call 612-819-8877.

## Use Your IRA to Benefit FUS!

If you are age 70 ½ or older, current law allows you to make cash gifts this year to FUS totaling up to \$100,000 from your traditional or Roth IRA without paying income tax on the withdrawal. You could use this opportunity to fulfill a multi-year pledge, make a gift to support building renovations or add to the restricted funds for music and education.



But don't delay! *This special legislation expires on December 31* and you must act before the end of the year.

For more information, contact FUS Administrator Will Hegeman at 612-377-6608, ext. 101.

## FUS Staff

Senior Minister: Rev. Dr. Kendyl Gibbons, ext. 116

[Minister@firstunitariansociety.org](mailto:Minister@firstunitariansociety.org)

Minister Emeritus: Khoren Arisian

Director of Religious Education: Jan Devor, ext. 108

[DRE@firstunitariansociety.org](mailto:DRE@firstunitariansociety.org)

Ministerial Intern: Steven Protzman, ext. 107

[intern@firstunitariansociety.org](mailto:intern@firstunitariansociety.org)

Music Director: Barbara Brooks, ext. 106

[Chorus@firstunitariansociety.org](mailto:Chorus@firstunitariansociety.org)

Associate Music Director: Dr. Gabriela Díaz-Alariste,

ext. 106, [Orchestra@firstunitariansociety.org](mailto:Orchestra@firstunitariansociety.org)

Membership Coordinator: Teresa West, ext. 104

[Membership@firstunitariansociety.org](mailto:Membership@firstunitariansociety.org)

Congregational Administrator: Will Hegeman, ext. 101

[Office@firstunitariansociety.org](mailto:Office@firstunitariansociety.org)

Publications Coordinator: Morgan Rock, ext. 110

[Newsletter@firstunitariansociety.org](mailto:Newsletter@firstunitariansociety.org)

Finance Director: Bob Calgren, ext. 112

[Fin-adm@firstunitariansociety.org](mailto:Fin-adm@firstunitariansociety.org)

Building Manager: Caidin Riley, ext. 105

[Rooms@firstunitariansociety.org](mailto:Rooms@firstunitariansociety.org)

Building Stewards: Cirilo Hernandez,

Delfino Gomez-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

**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](mailto: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

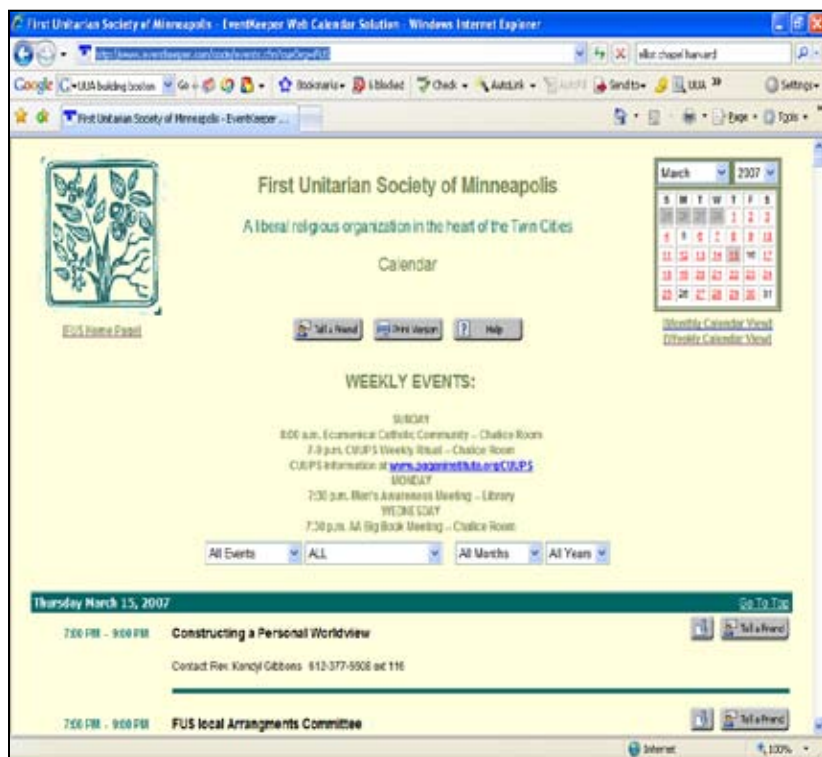
NONPROFIT ORG  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
MINNEAPOLIS, MN  
PERMIT NO. 3801

## Board of Trustees

- Barbara Weatherhead (Chair), Liaison to Personnel  
 Beth Gohdes (Vice-Chair), Liaison to RE, Youth/Adult Cmte.,  
 Sunday Assemblies, Denominational Affairs  
 Richard Seurer (Secretary), Liaison to Membership, Nominations,  
 Forum  
 Ruth Agar, Liaison to Alliance, Caring Circles, History  
 Bob Aderhold, Liaison to Building & Grounds, Greater  
 Community, Special Events  
 Scott Eller, Liaison to Finance, Personnel  
 Adele Hansen, Liaison to Social Action, Summer Assemblies,  
 Bookstore/Library  
 Tim Palmquist, Liaison to Music, Art in the Gallery, Discovery  
 Groups  
 Madeline Simon, Liaison to Foundation, Stewardship, Music  
 Mary Ann Lundquist (Treasurer)

**DATED MATERIAL  
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

## November 2007



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

1. Go to [www.firstunitariansociety.org](http://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.

