



# THE FIRST Unitarian

VOL. 86, SEPTEMBER 2007 • THE FIRST UNITARIAN SOCIETY OF MINNEAPOLIS

## From The Minister

Every UUA General Assembly offers new discoveries about our movement, even to a long-seasoned veteran like myself. This past June in Portland, I learned—among many other things—about a project of the International Council of Unitarians and Universalists which intrigues me. The ICUU is a network of Unitarian, Universalist and Unitarian Universalist organizations whose member groups come from 23 different countries, and many more are being organized around the world. Our denomination is slowly growing from a primarily American, British, and ex-patriot phenomenon, into a truly international movement. One symbolic way in which the ICUU is seeking to unite UUs around the globe is through shared chalice lightings. Every month, it distributes a new set of brief chalice lighting words contributed by one of its member organizations; these words are given both in their original language, and translated into English. Participating congregations are invited to use these Global Chalice Lightings at one of their gatherings, preferably presented in their native version as well as the translation.

I think it is significant to recognize that our faith is not limited by national or linguistic boundaries, even though each one of us as an individual is necessarily a product of our own unique combination of cultural heritages. It might be an important witness, to our children and to our larger community, as well as to ourselves, to use these Global Chalice Lighting words in our FUS Assemblies once a month. To that end, I would need the help of anyone among us who could accurately deliver the original languages in which these words are given, so that we do not mangle them in attempting to welcome them. So, if you are familiar with one of the following languages, and would be willing to speak a few sentences of it for all of us on a Sunday morning, I would appreciate it very much if you would let me know. Email me, or leave a note in my FUS mailbox with your name, and I will call you to find a Sunday that would be convenient for you. If you don't see your special language in this list yet, don't despair; new Global Chalice Lightings are published each month. The languages we are currently seeking are these: German, Spanish, Welsh, Czech, Sinhala, Khasi, and Bahasa Indonesian—some, obviously, more likely to be found than others! Nevertheless, it makes me smile to think that people in all these diverse places and tongues are celebrating the symbolism of the flaming chalice every week, and the faith that it represents, of freedom, reason, justice, and peace. Let's make them a visible part of our own gatherings.

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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](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

## ■9/9/07 FORUM: Goals for the Year

**Presenter: FUS Staff**

Updates will be given by FUS Staff members in the following areas.

- Administration
- Finance
- Communication
- Religious Education
- Music Program



## ■9/16/07 FORUM: “Military Families Speak Out-MN”

**Presenter: Mike Perkins**

Our policies and actions as a country are having a huge negative impact on us as citizens and our troops. The US has never abused active and reserve or National Guard troops this badly before, and the consequences will be with us for a very long time. Many members of Mr. Perkins’ family have served in the military, including his brother and son, whose harrowing stories he will share with you.

The FUS Social Action Committee organizes Forums at least monthly; PEACE is the theme for September.

## ■9/23/07 FORUM: “It Takes a Village”

**Presenter: Sheila Callander**

FUS member Sheila Callander recounts her journey—literal and metaphorical—to Begoro, Ghana. In Ghana she explored leadership, service and community opportunities. Her journey began with a series of short visits to Begoro, followed by a longer residency. Now she is planning a major initiative to build a school for area children. Hear Sheila’s story of connection and celebration with a community half way around the world.

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

## ◆9/9/07 ASSEMBLY: Ingathering Service

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

This year, recognizing the power of water cannot help but remind us of our city’s fallen bridge, and those who perished in that tragic event. We who believe in the capacity of human intelligence to transcend the brute forces of nature must find ourselves either enemies of the earth’s natural forces, or else humble students and collaborators with the processes of this living planet. Our choices matter, so that both our constructions and our ideals may not suddenly crumble beneath us. As we gather once again for the beginning of our program year, please remember to bring the water that holds your special summer memories to add to our fountain of celebration.

## ◆9/16/07 ASSEMBLY: “Not Past Our Understanding”

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

Both inner spiritual peace and international political peace are identified as desirable in almost every religious and philosophical tradition, yet neither individually nor collectively have most people actually achieved them. Is peace really something that in its essence “passes understanding,” and must come as a gift, or is it something we can work for, with reason and history to guide us? What is the role of the human spirit in that quest, especially in a time of war like this? We will celebrate the upcoming United Nations International Day of Peace, and the **Monthly Social Justice Collection gathered today will be directed to the PEACE Foundation**, <http://www.citypeace.org> (See Social Action p. 9 for more information.).

## ◆9/23/07 ASSEMBLY: “The Balancing Act”

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

As the wheel of the year turns, we enter the season when the days are shorter than the nights, and getting shorter. We observe the passing of summer, and prepare for the rigors of winter to come. The poets have called this the season of “mellow fruitfulness”; the equinox is a moment of poised suspension, when time is in balance, even-handed between light and dark. Sometimes it is easier to notice the extremes, but there is wisdom to be gained from the equilibrium too. With help from the solstice festival organizers, we will celebrate the autumnal equinox, and the lessons of earth’s transitions for our own lives, and the Eclectics will sing. The monthly ceremony of grieving and healing will follow the Assembly.

