



THE FIRST Unitarian

VOL. 87, OCTOBER 2007 • THE FIRST UNITARIAN SOCIETY OF MINNEAPOLIS

From The Minister

“Individuals are what they are and have the significance they have not so much by virtue of their individuality, but rather as a member of a great human community...”

Albert Einstein in *Ideas and Opinions*

Unitarian Universalist congregations are self-governing entities whose connections to one another can sometimes seem tenuous. In order to pursue our mission of affirming the “inherent worth and dignity of every person” effectively, we need to bring our congregations together. On Sunday, October 14, thousands of Unitarian Universalists across the nation will join in celebrating our shared commitment on Association Sunday. Association Sundays are a request by the UUA for all congregations to recognize and support, both in spirit and financially, the national work of the Association.

Unitarian Universalism has the same number of members as we did at the time of consolidation in 1961; as the US population has increased exponentially, we have become more and more insignificant. Most people in the general public still don't know who we are, or what we stand for, or how to find us; therefore, we have a responsibility to share our faith.

Now is the time for our congregations to grow stronger and more effective, because our religious values are needed to help heal the wounded world. So, on Association Sunday we at FUS will be taking a special collection for the growth and vitality of our congregations. Funds raised will be used for a national marketing campaign and for grants to congregations for their growth and outreach projects.

We need these Association Sundays to strengthen the bonds of connection and common purpose among congregations. Even more importantly, we need to combine our resources in order to make Unitarian Universalism more of an influence throughout our country, and a stronger voice of liberal religious values in the world.

Previous campaigns of this nature have been successful:

- Ministry Sunday in 1995 raised \$1 million dollars for ministerial scholarships, reduction of student debt, and support for retired ministers and for the families of deceased ministers;
- Minding the Gap in 2002 raised \$1 million dollars for youth and young adult staffing, training, and programming, such as campus ministries;

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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

■ **10/7/07 FORUM: “Power, Wealth & Identity: Developing a framework and tools for navigation and negotiation.”**

Presenter: Al McFarlane

How can Africans and African Americans be mobilized to advance their interests in today’s world? Mr. McFarlane will explain how they must develop capacity to speak to themselves and for themselves. According to McFarlane they also need to understand how to act in their own interests to benefit themselves and humanity as a whole. Al McFarlane is publisher of Minnesota’s leading African American oriented community newspaper Insight News, is president of Black Publishers Coalition and hosts a weekly public policy discussion program on KFAI FM. Mr. McFarlane attended the University of Minnesota School of Journalism & Mass Communications and served in the U.S. Navy.

■ **10/14/07 FORUM: “What I learned at GA 2007”**

Presenter: The Rev. Dr. Kendyl Gibbons

Several members of FUS attended the UUA General Assembly in Portland, Oregon last June. They will share the highlights from dozens of workshops, speakers, plenary sessions, and celebrations in which they participated, including the “UU University”. In addition, we will see some examples of the UUA going ‘high tech’.



■ **10/21/07 FORUM: “Your Health Care Directive: Is Your Doctor on Board?”**

Presenter: Janet Conn

We are all likely to be faced with many kinds of medical decisions at the end of life (yours or a loved one’s). Many of us have a living will - but sad to say these instructions are not always followed. This discussion outlines what you need to do to ensure that your or your loved one’s choices in these matters are followed. Since 2005 Janet Conn has been the President of Compassion

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

◆ **10/7/07 ASSEMBLY: “So Many Questions”**

Speaker: Steven Protzman, Ministerial Intern

Poet May Sarton writes “Now I become myself. It’s taken time, many years and places. I have been dissolved and shaken, worn other people’s faces...” Who am I? Who am I meant to be? As human beings and as Unitarian Universalists, what does vocation mean? Who are we called to be and what are we called to do? Are we asking the right questions? Are we asking questions at all? So many questions. In the first sermon by this year’s ministerial intern, we will learn more about our intern and his endless questions and explore the concept of vocation, drawing on the wisdom of the Buddha, religious humanist minister and author William Murry, writer Parker Palmer and others.

◆ **10/14/07 ASSEMBLY: “Now Is the Time: Association Sunday”**

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Kendyl Gibbons

In focus groups, surveys and roundtable discussions over the past several years, thousands of Unitarian Universalists have told the UUA that the most important role of the Association is to “Help us grow!” Some see this as a moment of opportunity, others as a crucial turning point. Almost all agree that now is the time to raise funds and spend them strategically to strengthen our movement. In response, the UUA has launched a five-year comprehensive fundraising campaign to generate \$20 million in immediate resources and \$30 million in legacy covenants. In the words of W.E.B. DuBois, “It is today that our best work can be done.” Come learn about and celebrate the work of the UUA as a community of congregations, and help our Society generously demonstrate that Humanists still own a significant piece of the action.

