



THE FIRST Unitarian

VOL. 91, SEPTEMBER 2009 • THE FIRST UNITARIAN SOCIETY OF MINNEAPOLIS

From the Minister

Building community is one of the most rewarding enterprises of being human, but it doesn't happen automatically. Perhaps there was once a time when the great majority of people were born into communities—small towns, clans, tribes, castes, ethnic enclaves, estates—where they simply had to work with and depend on a defined group of others in order to survive and move through life. In such a situation, you learn to accommodate the personalities of others, even the odd and cranky, and everyone knows your business, for there is little privacy and secrets are few. The community thrives or suffers together from natural events or history—floods, plagues, wars, crop failures, oppression—everyone is affected. In such a situation, the challenge is for people who must live and function together to learn to appreciate each other, and to define themselves as individuals. Twenty-first century culture confronts us with the opposite challenge. Our society is so full of choices, mobility, and personal freedom that there are almost no necessary relationships. Even family, beyond the most immediate, may be thousands of miles away. If we want the intimacy and support of community, we have to build it intentionally.

Religious communities have taken on some of this function, at least here in the U.S. But just because people share theological convictions doesn't automatically make them friends. Nor are we provided with many opportunities for learning the skills of community building. Too often we join a group with the vague hope that intimacy and support will somehow drop out of the sky, and when they don't we suppose that there was something inadequate about the group. The truth is that community doesn't just "happen"; it has to be built, and that takes intention and investment and a certain set of skills. More and more congregations, of various different faith traditions, are seeing part of their role in members' lives as providing opportunities for the development and practice of community-building skills. These include the ability to share deeply what is most important in our own lives, and the ability to listen compassionately to others without trying to fix them or solve their problems. Knowing and being known, in some of our flaws and our complexities as well as our competencies, is a big first step toward the development of community.

continued on page 4

Religion that stands to reason

- Real life
- Real choices
- Real connections

CONTENTS

From the Minister	1 & 4
Forum & Assembly Previews...	2-3
Opportunities for Community	5
Discovery Groups.....	6
Enhancing Sundays.....	6
Religious Education.....	7
Membership.....	8
Music Notes.....	8
Social Action.....	9
Stewardship Corner.....	10
Announcements.....	11

Order of Service announcements are due by noon on

Wed. of each week. Please
email your submission(s) to:
info@firstunitariansociety.org

Newsletter submissions are
due by the **7th** of each month
and should be sent to:
[newsletter@
firstunitariansociety.org](mailto:newsletter@firstunitariansociety.org)

Forum and Assembly Previews

◆9/6/09 “All My Relatives”

Speaker: Dana Reynolds, Summer Minister

This will be our Unitarian Universalist way of sharing our solidarity, as “two-legged” animals, with our “four-legged” kin, as Native peoples might say. Yes, you may bring your domesticated pets (not all pets are domesticated), under your control, to this service.



This will be the last assembly held at 10:30 a.m. in the Lower Assembly Hall for the year.

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

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

■9/13/09 FORUM: “The New Year at FUS”

Presenters: FUS Staff

Come meet Mary Bohman, our new intern, and celebrate the return of the rest of our dedicated staff. Hear about new programs and old favorites as we launch into the upcoming season.

◆9/13/09 ASSEMBLY: “Ingathering Service for All Ages: Water Sharing”

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Kendyl Gibbons

In a world of uncertainties, forms are continually changing, but the basic building blocks of life remain the same. Earth and air, fire and water, are in constant motion and transformation. Sometimes we experience these dynamics as creative, and sometimes as destructive. How do we live in balance, and find a place of serenity in the midst of history’s chaos and our own tumbling days? Please remember to bring the water that holds your special summer memories to add to our fountain.

Ingathering Sunday



September 13



Forum and Assembly Previews

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

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

■ **9/20/09 FORUM:** “The Rocky Road to Peace: Israel, the Palestinians, the U.S. and the U.N.”

Presenter: Florence Steichen

Florence will summarize some of the significant events, proposals, and agreements and why they have not resulted in a peace accord. There will be time for questions and discussion. Florence Steichen lived in Bethlehem 1987-1993 while she served as Registrar of Bethlehem University in Palestine. She found these years living among the Palestinians and sharing their hardships challenging and mind expanding. She has returned five times since to lead groups and for other events.