# Forum and Assembly Previews

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

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

## ■9/30/07 FORUM: Uncloseting and Deepening Our Humanism

**Presenter: Bob Tapp**

Yesterday, we celebrate the US as the inheritor of the 18th-century Enlightenment. Deists flourished in the new country, playing central roles as the republic evolved into a democracy. Today, alas, the US has become deeply tarnished in the eyes of the world—and we humanists are at the bottom of all US polls of desirability! Most world religions are turning toward fundamentalisms, rejecting reason and science. Curiously, some atheists and humanists are hitting best-seller lists. We, like these authors, need to be loud and clear about universal values of human rights, freedom, reason, science and compassion. We must also be honest about the ways that most religions throughout history have trampled those values.

## ◆9/30/07 ASSEMBLY: “What Next?”

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

As I begin my tenth year as senior minister at FUS, our most recent five-year plan has run its course, and some of the most obvious issues of finances and our physical plant have been successfully addressed. Where, now, should our energy as a congregation be focused? With help from members of the Strategic Planning Committee, we will look at some of the directions our future together might take. A conversation with the Trustees will follow the Assembly.

### Save the Date!

**Sunday, November 18th—we will have a wonderful guest speaker at the 9:30 a.m. Forum and 10:30 a.m. Assembly!**

UUA staff member Bill Gardiner will address anti-racism from a UU perspective. Bill is bringing a terrific film for the Forum—he will speak at the Assembly, and then participate in a roundtable discussion following the Assembly (light lunch will be available). More information coming in the October newsletter.

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## Celebrating the Human Spirit: Summer Assemblies 2007

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The Summer Assemblies have been rare treasures, each and every one of them. There is one more opportunity to enjoy this summertime treat. Join us at 10:30 a.m. in the Lower Assembly Hall.



### 9/2/07 ASSEMBLY: “Summer’s End or You Can Take It With You”

**Speaker: Wendy Jerome**

Your most relaxed and least studied moments, the least anticipated days may be the memories you look back on with joy and that support you into the future.

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**Chalice Camp** is provided for school-age children up to age 12, from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

**Child care** is available for preschool children and infants.

# From The Minister

*continued*

Two reminders for the program year about to begin. First, don't forget to bring the water you have saved from your summer adventures or leisures to add to our fountain on September 9, when we move our Assemblies back upstairs, and get ready to begin another season of Religious Education programming. Second, check out the FUS bookstore for your copy of Hemant Mehta's *I Sold My Soul on E-Bay*, and Jim Henderson and Matt Casper's *Jim and Casper Go to Church*, to prepare for our three-session discussion on September 13 and 27, and October 11. We will look at how these theological outsiders experienced orthodox and evangelical churches, and consider what, if anything, FUS might learn from their comments.

On a personal note, thanks to all those who have offered help and sympathy since I incautiously set my foot down wrong on my own doorstep, turned my ankle, and broke two small bones in my left foot. The results of this accident might have been much worse, and the crutches and walking cast didn't prevent my planned family visits on the east coast, so I'm doing fine. Perhaps by the time our September programming starts, the docs will have released me from the Big Black Boot that is for the moment my constant companion. By the way, I'm persuaded that ankles are a great argument against Intelligent Design; they sure don't appear to be very intelligently designed to me!

Finally, let's prepare to welcome Steven Protzman as our student intern minister for the coming year. See the column to the right for his article introducing himself. It will be wonderful to be together again; I look forward to a great year ahead!

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# From The Intern

As I write my first column for the newsletter, it's early August, the cannas, nasturtium and day lilies in my garden are in full bloom, and the weeds are peacefully coexisting with the hostas. The summer has flown by. After a year of preparation, planning and reflecting on the learning goals for my internship, I will start my duties as your student minister shortly. As with any new job, I have feelings of excitement, anticipation, and gratitude for this opportunity, as well as a little anxiety.

To introduce myself: I am studying for the ministry at United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities (UTS), pursuing my Master of Divinity degree. I hope to meet with the Ministerial Fellowship Committee next fall, then finish my class work in December of next year. I am a member of First Universalist UU Church in Minneapolis, and live in a 110-year-old house in South Minneapolis that was once home to four Catholic priests. As you will learn in my first Sunday program, I trained as an architect and found my first vocation in pipe organ building and design, work I have deeply enjoyed most of my adult life—work I hope to do part time even as I serve as a minister. I have served as a church musician for many years and just retired from this vocation in January.