◆ **10/21/07 ASSEMBLY: “To Keep Our Word”**

Speaker: Dr. Chris Mato Nunpa

Dr. Mato Nunpa is a tenured Associate Professor of Indigenous Nations & Dakota Studies (INDS) at Southwest Minnesota State University in Marshall, Minnesota. This presentation will focus on three specific issues of concern to indigenous peoples of this area: the Treaty of 1805 between the Dakota Oyate (People, or Nation) and the U.S., which involves 155,000+ acres of land on which the Twin Cities of St. Paul and Minneapolis now sit, Land Theft, and Genocide. It calls upon us to

Forum and Assembly Previews

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

& Choices of Minnesota. She has a BA in Philosophy from Wellesley College and an MS in Accounting from Northeastern University. She has been involved in social and political causes for many years.



■ **10/28/07 FORUM:** “Election Integrity: Everything Else Depends On It”

Presenter: Jenny Thomas

First Unitarian Society took a congregational vote at the annual meeting to support a voting integrity resolution being presented by the Voting Rights/Integrity Working Group of the Minnesota UU Social Justice Alliance.

Jenny Thomas, cochair of the group, will present a short video, “Help America Vote on Paper”, an overview of the issue of election integrity. Discussion will follow, including action steps. Jenny will also introduce a follow-up program featuring voting issues faced by people of color - complying with a Responsive Resolution passed at General Assembly in June.

ask, “What is my ethical responsibility as a citizen of the United States of America in regard to these issues?” so that we as citizens become the agents of transformation.

Dr. Chris Mato Nunpa is a Wahpeton Dakota from the Upper Sioux Community near Granite Falls, Minnesota. He grew up in a Dakota-language speaking household, heard many oral historical accounts, and learned much about Dakota customs and traditions, history, folklore and legends, values, spirituality, and world view. He holds a Ph.D. in Educational Administration/Higher Education and American Indian Studies, and works in the areas of Dakota language preservation, Decolonization, Genocide, and Repatriation (which involves protection of Indigenous cemeteries and Native human remains, and the return of human remains and sacred objects to the Peoples to whom they belong).

◆ **10/28/07 ASSEMBLY:** “Hungers of the Spirit”

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Kendyl Gibbons

“The whole of nature,” wrote the English author William Ralph Inge, “is a conjugation of the verb to eat, in the active and passive.” Like every other creature on earth, humans take part in a food chain, and our place in that food chain, or web, determines to a considerable extent what kind of creature we are. It has been suggested that a creature that could conceive of eating anything (including, notably, other humans) stands in particular need of ethical rules, manners, and ritual. We are not only what we eat, but how we eat, too. Shelley Schreffler, winner of the 2007 Service Auction sermon topic, has asked me to consider Michael Pollan’s *The Omnivore’s Dilemma*, and the function of eating as an expression of the human condition. A sermon discussion will take place in the Dietrich Room following this Assembly.



From The Minister

continued

Funds raised this year will support national marketing and growth outreach projects:

- fifty percent will go to the national marketing campaign in Time magazine and their website; and other media, such as NPR and the Internet;
- twenty five percent will go to support congregations and the ministers of color they call;
- twenty five percent will go to congregations as grants for their growth outreach projects. These grants will be allocated according to how much the district raised, and they will be distributed by district boards (perhaps through their chalice lighters programs).
- The UUA is currently producing a new DVD explaining Unitarian Universalism to newcomers. The UUA will have this DVD ready for congregations to use this fall, and we will preview it at the Assembly on October 14.



An average of gift of \$50 — which means some will need to give more because some will need to give less — will help to raise the goal of \$1 million dollars to strengthen and extend UUism.

If you can't attend on October 14, please send in a check, clearly marked for *Association Sunday*, and the FUS office will make sure that it gets to the right place. To donate online for *Association Sunday*, please visit <http://www.uua.org/giving>.

Four subsequent *Association Sundays* (one per year) will be devoted to the following themes: growth in diversity, growth in witness, growth in spirit, and growth in leadership.

Association Sunday is different from The Annual Program Fund (APF) and Friends of the UUA; those programs help to pay for the operating budget of the UUA. Special projects require additional funding, and that's the purpose of *Association Sunday*. It is a special affirmation of our connection, purpose, and spirit of generosity. Let's make sure that FUS makes a contribution to the success of this important endeavor.

Rev. Dr. Kendyl Gibbons
Senior Minister
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The Foundation

The Foundation of the First Unitarian Society is accepting applications for grants from the Unrestricted Fund.

