

FIRST UNIVERSALIST CHURCH
3400 DUPONT AVENUE SOUTH
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA 55408

THE
liberal

**April's Sermon Theme:
Success & Failure**

**Upcoming Sunday Services
At 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.**

April 4

"Beyond the Tomb"

Led by Rev. Justin Schroeder

April 11

"Everything Possible"

Led by Rev. Kate Tucker

April 18

"Bread of Course, but
Why Roses?"

Led by Rev. William F. Schulz

More information on page 10

April 25

Sharing Sunday

"The Body of God"

Led by Rev. Justin Schroeder

**May's Sermon Theme will be:
Friendship**

Words from Kate

"Your exact errors make a music
that nobody hears.

Your straying feet find the great
dance, walking alone.

And you live on a world where
stumbling always leads home."

— William Stafford

"Success and Failure" is the
spiritual theme we're exploring
together in April.

"What comes to your mind," I
asked my friend, "when I say
'success and failure'?"

"When I think 'success and
failure,'" she said, "I think 'ham
and cheese,' 'peanut butter and
jelly.'" She was saying success
and failure go together. They're
part of the same sandwich.

It's true, isn't it? When you call
one to mind, the other
automatically appears. Success
assumes the possibility of failure,
and vice versa. No one wins the
Olympic Gold unless someone else
gets no medal at all.

The words "success" and
"failure" are at home in
communities of commerce and
competition. In a community of
faith like ours, however—in a
community where our purpose is
to seek depth, connection, and
wholeness—where we say, "love

Easter Activities

April 4 – No Religious Ed.

Children ages 4- 4th grade will join
their families in worship for the first
half of the service, and then will be
led to the Social Hall for Easter
activities. 5th grade and up will stay
in the service for the entire hour.

is the spirit of this church and
service is its law"—we have to
ask: "Where do we get our
definition of success-and-failure?"

A wise colleague said, "Do we
get our definition of success-and-
failure from out there?" [pointing
to the wide world] or from in here
[pointing to his head], or from here
[pointing to his heart]? If it comes
from here [the heart], radical
things will happen."

Success and failure. As we live
our faith and reframe our lives in
its light, it may be that those
words become less relevant.

The Dean of the Quaker
seminary I attended used to drive
winding New England roads for
weeks at a time, visiting respected
Quaker men and women who
might help fund the seminary. He
was full of passion for his small
and revolutionary school. He'd
drive to tucked-away towns, sit
down with people he'd never met,
and ask for money. When he
pulled up in front of a home, he'd
pause for a moment, take a deep
breath, and remember his mantra:
"Faithfulness, not outcome.
Faithfulness, not outcome." For
him, success and failure weren't
the operant words. If success
meant anything, it meant doing
what you're called to do. It meant
showing up, honoring your host,
and speaking your heart's truth.

"Faithfulness, not outcome." I like
that. It means we can all get the
gold.

May it be so,

Kate

April 1-30, 2010
ISSUE NO. 10

Leadership Spotlight

More Questions But Asked Differently

By Kathy Coskran, Trustee
& Barry Johnson, President

A Congregational Survey

The information we've collected regarding the questions of the month has been very helpful (see more below), but we now need to ask your help with another more comprehensive opportunity to tell us how well the church is achieving its goals. Beginning on April 11 and lasting until May 2 we will conduct a congregational survey.

One of the trustees' main roles under policy governance is to monitor how well we are doing in achieving our goals. Since so many of those goals relate to our personal experiences of church life it seemed a survey would be the best way to get that information in a form that would be most comprehensive and allow for comparisons from year to year. The survey will ask some questions about our broad goals as well as ask about specific programs. It has been structured to also allow some comparison with the results of the Senior Minister Search Survey done last year. The trustees will use the results to help identify areas that need further investigation or follow up as part of future work plans.

We are asking that all members and friends of the church go to the church web site, www.firstuniv.org, between April 11 and May 2 and click on the link to the survey.

We are hoping most people will complete the survey online in order to make it easier to compile and analyze the results. Those who don't have internet access can pick up paper copies from the church office.

Completing this survey should only take a few minutes of your time and will be a great help to the trustees and staff as we attempt to move First Universalist into a future that reflects **all** our hopes for this church we love so much. Your help is much appreciated.