In November, 2008 she participated in the 7th International Sabeel Conference, “Remembering the Nakba,” held in Nazareth and Jerusalem. Florence is the President of Middle East Peace Now and active in the Middle East Committee of Women Against Military Madness (WAMM).



◆ **9/20/09 ASSEMBLY:** “It Stands to Reason: Peace”
Speaker: Rev. Dr. Kendyl Gibbons

It is said that the first requirement of reason is peace; how can human beings use our rational faculties to solve problems and improve the quality of life until we cease destroying each other in the chaos of war? The poets invite us to count to twelve and be still; the United Nations invites people and armies everywhere to a twenty-four hour cease-fire—a little window of peace, to show that it can be done. What would it mean to us as humanists to dedicate ourselves to one day of living the conscious intention of

peace? What would it mean to the world? This Assembly will be followed by Sign Up Sunday at the social hour, and by the Ceremony of Grieving and Healing.

■ **9/27/09 FORUM:** “Movie Chat: TBA”

Discussion Leader: Sue Tincher

Join us in the Dietrich Room for a discussion about a movie. An announcement about what film is chosen for discussion should appear soon in an upcoming edition of *The Unitarian FLASH*, on the FUS website: www.firstunitarian.society.org, and/or in a weekly Order of Service.



◆ **9/27/09 ASSEMBLY:** “Autumnal Equinox Celebration”



**Assembly and Luncheon,
Coordinators: The Seasonal
Celebrations Team**

We will celebrate autumn’s beauty and abundance and highlight the achievements of the FUS Green Team with music, poetry, and reflections, and share the bounty of the harvest season with a collection of nonperishable food for local food shelves.

From the Minister

continued from page 1



Like many other congregations, FUS has created an intentional program of small group ministry that we call Discovery Groups. The purpose of these small groups is to enable our

members to come together and discover something about a topic, something about each other, and something about the intentional creation of community. Most such groups have a life cycle, in which they come together, explore for a while, and then disband; this is normal. Occasionally, a group continues for a long time, and that's fine, but over time it becomes more and more difficult for anyone new to enter that circle.

This fall we will be offering a new array of Discovery Groups, with a pre-set time frame. These groups will run from late September through the end of January. Then these groups will intentionally disband, and a new series of groups will be formed for the spring. This structure will help participants to practice creating relationships and then letting them become part of the larger context of FUS. Learning to end well is as important as learning to connect well at the beginning.

If part of your reason for being a member of FUS is to find community, I urge you to choose a Discovery Group that piques your interest, or that fits your schedule. See page 6 of this newsletter for a preliminary listing of topics, leaders, and times for this fall. A complete list will be available at the beginning of September, and the last opportunity to register will be on Sign Up Sunday, September 20. The groups will start meeting the following week.

Community doesn't just fall out of the sky; if we want it, we have to build it. Being part of that process is one of the most fulfilling experiences you can ever have.

Kendyl Gibbons, Senior Minister

FUS Staff

Senior Minister: **Rev. Dr. Kendyl Gibbons**, ext. 116
Minister@firstunitariansociety.org
Minister Emeritus: **Khoren Arisian**
Ministerial Intern: **Mary Bohman**, ext. 107
Intern@firstunitariansociety.org
Director of Religious Education: **Jan Devor**, ext. 108
DRE@firstunitariansociety.org
Music Director: **Barbara Brooks**, ext. 106
Chorus@firstunitariansociety.org
Membership Coordinator: **Teresa West**, ext. 104
Membership@firstunitariansociety.org
Social Justice Coordinator: **Carol Koepp**, ext. 103
SAC@firstunitariansociety.org
Congregational Administrator: **Will Hegeman**, ext. 101
Office@firstunitariansociety.org
Publications Coordinator: **Morgan Rock**, ext. 111
Newsletter@firstunitariansociety.org
Finance Director: **Bob Calgren**, ext. 112
Fin-adm@firstunitariansociety.org
Building Manager: **Caidin Riley**, ext. 105
Rooms@firstunitariansociety.org
Building Steward: **Cirilo Vail Hernandez**
Office Hours: Mon.–Fri. 9:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.;
Sunday, 9:00 a.m.–Noon



Opportunities for Community



The HARVEST MOON HURRAH is for YOU!