FUS committees and staff are encouraged to submit an application for projects that foster new growth and development at FUS. Grants should be used for innovative projects, matching funds, or enhancements to the building. Grants are not intended to replace or augment the annual operating budget.



Grant requests should be submitted in writing to the Foundation, attention Curt Dederich, and should include:

- Purpose of the project or program (1-2 paragraphs)
- Description of what the funds would be used for and actual cost estimates (1-2 paragraphs)
- Copies of two or more bids for materials and/or labor if appropriate
- Estimated date that funds would be needed
- Estimated date when the project or program would be completed

Deadline for submission is December 1, 2007.

Depending upon the number of proposals submitted and the amounts requested, we may not be able to fund all of the worthy projects. The Unrestricted Grant committee will review all proposals with final decisions made by the Foundation Board.

Last year grants from the Unrestricted Fund helped support the 125th Anniversary Celebration and FUS history project, the sound system upgrades in the Upper Assembly Hall, and improved lighting in the Lower Assembly Hall.

Religious Education

Principle number one: UU's recognize the inherent worth and dignity of every person. But it is sometimes difficult. Some people and children are just more difficult to be with, to parent, and to have in class. However, if we are to live up to our finest values, we must work to find ways to have children with special needs feel included, worthwhile and loved by this community.

To this intent, FUS is hosting a special speaker named Sally Patton who has written the book, *Welcoming Children With Special Needs, a Guidebook for Faith Communities*. She is from Wellesley, MA and we are the recipients of special grant money to have her come to the First Unitarian Society. She will conduct a day-long workshop on this topic here on Saturday, Oct. 27.

This one-day training will include such topics as: teaching strategies, sensitivity training, hands on training activities and discussion concerning pastoral and congregational care. This workshop is open to any UU in the area and I am sure that we will have many visitors from other churches. This workshop is for teachers, parents, and those congregants that want to be sure that this Society is a welcoming congregation to our littlest ones who have special needs.

Please let me know if you are interested in coming and joining the RE Committee in addressing this very important topic.

UU Playgroup

Attention Parents of Preschoolers — mark your calendars! The UU Playgroup will be starting on Saturday, January 12 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 and will meet every other week from then on. Preschoolers play in our Chalice Room with fun toys and large climbing equipment and parents get to meet and visit with one another.

Thanks

Thanks to Dave Leussler and his band for a rock'n good time at the Harvest Moon Dance — and those treats from the Alliance were the best!

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



Music News

Ten years ago Morten Lauridsen, one of most gifted American choral composers of our time, composed a piece for and dedicated to The Los Angeles Master Chorale: *Lux Aeterna* (Eternal Light). The premiere took place in the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion on April 13, 1997. The FUS Chorus and Orchestra will present this remarkable work on Sunday, November 4 during the morning assembly in celebration of the “Day of the Dead.” Each of the five movements of this cycle contains references to Light assembled from various sacred Latin texts. The piece opens and closes with the beginning and ending of the Requiem Mass. We are thrilled to bring this most beautiful work to life one more time. Please join us as we honor the “Day of the Dead” through words and music.

Children's Chorus

Children's Chorus practices begin October 7, 9:30 to 10:15 a.m. in the Chalice Room and is open to children ages 6 - 12. Call Gabriela Diaz-Alatrisme at 612-377-6608, ext. 106 to register your child(ren) and get written schedule of practices.

Oboes and Bassoons

Oboes and bassoons are especially welcome in the orchestra this year, but also all the other instruments, it is never too late to join.



Welcome Back

Welcome back Music Director Barb Brooks from her Sabbatical, and congratulations on her successful performances of *Giovanni and Figaro* in collaboration with the Theatre de la Jeune Lune in Cambridge, MA.

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

The Alliance News

Looking for Some Wonderful Volunteers

Linnea Asp, coordinator for the Holiday Temptations Sale, and Claire Olson, coordinator for the Holiday Gift Sale, both sponsored by The Alliance, are looking for co-coordinators for this year's sales scheduled for Sunday, December 2 during Social Hour.



For the bake sale, the coordinating team's duties include: calling to recruit bakers, assembling and storing packaging materials, recruiting packaging and sales teams for the weekend of the sale, coordinating with office staff for Sunday set-up and keeping financial records.

For the gift sale, tasks of the coordinators include: working with FUS staff members to find a date and request room set-up, rounding up goods, setting up displays and recruiting a sales team the day of the sale, and keeping financial records.