Question of the Month, Revisited

A month goes fast at First Universalist Church! Question of the month began as part of an ongoing effort of the board to be connected with the many groups and individuals that make up our congregation. The board has appreciated the many responses to the first two questions of the month and, frankly, is a bit overwhelmed by the response and how best to be responsive. We have learned a lot including that we need to let the congregation know what we have heard and that we need to give the staff and the board time to absorb and consider what you—as individuals and groups—are saying.

As we pondered what the question of the month for March would be, we realized that we needed to give ourselves time to process the responses we have received without raising expectations we can't meet by

asking a third question. Board members are continuing to visit groups in the church, posing the two questions, and, with staff, putting the wide variety of responses in the context of the goals of the church.

One of the challenges of this process has been finding ways to hear from a wide range of congregants. The strongest response has been on Cyber Coffee Hour—we received over 80 responses to each question from about 30 articulate, thoughtful people—but, in a congregation of over 800 members and many friends, that isn't broad enough. The same questions posted in the Liberal have each generated only one response.

So, for now, question of the month is suspended, although the board is continuing to visit groups. Question of the month is likely to come back in a new form—perhaps a quarterly question or a periodic question from the board—but staged to give board and staff time to absorb and consolidate what is learned into the overall work of the church.

Mission Statement

We join together at First Universalist Church in a welcoming, spiritual community that affirms our liberal religious heritage. Our ministry is to bring the Universalist message of love and hope to one another, to our children, and to the work of social justice.

The Welcome Table

Steps to Membership

(for anyone age 14 or older)

1. **What We're About**— overview of what UUs believe and what makes us different from other denominations. *Especially for visitors.* **April 18**, following each service (30-45 min.).
2. **Pathways to Membership**— potential members are expected to take this class before joining. Childcare is available at no cost, but please register early. Upcoming Pathways dates: Two Tuesdays, April 6 and 13 from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. OR Saturday, May 1, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. RSVP: sandy@firstuniv.org
3. **Application for Membership**— and the Board accepts you into the congregation.
4. **New Member Welcome Ceremony**—individuals and families are welcomed during a special ceremony. The next ceremony will be held May 23.
5. **Foundations of Our Faith**— a monthly class, with lunch, for new members. Childcare is available at no cost. See next article for more information.

Foundations of Our Faith

New members are invited to join the Foundations of Our Faith group for one year. This group meets monthly for lunch and topical conversation, meant to deepen your understanding of UUism and your membership at First Universalist.

You must sign up to participate in this class; please call Sandy in the church office, 612-825-1701 x125 or email, sandy@firstuniv.org. Childcare is available at no cost.

Dates and topics for 2010:

Conversation begins at 12:30 p.m.

April 11 Faith in Action &

Lifespan Faith Development

May 2 History of First Universalist Church

June – August Summer Break



Budget Hearings

You have a chance to review the budget for 2010-11 prior to the June 6 Annual Meeting. Budget Hearings will be held on Sunday, May 2 at 10:10 a.m. in the Sanctuary, and on Wednesday, May 12 at 7:00 p.m. in the Library. Please join us.

Grow. Act. Love.

By the time you read this, the pledge campaign will be over and we will hopefully be celebrating a successful campaign. As of this writing there is an overall 15% increase in pledges for 2010-11. The Pledge Team will be making phone calls in April to those households we haven't heard from yet. Thank you for your continued involvement and commitment to our great community!

Caring for Our Building

It takes all of us to care for our church building and grounds. If you notice something that needs attention: a damaged bench, a loose cupboard door, a crooked sign, a carpet stain, a weedy flower bed... PLEASE take a moment to fill out a "Caring for Our Building" form. The blue forms are available in the Welcome Center and on Chrystal Teachout's desk in the main office. Please return completed forms to the office for Chrystal.

Youth Fundraiser for Boston

Do you need someone to move your heavy boxes? Help you sort through home office papers? The Senior High youth are here to help! In order to fundraise for their Boston pilgrimage trip this spring, our 10th-12th graders are offering to help First Universalist congregants with chores. Contact our youth organizer, McKensy Lancette, at (763) 569-9886 and she will recruit youth for the job.

What's That Hanging in the Atrium?

By Kristen Mengelkoch

If you haven't been here lately you may be wondering where the new art work came from.