It's fun for everyone: adults, children and youth—and it is especially fun for families!

**FREE! Saturday,
September 26, 6:30–9:00 p.m.**

- 6:30 p.m. SOCIALIZING BEGINS! And new this year for kids: A HALLOWEEN COSTUME EXCHANGE!
- 7:00–9:00 p.m. LIVE MUSIC AND DANCING, with Dave Leussler teaching and calling the steps! This will be simple and fun folk, line, and group dancing for everyone.
- YUMMY DESSERTS AND DELICIOUS DRINKS
- Participate in a SOCIAL SERVICE PROJECT (Watch the dancers, listen to live music, help people in need.)

The annual Harvest Moon Hurrah is supported by a grant from the Opportunity Challenge Grant and is sponsored by Religious Education and the Alliance!

Autumnal Equinox Celebration

Join the Celebration!

Sunday, September 27

Assembly: 10:30 a.m. & Luncheon: 11:45 a.m.

Suggested donation rates for lunch are: adults: \$7, youth 18 & under: \$3, however if cost is prohibitive for you, please be our guest.

Everyone please bring:

- Non-perishable food for local food shelves to share the bounty of the harvest season.
- Flowers or vegetables from your garden for a festive procession (if possible).
- A favorite apple dessert to share at the luncheon.



Can you help?

We need luncheon cooks, servers, setup, cleanup, and ticket sales. Please contact Audrey at akingstrom@comcast.net or sign up in the Lower Assembly Hall at Sunday social hour.

online at: www.firstunitariansociety.org/newsletter/main.html

Register for Retreat to the Woods!

The Retreat is coming October 9-11! We'll return



to the Baker Near-Wilderness Settlement, which has the benefit of having cabins, tenting sites, and a full dining hall. The Retreat is FUS's annual escape-to-nature weekend, where we enjoy time together in a natural

setting. We'll enjoy community meals, nature hikes, evening campfires, dancing, singing, a home-grown talent show, a Sunday morning service and a final lunch - all from just about a half-hour from home. Costs are very reasonable, but space constraints limit us to 80 people, so it pays to register early! Learn more and register at the "Ask Me Table" in the Lower Assembly Hall or on the FUS website: <http://www.firstunitariansociety.org/membership/retreat-2009.htm>.

Eat 'N Meet Fall Series

Eat 'N Meet Wednesday dinners (5:45 p.m.) and programs (7:00 p.m.) will be held September 30–November 18. The programs are free and open to all. A vegetarian option is served at each dinner. Childcare is provided free on site. The suggested donation for each dinner will remain the same as last year, however, if cost is prohibitive for you, please be our guest. In an effort to plan dinners more effectively, economically, and conveniently, pre-paid "subscriptions" for the entire series of eight dinners will be offered. For more information and to purchase your subscription, visit the "Ask Me Table" in the Lower Assembly Hall.



Discovery Groups

Enhancing Sundays

Ongoing Discovery Groups

Current Events

This ongoing group meets regularly at the Lake Street Dunn Brothers coffee shop on the first and third Fridays of each month at 6:00 p.m. and is led by Polly Peterson.



Passion thru Crafts

This ongoing group meets regularly in the Dietrich Room at FUS on the second and fourth Fridays of each month at 7:00 p.m. and is led by Lynn Borden.



Fall 2009 Discovery Groups

continuing through
January 2010

Spiritual Maturity

This group will meet on alternate Fridays in the Minister's Office at 7:00 p.m. and will be led by The Rev. Dr. Kendyl Gibbons.

Heart to Heart

This group will meet in the Sir Isaac Newton Room on the second and fourth Fridays of each month at 7:00 p.m. and will be led by Gary Blegsted.

Making A Difference

This group will meet in the Sir Isaac Newton Room on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at 6:30 p.m. and will be led by Sheila Callander.

Growth thru Travel

This group will meet on the first and third Mondays of the month at 7:00 p.m. and will be led by Wanda McCaa and Scott Eller. The location is yet to be decided.



Fresh flowers enhance the Sunday morning experience for all of us and are a lovely way to honor a loved one, a special day, an event, or a remembrance. Flowers that appear in the Assembly Hall and on the greeters' tables are sponsored by FUS members and friends. If you would like to sponsor flowers, please complete a Flower Sponsorship form, available in the FUS office and on the website.