I am excited to work under Kendyl's supervision at First Unitarian Society. She has been a helpful and gracious presence at UTS as a professor and a mentor to the UU community of students. I have very much enjoyed our class work together. She has an excellent knowledge and understanding of the life and work of the church and I look forward to working with her again to deepen my own understanding and knowledge of what it means to be in covenant as a church community.

I thank you for this opportunity to be with you as your ministerial intern. In the year ahead, I hope to learn more about the day-to-day routines of church life and to participate in the many tasks and responsibilities that come with being a UU minister: administration, worship, pastoral care, and the discovery together as a community what vocation truly means. I look forward to meeting all of you while we work together continuing our spiritual journey as human beings and Unitarian Universalists striving to become our fullest selves.

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# Religious Education

I love it, I love it, I love it—the opening of the fall Sunday School program is close! To a lot of children and youth, and adults, September signifies a new beginning, a new routine for the year at least, with new classes, teachers, backpacks, notebooks, etc. It really is a time to consider what the year will hold for the family. What do you want to put into your schedule? What is a priority for your family as life gets busy? I am hoping that having a liberal religious education is a priority and that your family will put coming to FUS into your weekly schedule.

Let's face it, the world right now is not doing too well on religious tolerance and understanding. There is a pressing need to understand religion and the schools are not allowed to approach the subject. You need to get your children and youth here! They need to have a liberal religious community in which to learn about religion (ours and others), sort out how they feel about it, discover what place religion has in their lives, and what positive contributions Unitarian Universalism can make to their, and others', lives! How can you leave your child uneducated in an area that has the whole world fighting?

Let's face it, the United States right now is awash in conservative Christian thinking. Are they right or wrong? How will our children know if they have not had the tools of logical discernment? How can you as parents not want your child(ren) to know the facts about various religious thinking? How can you send them out into the community not having any liberal religious training when you know that other children are getting the "facts" drilled into them weekly? How can you complain about the amount of conservative thought out there when you are not committed to educating your child in liberal religious thought?

Let's face it, liberal, religious adults can find their grounding in many different places. But growing minds need a formal education in religion so that they can find their own path as an adult. You can't pick what you don't know! And we want our children and youth to know about humanism and liberal religious thinking

so that they can have information for their coming choices. Parenting is a hard gig and parents should jump at the chance to have the support of a community that can offer what we offer in our program here at FUS: information, mentoring and companionship in the tough road to adulthood for children.



So, come on September 9 for the all-community opening—yes, kids, youth and adults in the service the whole time! And remember to bring that water from your summer adventures! Hey, senior high youth, who wants to contribute our Walden Pond water? Call me.

Religious Education classes begin on September 16, with teacher conferences for fall term teachers before that (all of you should have a schedule, but call me if you have forgotten). And parents, let's have those RE registrations so that we can properly welcome your child(ren) and know what our class sizes will be.

We welcome Marit Appeldoorn as the chair of the Religious Education Committee. The committee this year is made up of Molly Illes, Kelly Rickard, Angelique Frederickson, Ruth Hamlin, Carolyn Grose and Lynn Borden.

Our first big event will be the Harvest Moon Dance coming up on September 29. See the ad for that in this newsletter on p. 13. Community and fun in this stressed out world—that's an opportunity that you shouldn't miss.

Come, let's travel this road of life together! I'm sure that we will all appreciate the companionship.

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# Music News

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I hope all of you had a restful relaxing summer! After the recent bridge tragedy, I thought about the importance of community and how much we all need each other. I am glad FUS provides a wonderful sense of community for many folks.

The music program at FUS offers many different organizations to provide that much needed connection and community. The FUS Chorus rehearses on Wednesday evenings from 7:15-9:15, and the first rehearsal of the fall season is September 12. I strongly encourage those of you who love to sing to give the chorus a try. The chorus is made up of people of all levels and music reading ability. All you need is the desire to sing, work hard, and have fun! We accomplish wonderful things, and I'd like to think we have a great time in the process! The FUS Orchestra rehearses on Sunday evenings in the fall from 7:00-9:30. Please talk to Gabriela Díaz-Alatrisme if you are interested in playing with this wonderful group. Often, the orchestra and chorus perform together, as we are in the fall with the beautiful "Lux Aeterna" by Lauridsen. For those of you that like evocative mystical music, this is the work to come and learn. It is truly gorgeous.

Our associate music director, Gabriela, also directs the FUS Children's choir and I encourage you to enroll your child in this wonderful young group. The earlier you encourage your child to get involved in music the better for the soul of the world!



If you are interested in the Eclectics, another fine group at FUS, please contact Cindy Pichotta or Bob Aderhold. This group provides our community with a folk style and sound, which is a great addition to our Society.

Finally, as some of you know, I am the music director at the Theatre de la Jeune Lune when it comes to opera repertoire. The American Repertory Theatre at Harvard has invited Jeune Lune to perform our Mozart operas this fall. FUS has granted me a short sabbatical to take advantage of this lovely opportunity. I will be gone this fall until October 7. I would like to thank the board for granting me this sabbatical. I am truly grateful to the board and congregation for their generosity.  
See you soon!