The Visual Arts committee was seeking ways to make the atrium a bit softer and more welcoming, and was considering adding banners. Bette DeMars asked me to help because of my design background. I designed the piece, with significant input from Steve Oakley.

After visiting Banner Creations in Minneapolis, the committee was excited by the broad range of things they could fabricate, and so I was inspired to design this sculpture with a flaming chalice motif.

The image of fire seemed so well-suited to the soaring space, and the fire within us and among us seemed like a great metaphor for this traffic area where we move between other spaces. I selected intense colors to enliven the rather stark space and to complement the painting on the stairway nearby. The lightweight translucent nature of fabric takes advantage of this sky-lit space to add movement and transparency to the flames.

I sincerely hope this adds to your experience here at church and that it inspires our visitors, as well.

The sculpture was unveiled on Sunday, March 28.

Child Dedications April 4

On Easter Sunday, we celebrate the miracle and promise of all new life. Our next Child Dedication Ceremony will take place on April 4, during the 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. services. Child dedications are open to children of all ages whose parents are members or on the path to membership at First Universalist. To sign up, please contact Heidi Mastrud, Director of Congregational Life, or fill out a child dedication form (available online at: firstuniv.org/files/ChildDedicationForm.pdf and return it to the church office no later than March 28.

Last Chance to Become a Member this church year!

There are only two Pathways to Membership classes left before the end of the church year in May. If you're interested in becoming a member before summer, sign up for the required class by calling the church office. More information is available in the "Welcome Table" section of the Liberal.



Prairie Star District Conference

If you are planning on attending the PSD annual conference the weekend of April 23-25 in Davenport, Iowa, and would like to be considered as a delegate of First Universalist Church, please contact Heidi Mastrud no later than April 15, 2010. heidi@firstuniv.org or x124

Church Directory is Online!

The church directory is now available on the church website. It is password protected and only contains the contact information normally provided in our printed church directories. To get the password to this resource, contact Kevin Watson in the church office: kevin@firstuniv.org or 612.825.1701 x110. Only church members and staff will be given the password. The online directory will be updated monthly and the password will be changed from time to time to help ensure security.

General Assembly is in Minneapolis! June 23-27

Don't miss the opportunity of a lifetime! Join friends from First Universalist as well as thousands of Unitarian Universalists from across the continent for the 2010 General Assembly (GA) in Minneapolis.

You'll experience wonderful and uplifting worship services led by some of our best worship leaders, with glorious music and inspiring messages. Worshipping together with thousands of fellow UUs at our Sunday Worship Service is an experience that should not be missed.

General Assembly is the way that our faith does business. Actions of social witness are passed at GA, elements that make up future policies are discussed, and YOU have a voice in the discussion.

You'll hear terrific speakers. There will be hundreds of entertaining programs and informative workshops, offering excellent support and learning for leaders in our congregations. You'll be able to join the witness for our faith and values, in moving and exciting ways.

Registration is now open. If you are interested in finding out more, need help becoming a delegate, or would like to be included on the list of those who are planning on attending, please contact Heidi Mastrud, Director of Congregational Life, heidi@firstuniv.org or x124.

To become a delegate, please go to: www.amrsurvey.com/nc10 and choose "Apply to be a Delegate at General Assembly."

Art Exhibits:

Works from Alsadu ("Moving Forward" in Kuwaiti dialect)

Items in this exhibit will be on display until April 4. *Works from Alsadu*, or "Moving Forward," in Kuwaiti dialect, are from Alsadu Inc., a member of the Fair Trade Federation. Each piece is hand-picked and has its own story. For more information visit: www.alsadu.com.

Youth Cultural Exchange Photo Project on Display

A unique aspect of the last round of the Youth Cultural Exchange was a Photo Project the youth undertook under the guidance of photographer Hillary DeParde. In the summer of 2008, eight First Universalist youth, ages 13 -16, traveled to Leon, Nicaragua, to live with host families for two weeks. During July, 2009, their host siblings traveled to the Twin Cities to complete the exchange. Disposable cameras were used by each American and Nicaraguan youth to document their experiences as both a host and a visitor. Many of their black and white and color images will be on **display in the Social Hall from April 18 until May 30**. These images create a visual forum that highlights the possibilities of communication between young people through a cross cultural exchange and the medium of photography. We invite you to stop by to see the photos and visit with the participants/photographers at a reception on Sunday, April 18, after both services.