We have a solid core of people who have been and continue to be involved in these sales over the years, and lots of experience in leading these efforts. Anyone volunteering to help would have lots of resources to ease into the co-ordination position. The tasks are manageable and minimal except for the weekend of the sale, when many hands make light work. The sales but lots of fun. Ideally, partners would be willing to take on the lead coordinating position for the year. Though The Alliance is the sponsor for these activities, anyone can volunteer to help out. We would be glad to help out more about these opportunities! Contact: Linnea Asp at 763-551-1558 or linneaasp@comcast.net or Claire Olson at 612-869-0891 or claireol@tcinternet.net.



We look forward to another exciting year of programs, catering, and other activities. We continue to cosponsor intergenerational events with the RE program. Don't miss the Harvest Moon Dance on September 29th. The Alliance will provide treats that evening. We hope to see you there!

Our opening meeting for the year is on October 3rd and will include a talk by Dr. Kathryn Sikkink titled "Do Human Rights Trials Really Work?" On November 7th we will hear Kelli Clement speak on "Achieving Racial Justice." Program meetings are held the first Wednesday of October, November, February, March, April, May and June in the Dietrich Room. The schedule is as follows: lunch ticket sales – 10:45 am, program – 11 am, 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.

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. We look forward to a rewarding year together!

Membership Updates:

We were saddened to hear of the death of Alliance member Helen Bremmer in early September. Our thoughts are with Philip and the family during this sad time.

Though the Alliance membership booklet was just printed, there are some changes you should note.

- Anderson, Joyce - e-mail: Joy6anders@aol.com
- Blubaum, Susan - e-mail: sueblu@msn.com
- Bremmer, E. Philip - phone: 952-223-0323
- Day, Rose - e-mail: rose.day@earthlink.net
- Gamble, Doree - e-mail: doreeg@juno.com
- Rasmussen, Uttara - e-mail: uttara1@mac.com
- Schreurs, Lee - e-mail: Leraysch@yahoo.com
- Siggelkow, Sylvia - local address & e-mail: 20 NE 2nd St., #2501, Mpls., 55413, nainsig@sbcglobal.net
- Wallace, Barbara - new address & phone: 952-933-3779, 6115 Lincoln Dr., #144, Edina, 55436

Stewardship Corner

Renewing the Challenge / Extending the Praise

The combination of solid pledge payments and viable hopes for more continues to give your Stewardship Committee a positive outlook as we move through September toward the bright, crisp days of Autumn.

Good news is that roughly one sixth of over 300 FUS members and friends have either: (1) turned in a new pledge form with an 07-08 pledge; or (2) submitted a commitment via the automatic check debit system, authorizing a regular payment without the need for actual check writing.

Even better news is the fact that total dollars pledged from more than 50 contributors have shown an average pledge increase of more than \$160 per pledge unit (even though a few reductions had to be factored in).

Less good news is that more than 250 pledgers have not yet updated pledge commitments for 2007-2008. Many of the 250 are, of course, continuing to pay regularly at their 06-07 pledge rate; so we are still showing a solid cash balance as we head toward the months when heating bills will return. But we do need to ask **ALL OF YOU WHO HAVE NOT DONE SO TO PLEASE UPDATE COMMITMENTS ON THE NEW 2007-2008 PLEDGE FORMS.** This step will give our FUS Board of Trustees the current information they need for quality budget monitoring in the 07-08 year.

We wrote in the September Stewardship Column about the desire to pursue “best green sanctuary solutions for the storm water / sanitary sewer separation mandated by the city”. You will want to know that the FUS Board met on August 29th and agreed to pursue prudent next steps in that process.

You also should know that conversations with the city have continued to support our determination to find an approach to storm water solutions that looks comprehensively at opportunities to be found at the Groveland entry to FUS and at access to and from the Walker Art Center’s expanding sculpture garden.

Be reminded again, please, of architect Daniel Burnham’s 1892 admonition. “Make no little plans. They lack the power to stir men’s minds.” We love his fundamental sentiment, but we wish he had recognized women’s minds, too.

With both **MEN AND WOMEN** as heroes, we can do great things here at FUS!!

Save the Date

The FUS Foundation will host a session about wills on Sunday, November 18 at noon in the Dietrich Room. Bob Collins, FUS member attorney specializing in wills and tax questions, will lead the program. Light refreshments will be served. Call Susan Barton (612-340-1363) with questions or to make a reservation.

Stewardship Committee: Joyce Blomquist; Chris Bubser, vice-chair; Roger Clemence, chair; Kay Dawson; Madeline Simon, Board Liaison

Staff Support: Will Hegeman, FUS Administrator; Bob Calgren, Finance Director



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 School. 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 Koeppe for details, 952-893-2383; carolkoeppe@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, 28th 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 Koeppe, 952-893-2383; carolkoeppe@comcast.net.