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Music Director

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**Dr. Gabriela Díaz-Alatrisme**

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# Stewardship Corner

## The Praise and the Challenge

This is the second greeting of the 2007-08 pledge year from your Stewardship Committee. If you can recall our August Newsletter entry, you'll know that we celebrated finishing the '06-07 year with a positive balance of more than \$2,500 and with high hopes for multiple successes in the new fiscal year that started on July first.

When you read these words, written in early August, a substantial cash flow from July will already have been received, giving us a solid level of confidence for '07-08. September also will be on the near horizon, meaning we will actually have completed one-sixth of our current pledge year! Our calendar moves rapidly, but its movement is not without surprises and challenges. Kendyl suffered a broken ankle, certainly an unpleasant surprise for her; but by the time you read these words, she will be well along in preparing her first sermon of the fall season at FUS.

In a different but related context, the catastrophe of the I-35W bridge collapse will have become an even more sobering reminder of how quickly life's circumstances can be altered. But knowing how many heroes there were in the aftermath of that disaster, you'll not be surprised by the optimism your Stewardship Committee can muster as it looks toward the challenges of the '07-08 year for our FUS community.

The record of '06-07 has shown us how well we can meet a budgetary challenge through increased pledging combined with fiscal restraint and some wonderful generosity from FUS member responses. Our task now is to recognize the linkages between challenges and opportunities that will lie ahead in '07-08.

Barr Engineering has already begun to help us develop best green sanctuary solutions for the storm water / sanitary sewer separation mandated by the city. At the same time, we are recognizing that the aesthetic and functional potentials of our Groveland entry will be greatly enhanced by the expansion of the Walker Art Center's Sculpture Garden directly across Groveland from our north sidewalk. That asset will provide a lovely "forecourt" for FUS and significantly improve our

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community connectedness on that side of our "house." Clearly, this benefit can even suggest that 2008 should be the year to plan for a wonderful elevator at our Groveland entry and full accessibility at every floor of FUS.

Daniel Burnham, the coordinating architect for the 1892 Columbian Exposition in Chicago, issued a challenge we could do well to repeat as our mantra. "Make no little plans," he said. "They lack the power to stir men's minds." Shall we make this our year to begin the next stirring of minds here in our 55-year-old "house?" Your Stewardship Committee thinks we should! But we'll need major participation and many heroes. Are you ready to be with us? Challenge is Opportunity when it's given a chance!!

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

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

## An Attitude and a Commitment

### The Pledge Goal

for the 2006-2007 fiscal year

was met

AND

exceeded by 7 percent!



**Congratulations FUS!**

# Social Action

## Social Action Grows Stronger at FUS Four Ways to Help!

The mission of the FUS Social Action Committee (SAC) is: **to organize opportunities for FUS members and friends to participate in social justice on many levels**, including monetary contributions, helping with service projects, and engaging in long-term policy reform activism on issues such as racial and economic justice, affordable housing, environmental protection, peace, children's issues and youth leadership development. Cochairs for 2007-2008 are Carol Koepp and Marcy Leussler. **SAC meetings are held the fourth Sunday of every month, noon–2 p.m., in the Heritage Room.** Everyone is welcome—if you have an idea for the agenda, contact Carol or Marcy.



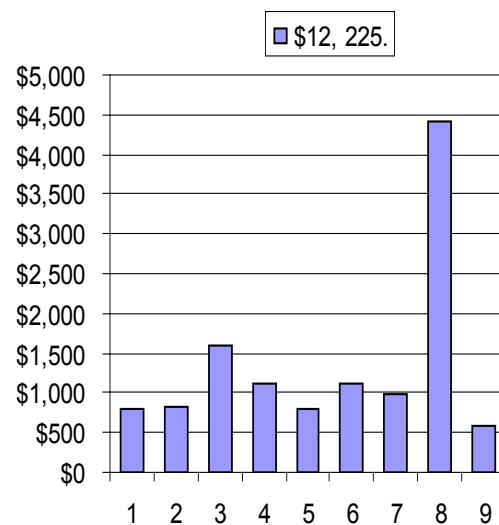
Social Action organizes education and training, direct-service, social change activism, and strategic distribution of resources to put UU values into action in the larger community and world. We work in partnerships and coalitions with other UU congregations and social justice organizations (faith-based and secular) to act for peace, justice and environmental sustainability.

Last year, as reported in the 2006-2007 FUS annual report, SAC was key to **raising and distributing over \$30,000 for social justice**—thanks to the wonderful generosity of members and friends of FUS!