A graphic with a dark background and light-colored text. The text reads "Lifespan Faith Development".

Lifespan Faith Development

*UU Identity, Ethical
Development, and Spiritual
Practice for All Ages*

Get Ready for the Youth Art Show: Collage! Textile! Sketch! Sculpture! Painting!

Young artists are invited to submit a piece of art that shows what you love about the church and represents your spiritual side! Children and teens will be judged in four age categories: pre-K-2nd Grade, 3rd-6th Grade, 7th-9th Grade, and 10th-12th Grade. A panel of First Universalist adult judges will award prizes to the winners. Art must be delivered to the church May 16-23. The show runs June 12-September 5, with an artist's reception on opening day. Create your art at home or school or work on it on the same day as other church friends, April 11, at 10:15 a.m. in the Chalice Room. We'll start promptly! Jane Johnson will lead children in creating a piece from mixed media. Parents should accompany children under 10. Bring a paint shirt or clothes that can get messy, and ideas about how you'd show the adults what you love about church. Questions? Call/email Heidi in the church office: x124 / heidi@firstuniv.org.

Sharing Sunday Change

April's Sharing Sunday, which was originally scheduled for April 18, has moved to April 25. All children and youth, ages 4 and up, are invited to worship with their families in the Sanctuary for the first 20 minutes of the service.

Do You Feel Like Singing?

The Children's Choir invites singers of all ages to join them in performing at the Flower Communion Service on May 23, 2010. The Intergenerational Choir starts rehearsing on Sunday, April 11, in the Cummins Room from 10:10 -10:45 a.m. Music reading ability is not required. We need teens, adults, seniors, and children to add their voices and celebrate through the joy of singing! Questions? Contact Maureen Hunt, hunt.maureen@gmail.com.

SAVE THE DATE:

Religious Education Program
Registration/Volunteer Sign-Up
Meetings are Scheduled!

It is an exciting season at First Universalist Church! Opportunities to enroll children for the 2010-2011 church year are planned before the summer arrives! On the following dates we are holding **new, required meetings** at a variety of times:

- **Saturday, May 1**
1:30-3:00 p.m.
- **Wednesday, May 5**
7:00-8:30 p.m.
- **Thursday, May 13**
6:30-8:00 p.m.
- **Sunday, May 23**
11:30-1:00 p.m.

Light snacks will be provided at all sessions, but you may want to bring a bag lunch to the Sunday session if that is when you attend. Childcare will be available, but you must contact Lily, Program Assistant, at 612-825-1701, x107 at least one week in advance.

New this year, we are requiring that you attend one session to enroll your children (session content is identical). Enrollment will be capped for classes starting September 2010. Keeping class size within recommended ratios will help ensure your child has the best learning environment possible. Enrollment priority will be given to members who teach Religious Education.

This is the only way you can guarantee a place for your child in Religious Education for 2010-2011, so please be sure to mark your calendars *now!* Questions? Call Marsha Partington (612) 825-1701, x111, or email her at marsha@firstuniv.org.

Children's Program (ages 0 – 6th Grade)

Second Graders Raise Money for Haiti and Chile!

The generosity of our congregation and the enthusiastic interest of our second graders resulted in over \$300 in donations for relief efforts in Haiti and Chile. On Sunday, March 7, 2nd graders heard a story about a greedy King who lived in great comfort while his people went without food. The challenge presented to the children after the story, was to think of people who needed help and devise a way of meeting that need.

After lively discussion, the 9:00 class decided to *Walk for Haiti*. They sought donations from congregants in the Social Hall, and participated in their March 14 walk. A parent/teacher of a child in the class, Pam Berry said: "I am grateful that my son has had the opportunity to participate in this process; to learn about an issue, think about what he might do about it, and work with others to create an implementation plan to really make a difference."

In the 11:00 a.m. class, after hearing the same story, a child suggested the class clean up our church and earn money in that way. Their idea evolved, and they asked for sponsors during coffee hour, creating a plan to seek out the dust bunnies and clean the building. Not only will our church be cleaner, but earthquake victims will be supported and our children will be living their values. Thank you to 2nd grade teachers *Pam Berry, Karen Johnson, Ann Holmboe, Alan Torborg, and Molly Wieland* and to our congregation for supporting this project!