Eco Experience at MN Fair

UU EcoMinds was very involved with the planning and running the home lighting booth at the Minnesota State Fair, in the Eco Experience Building. Along with partner organizations Congregations Caring for Creation (C3) and Center for Energy and Environment (CEE), we offered much information about CFLs (compact fluorescent bulbs) and reducing energy use to the general public attending the fair.



We were pleased at the response from UUs and our congregation in particular. Many FUS members and friends volunteered at the booth and were a tremendous help. I would like to acknowledge all the volunteers from our congregation who gave so generously of their time. A great big THANKS to: Ruth Agar, Madalyn Cioci, Colleen Curren, Sharon Dill, Jo Haberman, Martha Hardesty, Will Hegeman, Gail Hegeman, George Hutchinson, Jenna Hutchinson, Kiell Kosberg, Claire Langton-Yanowitz, Nasser Pooladian, Lee Schuers, Jan Sigmund, and Barbara Weatherhead. You contributed to the success of this booth.

- Marcy Leussler, on behalf of UU EcoMinds

Minnesota Alliance of Peacemakers

The Minnesota Alliance of Peacemakers' Annual Peace Celebration presents Matt Rothschild, editor of the Progressive Magazine. He will speak about his book, *You Have No Rights*, on Tuesday, November 13 from 6:00 - 9:30 p.m. at Hennepin Avenue United Methodist Church, Minneapolis, MN. Copies of his book are available for sale at the FUS bookstore. The author will sign books at this event.



Social Action

THE CASE FOR WAR — WAS IT FRAUDULENT?

A PROPOSED GRAND JURY HEARING

THE UNITED STATES v. GEORGE W. BUSH et al.

(Six readers are presenting this case based on Elizabeth de la Vega's book)

Wednesday, October 17 at 7:00 P.M.
The First Unitarian Society of Minneapolis
900 Mount Curve Ave.
Free Admission

No matter what our political affiliation or stand on the war happens to be, our government officials must be held accountable for upholding their oath of office. The task often boils down to the people having to pressure Congress to perform their oversight job.

In this case, six readers present the evidence for an indictment of top government officials charging they tricked the nation into war, or, in legal terms, conspired to defraud the United States.



While the grand jury is hypothetical, the **facts** presented here **are real**. They were compiled by a former federal prosecuting attorney of 20 years, Elizabeth de la Vega. Having prepared for hundreds of grand juries like this one, she devoted two years meticulously sifting through mountains of facts, and throwing out any evidence that was not corroborated by two or more reliable sources. All the facts and circumstances in this reading can be found in her book, *U.S. v. George W. Bush et al.*

Learn the staggering scope and depth of the alleged crime; when it started, how it evolved, and the people involved. Then decide if there's enough evidence to indict.

Presented by FUS Social Action Committee

Meet 'N, Eat Dinner 5:45 p.m. (suggested donation \$7.00 Adults, \$3.00 Children, \$15.00 maximum per family)

From The Intern

As I write this column in the warm and rather humid days of the early September I am in the third week of my ministerial internship. I want to share with you that it is an honor to be here and I am having a lot of fun. I have been warmly welcomed and I am really enjoying your excitement and curiosity. “So you’re our new intern. It’s so nice to meet you” and “I love this time of year when things start up and we get our new intern for the year” and “I enjoyed your first column. Are you from Minneapolis?” and many other comments and questions are showing me that you are deeply engaged in the life of this community, that you understand what true hospitality means, and that you are very committed to your calling to be a teaching congregation. Coffee hour is already one of the favorite times of my week as I begin to meet each of you and learn about you and what being part of the First Unitarian Society means to you.

Thank you for saying yes to my question of interning here and for challenging me and teaching me and for your willingness to answer my many other questions. And I have so many questions and I hope you do too! What does it mean to be in a religious community together? What sets this community apart from other communities in our lives? What calls us to be together in this community and what are we called to do? What does it mean to be a minister? I hope this last question is central in our search for truth and meaning since I believe our highest calling as human beings is to minister to one another, to care for one another, and to create that sacred place where we can share our fears and our hopes, our deepest longings and our highest aspirations.

In an e-mail to the ministers and seminarians of our district of the UUA, Prairie Star, District Executive Nancy Heege shares the following definition of ministry with us: These are

From Empire to Earth Community A New Discovery Group at FUS

Are you frustrated with the “Empire” mindset that much of our national administration and our world advocates? Do you share the concern that our current cultural patterns of greed, materialism, injustice, hedonism, and war are destroying our planet and our souls? What is an alternative to Empire?