Your sponsorship will be noted in the order of service along with words about who or what is remembered by the flowers. Because of the size of flowers needed in our large-scale Upper Assembly Hall, the minimum donation for assembly flowers has been \$75, with most sponsors offering \$100–120 per Sunday. However, there is now an opportunity to share the sponsorship of Sunday Assembly flowers with another sponsor, so that the minimum donation will be \$40. Further, the FUS Bookstore has offered to cosponsor flowers for ten Sundays beginning in September.



Another opportunity to honor a loved one, a special day, an event, a remembrance, or call attention to an idea, is to sponsor refreshments for social hour after Sunday service. Your name and message will be posted on a sign at the refreshments table and it will appear in the order of service. For \$35 you can sponsor cookies and for \$40 you can sponsor cakes. Refreshment and Cake Sponsorship forms are available in the office and on the FUS website.

Flowers and refreshments during the Sunday morning experience honors tradition, and they can make us feel that our gatherings together are worthy of beauty and enjoyment. Certainly we can experience beauty and joy together without these offerings, but their presence does provide a tangible sign of our efforts to show hospitality to visitors, friends and members alike. The sponsorship of flowers or refreshments is a gift given to, and appreciated by, the entire FUS community.

Religious Education

Sunday School Begins September 20!

Be sure that your children are registered and on the class lists for this year!



Summer time... book time. And one that I read this summer had the title *The Things We Keep*. It was really a story about a divorce and how the children's memory of the things that happened were not the reality of the situation. A good story, but the best thing for me was the title. It got me to thinking about all of the different experiences we have in our lives and then the things we, individually, decide to keep. Why? Why do we keep certain memories and not others?

It all has to do with the emotions, feelings that we experience around events. Good or bad, they seem to stick. The mediocre events don't stay. The mundane, the mid-level, the "neither here nor there" don't stick with us, it seems to me. I thought about this in relation to my own life. And there is one experience that I wanted to share with you.

That experience was around going to church. I was raised Presbyterian in a small town in Michigan and had a swell time until, as I have said many times, the horrible way that the church and the theology supported me at the time of my mother's death when I was 16 sent me heading for the secular hills, not to darken the doorway of a church for over 17 years.

But here I am... back in church. Why? Why did I seek out going back to church? It was, like many, my having children that got me thinking... and feeling. I missed the church, but not the dogma. I found the Unitarian Universalist church's lack of dogma and the support of questioning satisfying intellectually, but that really wasn't the heart of my longing for church.

It was the sense of community that I missed. It was wanting a place for my children to grow up where they had a warm feeling like I had experienced. A place where people would know their names and watch and follow them as they grew up, people who would share with them their support and love and where Cory and I could teach Sunday School like my mother did and be on committees like my Dad and make my children understand our commitment to certain principles and take pride in our activities. They could see us in action up close and personal and know us better. It was wanting a community where they felt like they owned the building... church was "mine" in my childhood eyes. I could not get lost there, was safe there, and even knew some hidden passage ways. I wanted for my children all of the warm, good feelings that I had in my church community—minus the dogma. Thank god for Unitarian Universalism. My children grew up with all of the positives of church without the negatives. They gained a community, and Cory and I gained support; we showed our children what was important to us. I still see an image of Ross, wrapped up in the quilt that was given to him from the Crafts Group when he was sick, and weep with appreciation at him being wrapped up warm and safe in a symbol of our community.

Don't you want all of this for your children? It is here waiting for you! Come! Be a regular attendee so that your children gain the familiarity with people and place that make FUS feel safe and "theirs." Instill in them, just by the simple of act of making Unitarian Universalism a priority, what your values are. Build a liberal theological support system for them... and for you. Make this church and this religion a thing they keep.

Ingathering Sunday— September 13

Children (kindergarten and up) and youth will be in service, during which, Kindergartners, 6/7 graders, and the high school youth group will be recognized.

Jan Devor, Director of Religious Education

Membership

Raise funds—Host a soup lunch!

There are still slots available for groups and committees to host a soup lunch this year. Less than 10 volunteers are needed for each dinner and your committee can easily raise money from this popular after service event. Contact Teresa West to claim a slot.