SAC directly contributed \$9,780 in response to requests for funding including: support for a micro-lending program; Minnesota Alliance of Peacemakers; scholarship for Undoing Racism Training; FUS Green Team; affordable housing; UUA & UUSC; emergency bus and food voucher fund for FUS office; Unity Summer; Habitat for Humanity; Icaghowan scholarships (UU youth leadership conference); FUS youth sleep-out for homelessness; Agape planting project; Population Connection; Books for Africa; Alliance for Metropolitan Stability; *The Exonerated* performance at North High. And, a very special fund raiser performance of *The Exonerated*, in cooperation with Frank Theater—to benefit Oasis Crisis Intervention Center and Kulture

Klub (a program that connects homeless children and youth with community arts/artists)—earning \$1,000 for each program. **SAC funding comes from annual budget allocations made by the FUS Board of Trustees, as well as funds raised by the Service Auction, special events and occasional donations from supportive individuals.**

**SAC organized Monthly Social Justice Collections totaling \$12, 225.**



1. PEACE Foundation \$790
2. OutFront Minnesota \$812
3. Unity Summer \$1,600
4. Sabathani Food Shelf \$1,115
5. Environmental Justice Advocates of MN \$794
6. Agape Child Care \$1,129
7. Habitat for Humanity \$972
8. American Refugee Committee - Darfur Program (PSD Conference Sunday) \$4,418
9. PSD Social Justice Network & Minnesota UU Social Justice Alliance - \$595

**SAC members were among the core organizers of the FUS Service Auction, which raised \$10,000 for Habitat for Humanity—toward a \$50,000 UU goal for the interfaith Congregations Building Community effort.**

# Social Action

## What YOU can do now for social justice!

SAC has made a commitment to focus many of our efforts in North Minneapolis, in order to leverage our human and monetary resources to help achieve racial and economic justice. To carry out our UU values while being (mostly) “white allies” in constructive work being done in North Minneapolis, we have identified community leaders and organizations to partner with.



## GET READY! for the FUS Monthly Social Justice Collection for the PEACE Foundation—coming up September 16

PEACE Foundation (Public Engagement and Community Empowerment) provides excellent community-based leadership. They provide quality monthly forums that bring people together from around the metro area to learn about and discuss the public policy issues affecting the Northside. They sponsor the FLOW Arts Crawl along W. Broadway, monthly narrated bus tours around north Minneapolis, Peace Across the Northside, summer games for kids and many other projects that educate and empower Northside residents and their metro area allies to improve the quality of life in North Minneapolis. FUS members and friends have participated in nearly all of these activities in our effort to meet and support our Northside neighbors. We encourage FUS members to learn more about the PEACE Foundation by going to the Social Action table during Sunday coffee hour, and the Foundation’s website <http://www.citypeace.org>. Plan to donate generously on Sept. 16!

1

## JOIN UP! for Habitat For Humanity Fall Building Opportunity



Volunteers from six metro area UU congregations were in on the beginning stages of a twin-home build in Heritage Park during the last week of June. We were fortunate enough to work alongside the future owners of both sides of the unit.

Heritage Park is unique among building opportunities with Habitat for Humanity. It is a mixed-income housing development in North Minneapolis created by the decree that resulted from the Hollman vs. Cisneros lawsuit ordering the demolition of public housing at the intersection of Hwy. 55 and Lyndale Ave., in order to increase housing integration based on race and income.

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Now we have the opportunity to be in on the final stages of building the new twin-home in Heritage Park on Friday, September 28. Work hours are 8:30 a.m. to approximately 4:00 p.m. The specific location is 11th and Fremont Aves. Both work and the weather should be volunteer friendly. Look for information and a sign-up sheet on the Social Action table on Sundays, during coffee hour.

## Tutor!

There are opportunities for FUS members to be tutors/mentors in Minneapolis schools. This provides volunteers a chance to develop one-on-one relationships with individual students and teachers and also helps us learn more about education today. FUS tutors and mentors meet monthly at the Bean Scene in North Minneapolis to discuss our experiences. If you are interested in volunteering or want more information, see the Social Action Table.

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# Social Action

## Smile!

This one is easy—smile and be proud of our great partner, as **Holding Forth the Word of Life Ministries Celebrates its 25th Anniversary!**



FUS Social Action Committee at FUS has supported the social service agencies established by Holding Forth the Word of Life Ministries in North Minneapolis for the past five years. We have had social justice collections for their two 24-hour child development centers and for Oasis Crisis Intervention Center. (A recent indication of the quality of their work is that they are being asked to establish a THIRD child development center in St. Paul.) We partnered with the staff at Oasis to raise money for Katrina families who relocated to the Twin Cities. Other fund raisers included a coproduction of *The Vagina Monologues* and a Frank Theatre production of *The Exonerated*. Adults and R.E. teens have revamped one of their playgrounds with wood chips and planted native shrubs and grasses around the periphery of one of their playgrounds. On our Community Service Sunday in July, a crew of 15 did some serious weed-pulling and hedge trimming at their Center on W. Broadway. To see pictures of some of these events, stop by the Social Action Table during social hour. Congratulations, Holding Forth! We look forward to continuing our support in years to come!