If these questions intrigue you, I will be facilitating a 4-week Discovery group that will read and discuss David Korten’s fascinating book, “The Great Turning”. In this book Korten examines how 5000 years of an Empire mindset has brought us to the verge of extinction as a species. He proposes that we shift to the Earth Community model of cooperation rather than competition and provides many practical ways to bring about this transformation.

This group will meet Tuesday evenings at FUS from 7-9 pm on October 30 and November 6, 13, and 20. Registration in this group is open for 6-15 participants. If you would like to join this group or learn more about it, please contact me by October 15th at FUS (ext. 107) or intern@firstunitariansociety.org or sign up at the Ask Me Table.

Steven Protzman, Ministerial Intern

the words of Gordon McKeeman from “Anyone’s Ministry” in *Out of the Ordinary*, Skinner House 2000:

Ministry is

- A quality of relationship between and among human beings that beckons forth hidden possibilities.
- Inviting people into deeper, more constant, more reverent relationship with the world and with one another.
- Standing for human dignity and equity, for compassion and aspiration.
- Believing in life in the presence of death; struggling for human responsibility against principalities and structures that ignore humaneness and become instruments of death.

It is all these and much, much more than all of them, present in the wordless, the unspoken, the ineffable. It is speaking and living the highest we know and living with the knowledge that it is never as deep, or as wide or as high as we wish. Whenever there is a meeting that summons us to our better selves, wherever our lostness is found, our fragments are united, or our wounds begin healing, our spines stiffen and our muscles grow strong for the task, there is ministry.

What a beautiful description of ministry as an invitation into deeper relationship with each other and a challenge to become our best possible selves. Are we truly willing to answer this call in a world that is in deep need of the gifts and talents and hopes and dreams each of us can contribute? It is my hope and wish for each of us that we will answer the call to be ministers to one another 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

612-377-6608, ext. 107
intern@firstunitariansociety.org

Membership News

I hope everyone is enjoying the start of the Fall season! Soup Lunches and Eat 'n' Meets are here. These are a fantastic way to catch up with old friends and I always seem to meet new people at my table during these events. As you can tell from my previous columns, my goal this year is to further our interconnections at this society. We are all such talented, intelligent people; once we reach out to other like-minded people, I am always amazed at common interests, or shared books we have read, or perhaps we even live in the same neighborhood.



Membership slogan for the year: "The most radical thing we can do is to introduce people to one another."

Teresa West
Membership Coordinator
612-377-6608, ext. 104
membership@firstunitariansociety.org

Orientations and New Member Sunday

We will be holding Orientations for inquiring visitors who would like to know more about FUS, Unitarian Universalism, and our community. You do not need to RSVP; just show up. New Member Sunday will follow these meetings for those who would like to join our society. We will also have two more orientation sessions scheduled in early 2008, in January and May. If you know of visitors who may be interested in joining, please let them know, and direct them to me for more information.

Fall New Member

Orientation dates are:
Sundays, October 21 and
28 at 4 p.m. in the Dietrich
Room.

New Member Sunday is:
November 11 during the 10:30 p.m. Assembly.



Happy October Birthdays! We wish you all another wondrous year!

Helen Kuehn	Joe Lazur
Bart Gottschalk	Angelique Frederiksen
JoAnn Nelson	Brie Pileggi
Nancy Dahl	Jean Beireis
Ada Rickard	Andres Nordquist
Julian	Nichole
Palmquist	Nordquist
Lisa Greene	Anna Russell
Alexis LaJoy	Libby Starling
Rebecca	Elvis Husted
Trevino	Bronia Brogen-
Heidi Iwanski	Grose
Claire Olson	Carly Brazil
Denise Victora	Michael Pileggi
Kathleen Cooper	Craig Smith
Ryan Mork	Stephen Pratt
Suzanne Sewell	Charles Blomquist
Mariah Weatherhead	Ruth Agar
Leif Carlson	



Soup Lunches Are Upon Us!

The Soup Lunch schedule is in full swing. Below is the schedule for the year. Please see me (or email/call me) to sign-up your group to sponsor one of them, many slots are still available. This is an easy, fun way to raise money for your group.