September Birthdays

Happy Birthday to the following people!

Wendy Andberg
Marit Appeldoorn
Vince Barton
Phil Bremmer
Rory Cook
Mary Delvo
Phil Duran
Matt Frank
Jo Haberman
Bob Harding
Ruth Janisch Lake
Bev Johnson
Carol Koepp
Troy Linck
Deb Magnuson
Polly Marks



Anita Martinez
Gene Martinez
Connie Metcalf
Indira Nealy
Sue Okerstrom
Uttara Rasmussen
Helen Thompson
Brynan Thornton
Cray Thornton
Chris Traudt
Barbara Wallace
Don Wallace
Barbara Watts
Emmi Zheng

Eat 'N Meet Fall Series

The fall series of eight Eat 'N Meet Wednesday dinners and programs will be held September 30–November 18. The programs are free and open to all. A vegetarian option is served at each dinner. Childcare is provided free on site. The suggested donation for each dinner has been, and will remain: \$7 for adults, \$5 for children, with a maximum of \$15 per family. However, if cost is prohibitive for you, please be our guest.

In an effort to plan dinners more effectively and economically, and to provide more convenience for those who attend, the committee will offer pre-paid “subscription.” Subscriptions for the entire series of eight dinners will be: \$50 for adults, \$35 for children and \$100 for families. Note: If you find you cannot attend one of the dinners, you may give your dinner voucher to someone else. For more information and to purchase your subscription, visit the “Ask Me” table in the Lower Assembly Hall.

Music Notes

I hope you all are having a wonderful relaxing summer! As I'm writing this on the 6th of August, I'm feeling like we haven't had much of a summer as there have been virtually no really hot steamy days! I, at least want to want the fall!

Many more details will come later, but I would like to invite all of you music lovers to consider joining one of our music groups at the society.

- ♪ The FUS Chorus meets every Wednesday from 7:30 p.m.–9:30 p.m. in the Lower Assembly Hall. Our first rehearsal will be Wednesday, September 16.
- ♪ The FUS Community chorus meets the first and third Wednesdays of the month from 6:15 p.m.–7:15 p.m. in the Upper Assembly Hall. Rehearsals will begin on September 16.
- ♪ The FUS Orchestra meets on Sunday evenings from 7:00 p.m.–9:30 p.m. in the Upper Assembly Hall. We are in the process of screening applicants for the associate music director position and will be inviting a new person to conduct the orchestra this fall. We will be announcing this new person at an assembly in September. We'll keep you posted!

See you soon!

Barbara Brooks, Music Director



Memorial Event For Hank Wintermute

Please join the Wintermute family on Thursday evening, September 17 at 5:00 p.m. in the Upper Assembly Hall for a shared remembrance of former, long-time member Hank Wintermute, who died on June 26 in Phoenix, AZ. Refreshments to follow in the Dietrich room. It was Hank's wish that those who knew him and wanted to remember him could best do so by getting together for friendship and enjoyment.

Teresa West, Membership Coordinator

Social Action

September marks the beginning of the second year of FUS having a Social Justice Coordinator staff position. The position is for 10 hours a week during the program year. It's been an honor for me to start what, hopefully, will be a long and growing tradition in our congregation.

There are some big plans underway for the fall:

- ☪ FUS will have an online newsletter in addition to the *The Unitarian FLASH*. It is the SAC FLASH sponsored by the Social Action Committee and edited by the Social Justice Coordinator. It will be sent out on the first and third Fridays of each month.
- ☪ On September 20, we mark the International Day of Peace. See the forum schedule in another part of this newsletter for details.
- ☪ Our focus on immigration issues begins in October with help from local advocacy organizations. A national speaker, Aviva Chomsky, author of the

Beacon Press book, *They Take Our Jobs and Twenty Other Myths About Immigration* will speak on Saturday, October 24 at 7:00 p.m., followed by a social hour and book signing. The event will be free and open to the public. She will also be with us for the Book Chat on Sunday, October 25 at 9:30 a.m. You can purchase a copy of her book at the FUS Bookstore.

- ☪ November will be "Housing Month" in all of the Downtown Congregations to End Homelessness with special attention given to the issues surrounding homelessness on November 8. This will mark the kick-off to another year of giving attention to homelessness and other issues surrounding poverty. Thanks go to Peter d'Ascoli for his thoughtful writing (below) about the need for us to give attention to the roots of poverty.