**Watch future newsletters to learn more about FUS SAC's work on environmental issues (the great FUS GREEN TEAM!), youth leadership development and more!**



# The Alliance News

At its annual meeting last May, Alliance members voted Jan Sigmund to be the newest member of the triumvirate to replace Joyce Blomquist. Welcome Jan and thank you for your service Joyce! In June, The Alliance finished off the '06-07 program year with a field trip to the U. of MN Landscape Arboretum. It was a wonderful outing for all.

If you came to the Society for Summer Assemblies or meetings, you probably noticed the new Front Garden sponsored by The Alliance. Some flowers were very pretty, others were "trimmed" by rabbits, or broken off before they could flower. But certainly, the garden is lovely compared to the weedy grass it replaced. It enhances our curb appeal, and is a pleasure for us and our neighbors. A BIG THANK YOU to all the volunteers who spent several hot hours in May digging and planting our garden: Becca Brackett and Fred Olson, Allan Callander, Lois Edwards, Christa Landon, John Nordquist and Rebecca Trevino, Tim Palmquist, Pete Raynor, Dianne Rowse, Ray Schreurs, Sue and Jim Tincher, and Chuck, Joyce and Kristina Blomquist, who designed our garden. It will be delightful to watch the Front Garden grow and hopefully flourish in the coming years.

We look forward to another exciting year of programs, thanks to triumvirate members Arlene Breckenridge and Gretchen Clemence. Our opening meeting on October 3 will include a talk by Dr. Kathryn Sikkink titled "Do Human Rights Trials Really Work?" On November 7 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 at 10:45 a.m., program at 11 a.m., lunch at noon and 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 News

Welcome back from Summer vacations and a sweet bid adieu to our Summer Assemblies. Our member-organized and led assemblies were educational, inspiring, and a meaningful way to build relationships, understanding and community among us. Many members and friends presented personal commentary from their lives, covering rational and emotional territory. We want to thank everyone who participated in any way. By sharing yourself with this community, you showed courage and growth incurred.

And now back to our regularly scheduled fall program! Services begin in the Upper Assembly Hall on September 9, and there are again many ways to participate in this community. Here is a list of my easy, top-five, favorite ways to meet people at FUS and expand my world:

Teresa's top-five quick and easy ways to participate at FUS:

5. Stay for soup lunch.
4. Go to an Eat 'N' Meet dinner and stay for the program.
3. Join a Discovery Group and attend regularly.
2. Join Circle Suppers and eat regularly.

## And Number ONE

1. Introduce yourself to someone you don't know at Coffee Hour!

Now, for those terminally shy amongst us, I have heard complaints that they don't know what to say. Unlike dating, there really are no tacky introductions. My fave is "How 'bout that sermon?" If you have any favorite ice-breaker lines, send them along. If I get enough, we can publish our very own FUS Miss Manners guide to introductions!

Of course, there are at least 100 ways to get involved here. If you are searching for your niche and need ideas, find me and we can explore options that fit your interests.

Have an active and joyous fall! Participation really is necessary for the fun to begin!

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

Happy Birthday to the following Members and Friends who celebrate September birthdays:



Leo Boese  
Phil Bremmer  
Emmi Zheng  
Marit Appeldoorn  
Deb Magnuson  
Anita Martinez  
Gene Martinez  
Vince Barton  
Mary Delvo  
Don Wallace  
Barbara Wallace  
Troy Linck  
Simon Walsh  
Uttara Rasmussen

Cray Thornton  
Sue Okerstrom  
Holly Stein  
Christopher Traudt  
Barbara Watts  
Tom Sullivan  
Helen Thompson  
Brynan Thornton  
Carol Koepp  
Wendy Andberg  
Pauline Marks  
Robert Harding  
Jo Haberman  
Connie Metcalf



Congratulations to Curt Dederich and Krista Johanson! They have announced their engagement. They have set a date of December 15, 2007 to be married here at FUS. We wish them all the best.



On a somber note, we acknowledge the death of *Carny Magnuson*, mother of Jeff Magnuson, and of *Lee Johnson*, mother of Bob McCaa and mother-in-law of Wanda McCaa.



# Events & Announcements

## The Unitarian FLASH

This fall the Society will be offering a new, online newsletter dubbed the Unitarian FLASH. Designed to give FUS members and friends timely updates on Society programs and events, the newsletter will be offered by email twice a month. If you're interested in receiving the email newsletter you'll have the option to subscribe with the invitational first issue, or online through the FUS website at [www.firstunitariansociety.org](http://www.firstunitariansociety.org).