Youth Program (for Grades 7-12)

Two New Groups

"As children grow and transition to different roles in society, the job of parenting does not lessen, but it does change..." **Parents of Coming of Age Youth** are invited to participate in a special small group ministry offering this spring. Katie Heaton is going to facilitate. The group will meet four times on Wednesday nights from 6:30-8:00 p.m. and provide a space for parents to share hopes, dreams, and reflections about parenting their children as they the move through the Coming of Age process at First Universalist. We'll meet on: April 7, 14, 21 and 28. If you want to join that group, please note the following: The maximum enrollment is 10 people and is first come, first served. The enrollment deadline is Sunday, April 4. Please contact Katie Heaton by email at katie@firstuniv.org, or by phone at 612-825-1701 x109. There is no cost, but we do ask all members to be present at all four sessions so that the group can bond properly. We hope you can make it!

On Thursday, April 15 we're starting a **small group for graduating seniors**. We'll meet for dinner and conversation to talk about the spiritual issues these seniors are facing right now, or will be facing upon graduation. We'll meet four times, with Katie Heaton and Heidi Mastrud facilitating. This is only for high school seniors affiliated with First Universalist, and it's open to all who want to attend. The group meets from 6:30-8:00 p.m. in the Arches. We'll meet on April 15, 22, 29 and May 6. If you want to join that group, please note the

following: **You must RSVP to us by Sunday, April 4.** Contact us by email at katie@firstuniv.org, by phone at 612-825-1701 x109, or message Katie Heaton on Facebook. Also, the group will cost \$25 (as always, this can be waived upon request) to help off-set the cost of the food and we do ask you to be present at all four sessions so we can gel properly.

Young Adults (ages 18-35ish)

District-wide Young Adult Conference

Come connect, communicate, organize, and have some fun with UU young adults (18-35) from all across the Prairie Star District at Continuity Conference, April 23-25. Find the registration form at:

www.psdoua.org/uuyan

Questions? Contact Morgan L'Argent at morgan@mac.com

Adult Faith Development Opportunities

Information about our Adult Faith Development Opportunity: "Foundations of Our Faith" can be found under The Welcome Table section of this issue of *the Liberal*.

Mostly Silence

On 1st and 3rd Thursdays through May you're welcome to join Rev. Kate Tucker and fellow church members for a quiet break from routine. From 5:00-6:15 p.m., we'll meet in the Chancel Room. After some brief words, we'll meditate together through seated silence, walking meditation, and simple chanting. It will be a restful and centering time, and all the sweeter for being shared. No sign-up required.

Introduction to Chi-Gung

You are invited to join our Chi-Gung Group, 11th year at First Universalist, for Health, Fellowship, and Peace of Mind.

Upcoming Sessions: Each Wednesday (last session will be April 21), from 10:00-11:30 a.m., Narthex (upstairs, outside the Sanctuary). **Visitors welcome!** \$5.00 Suggested donation to First Universalist per class.

Chi-Gung is a centuries-old form of meditative exercise, originating in China, which helps people increase self-awareness, build internal energy, and develop a healthy, flexible body physically and spiritually. Chi-Gung techniques include sustained breathing, body postures, focusing the mind, and vowel sounds. Pat Gottschalk will lead you through warming-up, stretching, centering, and filling with energy and affirmation. You may stand or sit as needed, so the class is suitable for people with physical limitations.

Come as you are—stiff, limber, happy, sad, clumsy, or nimble.

Coming of Age for Adults: Exploring Your Beliefs

On Wednesday, May 19, the 9th graders who participate in the Coming of Age program will share their spiritual statements. Anyone who's ever attended this celebration knows the depth of their response to questions around religion and spirituality. Invariably, adults protest that they never had a chance to participate in Coming of Age. Well, here's your chance!

Based on last year's successful launch, we're offering a new opportunity for adults to prepare and present their own belief

statements to the community. Join Heidi Mastrud, Sara Smalley and Steven Mosborg as we explore the following questions: What is the nature of God? What is the nature of humans? How is the sacred present in us? What happens after death? What is the nature of evil? Why do we gather in religious community?

This class will be meaningful for anyone - new member, or seasoned UU.

Group meets 7-9 p.m. on Wednesdays, April 14-May 12. We'll present our statements to congregants, family, and friends on May 26 at 7:00 p.m. All are invited to hear what our deep-thinking adults have to say.