Soup Lunch Dates for 2007-2008

October 14
November 11
December 9
January 13
February 10
March 23
April 13
May 11

Eat 'n' Meet ~ Fall 2007 ~ Menu & Program

Dinner 5:45 p.m. Lower Assembly Hall

Suggested donations per meal: Adult \$7, Child \$3, Maximum \$15 per family

- | | | |
|--|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| October 3 | Middle Eastern | Katy and Hossein |
| Greek Salad, Hummus with Pita Bread, Tabouli, Chicken, Rice with Vegetable, Fruits, Cookies. | | |
| October 10 | Favorite Casseroles | Sue Tincher |
| Meat Loaf, Garlic Mashed Potato, Green Beans, Salad, Rolls, Vegetarian Entrée, Carrot Cake with Cream Cheese Frosting. | | |
| October 17 | Thai | Adele Hansen |
| Thai Green Salad, Spring Rolls, Garlic Chicken and Cucumber Salad, Rice, Fruits and Thai Dessert (Banana in Coconut Cream). | | |
| October 24 | Mexican | Barb Lutz |
| Flour or Corn Tortilla with Shredded Chicken, Ground Beef, Black Beans, Lettuce, Cheese, Tomato, Guacamole, Salsa and Chips, Ice Cream with Chocolate Sauce. | | |
| October 31 | Home Style Chicken | Mark Gibbons |
| Green Salad, Organic Chicken with Home Style Potatoes and Fall Vegetables, a Vegetarian Entrée, Brownie and Cookies. | | |
| November 7 | It Is Fish | Mark Gibbons |
| Salad Baked Salmon with Green Beans and Red Potato, a Vegetarian Entrée, Fruits and Cakes. | | |
| November 14 | Early Holiday Dinner | Mark Gibbons |
| Turkey and Stuffing, Mashed Potato and Gravy, Cranberry Sauce, Green Beans, Sweet Potatoes, a Vegetarian entrée, Pies. | | |

Vegetarian options are always available.

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

- | | | |
|--------------------|--|------------------------------|
| October 3 | Women in Military | Barb Lutz |
| October 10 | Heritage of Heresy | Prairie Star District |
| October 17 | The Case for War — Was It Fraudulent? | Madeline Simon |
| October 24 | Speaking of Faith | Teresa West |
| October 31 | Orchestra Practice, No Program | |
| November 7 | Discussion with the Minister | Rev. Kendyl Gibbons |
| November 14 | The Jesus Seminar: It's Relevance for UUs | Gary Blegstad |

Events & Announcements

UU Racial Justice Focus Weekend With the Rev. Dr. Bill Gardiner

Saturday, November 17, 2007 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Workshop
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.

Sunday, November 18, 2007 9:30 - 10:30 a.m. FUS Forum

WILDERNESS JOURNEY: POWER, PRIVILEGE, TRUST, ACCOUNTABILITY & IDENTITY

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.).

Sunday, November 18, 2007 10:30 – 11:30 a.m. FUS Assembly

Cosponsored by FUS Social Action Committee and MUUSJA

“ON THE JOURNEY TOWARD WHOLENESS”

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. 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.)

Events & Announcements

Back to School Half-Price Children's Book Sale

For the month of October, the FUS bookstore will offer selected children's books for half price. Included are classics such as *Miss Rumphius*, the tale of an adventurous woman who finds a way to make the world more beautiful, and *The Tenth Good Thing About Barney*, which offers a tender, child's-eye view of the death of a beloved pet. Also on sale are several Dr. Seuss volumes, with important messages embedded in engaging rhymes and illustrations. Visit the bookstore on Sunday morning for these and other great values!



It's Time to Sign-up for Circle Suppers!

Circle Suppers are events which bring members together to share an evening of good food and conversation. The participants are divided into circles of eight supper guests for a series of four dinners from January through April. The names of the participants are shuffled so that a different set of people meet each month. The month's hosts contact the members of their circle to arrange for a date and time for the "supper." The host provides the entree, with guests bringing an appetizer, a



vegetable (or salad), a dessert, and sometimes a beverage (or bread). Generally the Supper is held at the home of the host, but the host can also reserve the Dietrich Room (at FUS) for the Supper.

You can sign up in the Lower Assembly Hall at the ASK ME table during coffee hour during the month of October. Circles will be formed in November, and instructions and a calendar will be mailed to the participants. FUS Circle Suppers are an opportunity to meet new friends and get to know more FUS members through an evening of conversation and fun. If you have questions, contact Adele Hansen or Jean Christiansen.

FUS Knitters — New Fall Schedule — Mondays

Jean Christensen and Jean Toll will host the first knitters gathering of the new fall season. Please note the following dates to get together to share knitting techniques and related knowledge and, of course, friendship. Monday, October 15 and 29 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. in the FUS library.



UU Museum Group Forming

Please join us: the UU Contemporary Arts Forum at Walker Art Center meets five times yearly to view cutting-edge art, learn about it and talk about the issues it raises. This year you'll enjoy exhibitions that range from politically conscious works by global artists, to



Frida Kahlo, photography, suburbia and more. This is a Walker fee program; it includes refreshments and the leadership of a trained guide. FFI: Christine McVay, Walker tour guide and member of First Unitarian Society, cbmcvay@earthlink.net or Rachel Dubke, Tour Program Coordinator at Walker: 612.375.7609, rachel.dubke@walkerart.org.