As an online publication, the FLASH will offer brief stories with web links to supplemental information, such as updates from the UUA or action items from social justice partners. You'll be able to use the links for room reservations, emails to staff, or connecting to a secure online pledge payment page. If a story catches your interest, you can forward it to friends or family who might be interested in FUS activities.

You can start or stop receipt of the FLASH at any point. Plus, if you prefer to read the print version of The Unitarian online through the website, we'll set up your subscription as "email only" so you won't be getting excess paper mailings.

Early in September all members and friends who have email addresses on file with the FUS office will receive an invitation to receive the FLASH. You'll need to indicate your willingness to get the email since the system is a "permission-based" mailing and can only be sent with your acceptance.

When the FLASH arrives in your inbox, pass along your comments and suggestions to Publications Coordinator Morgan Rock at [newsletter@firstunitariansociety.org](mailto:newsletter@firstunitariansociety.org).



## Minnesota UU Social Justice Alliance Fall General Meeting

Sunday, September 23, 3:00–5:00 p.m. at FUS  
Join UUs from across the metro and state for inspiration, fellowship and action on key justice issues. Presentation and discussion of legislative, policy and direct-action agendas for state-wide efforts through 2008—global warming, reproductive rights, voting integrity, GLBT equality. Bring finger food to share. FFI: Ralph Wyman [rwmuusja@gmail.com](mailto:rwmuusja@gmail.com)

## FUS Foyer Art Gallery Schedule 2007-2008



September 9–October 14	Arlene Breckenridge, photography
October 21–November 25	Rita Corrigan, paintings
December 2–January 7 '08	Laurie Salmela Marjorie Moody, paintings
January 14–February 17	Dean Abbott, watercolors
February 24–March 30	Utrecht Supply, Staff group show
April 6 through May 12	Linda Nelson Bryan, textiles
May 19–June 22	Thursday Painters, watercolors

# Events & Announcements

## Rhythms of Earth and Body— A Women's Retreat

Saturday, September 22, at Lowry Nature Center, in Victoria, MN, 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Treat yourself to a day of rejuvenation in a beautiful outdoor setting. Participate in guided gentle yoga, playful dance and meditation on an indoor labyrinth. Experience nature walks with time for solitary reflection on the peaceful grounds of Carver Park Reserve. Express yourself through clay art and music. Lunch is included. Led by Interpretive Naturalist and FUS member, Dianne Rowse and Joan Guilfoyle ([www.gorgeousspirit.com](http://www.gorgeousspirit.com)). Both Dianne and Joan have led workshops at the annual AYW/Alliance Women's Retreats over the past several years. Reservations required by September 17; to register call 763-559-6700 or online at [www.threeriversparkdistrict.org](http://www.threeriversparkdistrict.org)

Program #411319-04. Fee \$55. Scholarships available. Lowry Nature Center is located about 45 minutes west of FUS.

## Annual FUS Retreat to the Woods—

October 5-7

Join us at beautiful Baker Near-Wilderness Settlement in Long Lake, MN for a weekend of fellowship, relaxation and renewal. You'll enjoy

great food, hiking and biking trails, canoeing, a climbing wall, nearby lakes and a few interesting and varied workshops in a quiet and protected setting surrounded by 3,300 acres of marshes, meadows and mature forest. The site has a tenting area and eight log cabins. The Settlement is about 30 minutes west of Minneapolis. For more information and to register, pick-up a Retreat to the Woods brochure at FUS, download it from the FUS website at <http://firstunitariansociety.org/membership/retreat-2007.pdf> or contact Jim Tincher at 612-926-8692 or [tinch@comcast.net](mailto:tinch@comcast.net). **Registration deadline is September 16.**



## Annual Harvest Moon Dance—

Saturday, September 29,  
7:00-9:00 p.m., FREE

The Annual Harvest Moon Dance is an intergenerational dance sponsored by the Religious Education Committee and The Alliance in celebration of the Autumnal

Equinox. There will be a social hour (6:30-7:00 p.m.), a dessert buffet (8:00 p.m.) and live music.



## Women's Awareness Group

The September meeting of the Women's Awareness Group will be held on Monday, September 10, at the home of Pat Jordan, 3830 Bassett Creek Drive, Golden Valley, 55422. FUS women are invited to join us at 6:30 p.m. for a potluck supper, followed by a discussion on "Planning for the Year in an Open Forum." Please call Pat (763-588-0030) to RSVP and for directions.

# Events & Announcements

**UU Action for Peace! Peace March and Rally**  
Saturday, September 15, 1:00 p.m.

**State Capitol, St. Paul**

Join UUs from across the metro area and state—our goal is at least 500 Unitarian Universalists

at the peace rally! Bring your congregation's banner! September 15 is a national day of action for peace—let's make our local march and rally a big success! Gather at the Capitol at 1:00 p.m.; 1:30 p.m. march to the Xcel Center, then return to the Capitol for a closing rally. FFI: please contact Jenny

Thomas of First Universalist, [jjthomas@skypoint.com](mailto:jjthomas@skypoint.com) or Sarah Martin of White Bear UUC, IPAC, Twin Cities Peace Campaign and WAMM at [scsrn@yahoo.com](mailto:scsrn@yahoo.com).