If you are interested in signing up and can commit to coming to the sessions, as well as spending some time writing and reflecting outside of class, please contact: Heidi Mastrud, Director of Congregational Life at heidi@firstuniv.org or x124. Sign up soon, this class is sure to fill quickly!



40th Earth Day Celebration

**April 25 in the Social Hall
after each service**

*Presented by EcoMinds & the
Green Sanctuary Committee*

See LIVE animals; learn more about our green initiatives including: recycling, ethical eating, worship and spirituality, and political action; sing earth songs with Rise Up Singing; learn about 40 years of successes and turning points in sustainable earth initiatives.

Consider this:

40 years ago there were only 400 nesting pairs of bald eagles in the lower 48. Today's estimate is 9800 nesting pairs, with Minnesota in the lead at 1300.

Green Sanctuary Certification

First Universalist has applied to be a UUA Green Sanctuary. We can be proud of our progress even without certification! First Universalist is already admired for its earth stewardship initiatives. The Green Sanctuary program lifts us even higher.

B'earth'day Cake

In honor of 150 years of this congregation's devotion to our Seventh Principle, translating our UU values into action, the 150th Committee offers you a piece of Earth Day B'earth'day cake. Enjoy!

Want to join EcoMinds, lend a hand on Earth Day, or help with Green Sanctuary initiatives?

Contact:

Bob Friedman rmarcf@usfamily.net

Chris Burda cburda@q.com

Cecelia Newton

newton.cecilia@gmail.com

Or call the church office 612-825.1701 x106.

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, and RE-GIFT

The Re-Gifting Sale will be held on Sunday, April 18. Bring your new or indistinguishable from new items to the Chalice Room before you go to church. Receive a tax donation. Come back after the service to purchase a gift for yourself or someone else. All donated items should be worth between \$10 and \$25.

Make space in your house, give others the opportunity for bargains, buy things you need, and support social justice all at the same time. Proceeds will be shared by Youth Cultural Exchange, Latin American Concerns, Simpson Shelter and Eco-Minds.



Unitarian Universalist Service Committee

Guest at Your Table 2008-2009 Special Recognition

Presented to
**First Universalist Church
Minneapolis, Minnesota**

*in honor of exceptionally generous congregational support through the
Guest at Your Table program.*

Charlie Clements
President and CEO

[Signature]
Chair, Board of Trustees

5522

Congratulations to First

Universalist Church for receiving special recognition for our congregational support of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee in '08-'09. We are well on our way to being recognized for being especially generous again in '09-'10. To date, we have given more than \$30,000 to this outstanding organization. This includes the special collection for Haiti relief, totaling more than \$20,000.

The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) is an organization that advances human rights and social justice in the United States and around the world. They envision a world free from oppression and injustice, where all can realize their full human rights.

Thanks to First Universalist for your support of this important work. To find out more about UUSC, visit www.uusc.org.

MUUSJA Happenings

(Minnesota UU Social Justice Alliance)

MUUSJA Spring General Meeting

Featured Speaker: Dane Smith
Sunday, April 11, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.
Minnesota Valley UU Fellowship

Dane Smith describes himself as a *devout* Unitarian (“yes, that’s possible” he says) and is both an active member of Unity Church-Unitarian in St. Paul, and the President of Growth & Justice, a progressive economic think tank committed to making Minnesota’s economy simultaneously more prosperous, fair, and environmentally sustainable.

Also on the program is an update from MUUSJA key ally HIRE Minnesota. Our work with HIRE-MN is helping build opportunities for low income communities, women, and people of color in infrastructure jobs and the new green economy.

Join us for this afternoon exploring UU work for racial,

economic and social justice. Light lunch/snacks will be offered. We will also conduct a very short business meeting to elect up to 3 new board members and distribute our 2009 annual report.

Volunteer for Twin Cities Pride and General Assembly

MUUSJA is working with the office of Advocacy and Witness, the Standing on the Side of Love campaign, and area UU congregations to forge fabulous and engaging connections between General Assembly and Twin Cities Pride.

This will be a tremendous opportunity to wow 3,000 out of town UU guests with one of the very best Pride celebrations in the entire nation. For details or to volunteer, contact Ralph Wyman or attend our UUs Out 4 Marriage meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 7 at First Universalist.