Can You Spare Some Time?

The FUS library is looking for volunteers to staff the library Sunday mornings from 9 a.m. -12 p.m. once every two-three months. If you wish to help, call Steven Hansen at 952-927-6035 or leave your name with the person staffing the library on any Sunday morning.



Events & Announcements

“Bringing Our History to Life”—A History Video Workshop for Congregations

This fall, Prairie Star congregations will get a chance to learn how to research and record their own histories. In October and November, the Prairie Star District Heritage and Archives Committee will present workshops on video production in Minnesota and Iowa. Featured presenters are experts in UU history and in video production. This is a hands-on program; you will prepare a three-minute finished video during the day.

Workshops will be offered in Minnesota during October, and in Iowa during November:

- ▶ Saturday, October 20, 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m., Minnesota Valley UU Fellowship, 10715 Zenith Avenue South, Bloomington, MN 55431. <http://www.mnvalleyuu.org> – Registration Deadline: October 10.
- ▶ Saturday, November 10, 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m., First Unitarian church of Des Moines, 1800 Bell Avenue, Des Moines, IA 50315. <http://www.ucdsm.org> – Registration Deadline: November 1.

Thanks to a grant from the UU Funding Program and the Prairie Star District, the cost is only \$25 per person. Included are registration, materials, morning snack and lunch. Participants are responsible for their own housing arrangements.

To register by mail, fill out the registration form in the brochure, available from Chris Bubser and the FUS Office. Mail the form with a check for \$25 per person, payable to Prairie Star District, to:

Prairie Star District, UUA
122 W. Franklin Ave., Suite 303
Minneapolis, MN 55404

To register via credit card on the District website, go to the following link: <http://www.psduua.org/Events/BringingOurHistoryToLife>. Click on “Prairie Store” to continue.

For further information:
Lowell Hanson, 651-426-8764, ldhanson@comcast.net

Women’s Awareness Group

The October meeting of the Women’s Awareness Group will be held on Monday, October 8, at the home of Carol Koepp, 8448 Little Rd., Bloomington, 55437. FUS women are invited to join us at 6:30 p.m. for a potluck supper, followed by a discussion. The topic is “What was your first experience with injustice in society? How has this experience affected your life?” Please call Carol (952-893-2383) to RSVP and for directions.



FUS Staff

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Minister Emeritus: Khoren Arisian
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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.



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The First Unitarian Society

OF MINNEAPOLIS

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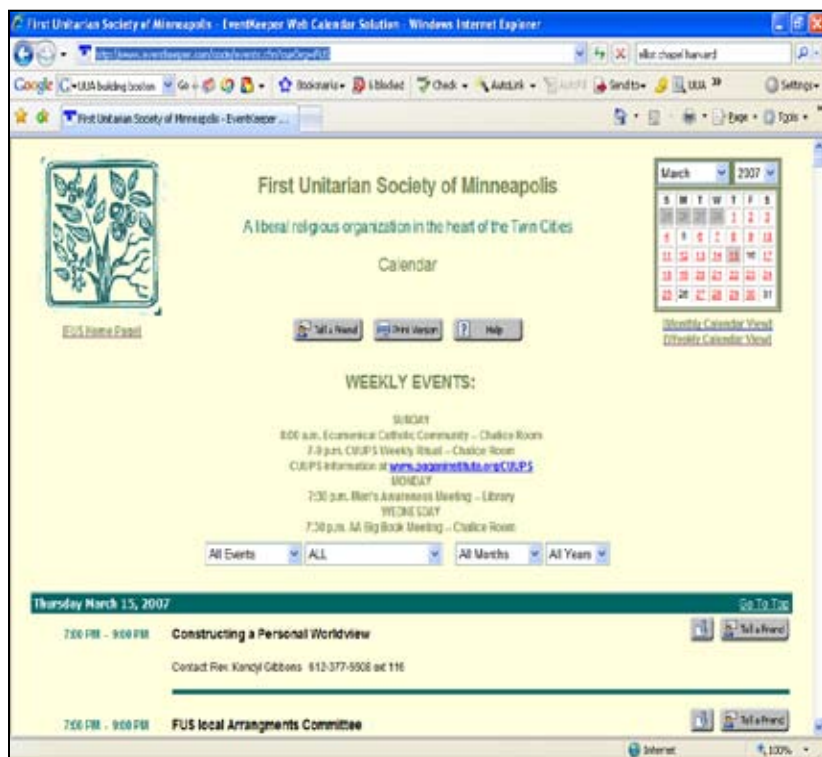
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**DATED MATERIAL
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

October 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
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.