This peace march and rally is cosponsored by Pathways to Peace of First Universalist Church of Minneapolis and organized by IPAC (Iraq Peace Action Coalition).



## UN International Day of Peace—September 21

The UN General Assembly unanimously declared September 21, annually, to be the UN International Day of Peace, a day of global cease fire and nonviolence, asking all people to commemorate it in an appropriate manner. To honor it can be as simple as wishing someone a “Happy Peace Day,” doing a kind deed or briefly discussing it with your family. For further Peace Day suggestions: <http://www.peaceday.org>. Click on “Make a Commitment” and then click on “I Need Some Inspiration.”



## “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](mailto:ldhanson@comcast.net)

# Events & Announcements

## The Kurt Pearson Social Concerns Grants

Applications Needed by September 30, 2007

The Foundation of the First Unitarian Society invites you to submit an application to nominate a group or organization to receive a grant from the Kurt Pearson Social Concerns Fund. If you know of a group or organization that you think would be a worthy recipient of a grant, please pick up an application today and complete it as soon as possible. Applications, additional information about the grants, and a 15-year history of grant recipients are available online, in the FUS office and on the Foundation bulletin board in the Lower Assembly Hall at FUS.

Your applications for grant requests can be submitted online at <http://firstunitariansociety.org/foundation/pearson-application.htm>, dropped off at the office, or mailed to FUS (attention: Shelley Shreffler, Foundation President, 900 Mount Curve Ave., Minneapolis, MN 55403). Applications to nominate a group for the grants must be received by September 30 to be considered for the 2007 awards. The Grant Committee meets in early October to consider nominations.

This Fund was established as a part of the FUS Foundation in 1992 in loving memory of Kurt Pearson. A lifelong Unitarian and member of FUS, with an active social conscience, Kurt's life was cut short by AIDS. He died on August 13, 1991 at the age of 29. Grants are made each year in October near Kurt's birthday.



## September Art Exhibit in FUS Foyer Gallery

Arlene Breckenridge's nature photography will be on display at the First Unitarian Society Foyer Gallery September 9 – October 14. A retired high school principal, she travels with a Canon EOS digital Rebel and Tamron 28-300 mm. lens. Her photo greeting cards and enlargements have for years been treasured gifts for friends and family, and she has responded to requests for home and group portraits. She has exhibited at Dunn Brothers, and now at FUS, where she raised her son, and is a cochair of the Alliance.



## FUS Staff

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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

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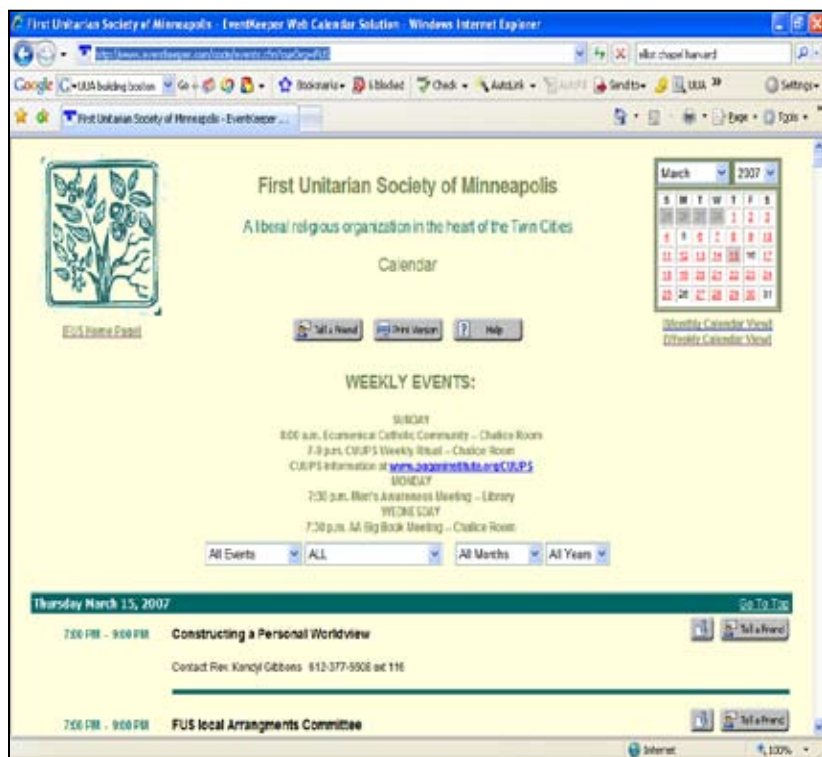
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**DATED MATERIAL  
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## September 2007



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.