Carol Koepp, Social Justice Coordinator

Poverty *elimination*—Are you kidding?

by Peter d'Ascoli

There is a story that resurfaces regularly regarding helping others. The story is one of a beachcomber walking along a beach scattered with stranded starfish. The starfish are thrown back one at a time. The futility of her efforts being pointed out brings the reply: "It makes a difference to that starfish." While there is some value to helping one starfish at a time, these efforts may not have enough significance to address the wider issues. The concern is: do we save the single starfish or can we avoid a large disaster in the first place? Can we change the social environment to one of prevention, rather than provide remedial action, of poverty?

The Commission to End Poverty in Minnesota by 2020 was initiated three years ago. This effort grew out of the lobbying efforts of the faith communities starting with the Lutheran Synod in St Paul. That group of community leaders has grown from an ecumenical movement into an independent nonprofit. A Minnesota Without Poverty (AMWOP) is now its own 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. (Maeker, July 20, 2009)

This past legislative session, even in the midst of a recession, some progress was made in the elimination of Poverty in Minnesota. Four bills that grew from the effort were introduced and received a hearing. While passage was not achieved, these bills have the potential for future deliberation and potential passage. As Gregory N. Gray, a previous Minnesota legislator, stated, "What I have seen is: persistence in this place is what pays off."

One piece of legislation was passed in this past session: the "Ban the Box" bill. Applications for public employment can not have a check box regarding a criminal record. The Legislative Commission recommended passing this legislation because it would "[o]pen doors to employment and full participation in community life to Minnesotans who have served their time and met their court-imposed obligations after committing a crime." Minnesota is the first state to adopt a statewide "Ban the Box" law. (Maeker, June 21, 2009)

As a community that understands the interconnected web of which we are all a part, we at the First Unitarian Society should stand with AMWOP. The elimination of poverty in Minnesota can be a central issue both in the upcoming gubernatorial race and in the legislature over the next five years. The time is ripe to press this major social shift forward.

See: A Minnesota Without Poverty on Facebook. Read the January 2009 Report by the Commission to End Poverty in Minnesota by 2020.



Stewardship Corner

Trustee Tidbit

The board is pleased announce that FUS had a modest surplus at the end of our fiscal year. We decided at the July meeting to allocate the surplus as follows: to pay \$4000 to the Prairie Star District, and \$2000 to the UUA toward our recommended denominational contributions, and the remainder of \$838 to the board building reserve fund. Thanks to the staff for their frugality, the stewardship committee for their persistence, and our members for their generosity.



To paraphrase Garrison Keillor's comment about quiet weeks at Lake Wobegon: "It has been a quiet summer in the world of Stewardship Corners". The good news is that we can now report on how the 2008-2009 budget year ended AND THE REPORT IS GOOD! The Society ended up with a surplus of \$6838 as a result of significant cost controls in the face of reduced pledge income.

How's that for happy news as we come off of the fine Summer Sunday Assembly Programs celebrated in the Lower Assembly Hall into the resumption of the fall season in the Upper Assembly Hall? We like it!

Here's one bit of fascinating trivia: PLEDGE INCOME FOR 2008-2009 WAS WITHIN \$100 OF PLEDGE INCOME IN 2007-2008. We did not reach the targeted 5% increase we had hoped to achieve before encountering the harsh reality of a recession we now know began in December of 2007, but we managed to maintain the previous year's level of pledge income. And we kept expenses under control.

Now we are heading into a new fiscal year (we're actually two months into it) and we can look back into a pleasant low (the coolest July in the last twenty years, temperature-wise) and an encouraging HIGH (the best July in the stock market in two decades).

What the rest of the year will bring is yet to be known, but we see reasons for optimism and hope you do too. And we can again say "THANKS" to all who have helped to keep the FUS STEWARDSHIP vessel on course during the hard seas of 2008-2009. And HERE'S TO the target of FINE TIMES IN 2009-2010!!

Your Stewardship Committee

The First Unitarian is published once a month. The deadline for submission of items is the 7th of the previous month. Items submitted may be edited for style, content, and to fit the space available. Submissions may be left in Morgan's mailbox in the FUS office, or made by mail, fax (612-377-2151) or email (preferred) to newsletter@firstunitariansociety.org.



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

Announcements

Green Sanctuary Update and Activities

September already! It was four years ago that we first began talking about becoming a Green Sanctuary and now, as of this writing, we're awaiting word on our accreditation from the UUA! We submitted our application for Green Sanctuary accreditation in July. With luck, we may be able to celebrate during the Fall Equinox celebration on September 27. Also this fall, we hope to test a few more types of insulating window coverings and finding a temporary solution until we get new windows. Like spiritual growth, becoming better environmental stewards is a never ending process. If you have green ideas, feel free to take them to the committee that most directly works in the area of your interest!



Composting at FUS

This fall watch for roll-out of our on-site composting effort. We plan to set up discreet bins off the patio that will be able to accommodate fruit and vegetable scraps from our soup luncheon preparations. There will be smaller counter-top containers to collect the material in the kitchen that can be easily transported and dumped into the compost. Only fruit and vegetable scraps (no meat, dairy, or oils) are allowed in the bins. Coffee grounds will be allowed on Soup Luncheon Sundays. Thanks to staff, soup luncheon stalwarts, Buildings & Grounds for your support of trying this out. We'll be looking for a few willing souls to turn it occasionally and empty it when it is "cooked."

Art in the Gallery

The Art Committee presents "Drift and Dwell," photographs by Ted Salzman, in the Foyer Gallery, starting September 13 and running through Sunday, October 11. The artist is hosting a reception for his show, open to members and friends of FUS, on Saturday, September 19, from 2:00–4:00 p.m. in the Foyer Gallery. Says Ted, "Drift and Dwell' stemmed from [a] notion of freedom from pre-defined ideas and expectations. [It] plays on the idea of wandering through life with a sense of curiosity and stopping to appreciate (and in my case photograph) whatever one finds interesting."

Pearson Memorial Awards

The FUS Foundation is pleased to announce that we are accepting grant applications for the Pearson Memorial Awards. These grants are awarded annually in honor of Kurt Pearson to worthy groups within FUS or the community that are dedicated to social concerns and causes. Applications can be found on the FUS website at <http://www.firstunitariansociety.org/foundation/kurt-pearson.htm> or upon request. Deadline for applications is September 30, and the awards will be announced on October 18. Please direct any questions or applications to Allan Callander at allancallander@live.com.

MUUSJA Walk

Walk for MUUSJA on Sunday, September 20. Celebrate the last day of summer with an afternoon fund raising walk to support MUUSJA's work building a UU moral voice for a just and sustainable world. Starts and ends at First Universalist Church, 3400 Dupont in Minneapolis. Walk to the beautiful Peace Garden, or around Lake Harriet. Light lunch will be served before step-off. Registration and Pledge Forms now online at <http://www.muusja.org/node/21>. Email Carol Johnson at cjkjohnson@peoplepc.com if you would like to volunteer with food, the registration table, or as a helper along the walk route.

Women's Awareness Group

The September meeting of the Women's Awareness Group will be held on Monday, September 14 at the home of Mibs Pearson. Jan Scofield is the cohost. FUS women are invited to join us at 6:30 p.m. for a potluck supper, followed by a discussion of books you recommend—especially those you have read this summer. We will also make plans for the coming year. Please call Mibs or Jan Scofield to RSVP and for directions.





The First Unitarian Society

OF MINNEAPOLIS

900 Mount Curve Avenue • Minneapolis, MN 55403-1124

612-377-6608 • Fax: 612-377-2151

www.firstunitariansociety.org • office@firstunitariansociety.org

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



September 2009



Board of Trustees

Beth Gohdes (Chair)

Adele Hansen (Vice Chair)

Martha Hardesty

Dan Hunt

Elizabeth Hutchinson

James Leighton

Bruce Nelson (Secretary)

Polly Peterson

JD Rickard

Mary Ann Lundquist (Treasurer)

September 13: Ingathering Sunday

September 20:

Sunday School begins

Sign up Sunday

UN/Peace Sunday

Ceremony for Grieving and Healing

September 26: Harvest Moon Hurrah

September 27:

Equinox Celebration

Soup Lunch

September 30:

Eat 'N Meets begin

Pearson Award Applications Due

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.