“Photo ID” Bill Topic of Voting Rights Forum

April 20, 7:00 p.m. will be held at First Universalist in the Chalice Room. Proposed legislation would require even registered voters listed in the poll books to show a photo id. The effect is 10% of eligible and registered voters could be denied a ballot. Who are they? Come to the forum and learn who is behind the bogus issue that disenfranchises people and what needs to be done. For more information contact: Carol Johnson at 612-825-3322 cjkkjohnson@peoplepc.com or Jenny Thomas at jjt@jjthomas.net or 612-920-4246.

For more information about any of these happenings, visit www.muusja.org or contact Ralph Wyman ralph@muusja.org, at 612-998-6624.

A Weekend of Human Rights: Featuring Rev. Bill Schulz

The Sesquicentennial Steering Committee is delighted to offer three outstanding events the weekend of April 17-18, featuring the Rev. Bill Schulz, Senior Fellow at the Center for American Progress, and former Executive Director of Amnesty International. From 1985 to 1993, he served as President of the Unitarian Universalist Association.

Saturday, April 17- 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Bill will lead a workshop: "Could the Other Side Have a Point? Tackling Tough Issues of Public Ethics." The workshop will explore three questions of public ethics: Is it ever permissible to torture?; Is there any excuse for sweatshop labor?; and When is military intervention legitimate? Bill strongly suggests that participants complete some preliminary reading (approximately 60-90 minutes) prior to the workshop. Links to the articles will be available on the 150th website: www.firstuniv150.org (copies will also be available in the church office). Suggested cost of the workshop is \$10, to cover materials and light refreshments. Registration is required, as space is limited, and we need to plan for food. You can register in the Social Hall after services on March 28, April 4, and April 11, as well as online at www.firstuniv150.org.

Saturday evening at 7:00 p.m. Bill will deliver a lecture, "A Little More than a Year: Barack Obama and the Struggle for Human Rights." He will assess the Obama administration's human rights

record and will describe the critical challenges ahead. This event is co-sponsored by the Center for Victims of Torture and the Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights. There is no charge for the evening event, and no registration is needed.

Sunday, April 18, Bill will be the guest minister at both services. His sermon is titled "Bread of Course, but Why Roses?" The Sesquicentennial Committee will host a reception for Bill following both services. A few words from Bill about his sermon:

"We want bread but we want roses too!" the women on the picket line shouted as they struck a textile mill in Lawrence, MA, in 1912, and ever since the phrase "Bread and Roses" has come to symbolize the importance of something more than subsistence in the struggle for life. Having visited steaming refugee camps in Darfur, rat-infested prisons in Liberia and death row in Louisiana, I have been struck repeatedly by the human spirit's quest for something more than bread. What better year than your anniversary year to celebrate Unitarian Universalism's commitment to the needs of both body and spirit?

Center for Victims of Torture

Sunday, April 18, 12:30-1:30 p.m.
in the Cummins Room

Learn about the important work of the Center for Victims of Torture from three church members with key leadership roles: Doug Johnson, Eric Boone, and Carol White.

Shared Interest Groups

Labyrinth News & Views

**Open Walk: Tuesday, April 6.
Anytime from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.**
Fresh breezes... Cleansing rain... Nature's way of readying the Earth for new life. Spring cleaning time! Come walk the labyrinth this month to reorganize your thoughts on renewing relationships, refreshing your vocation or preparing the way for new growth in general in your life.

If you're new to First Universalist, the Labyrinth Circle (Team) invites you to enjoy your first experience with the labyrinth during the first Tuesday Open Walks.

A Bit of History: various labyrinth patterns date back 3,500 years. These archetypal paths can be found in places as diverse as Peru, Arizona, Iceland, Crete, Egypt, India, Sweden, England, and France. Labyrinths find form in caves, rock patterns, coins, etchings, stories, and dance. Labyrinth patterns take you into the center and out again. Labyrinths are not mazes that tend to be more like puzzles to solve, with tricks and dead ends.

Women Who Read

Women Who Read meet in members' homes or at church the fourth Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m. We eat potluck contributions, socialize, and THEN discuss, in a casual manner, books written by women! New members *always* welcome. PLEASE contact the host in advance to RSVP.

April 26 – The Compassionate Carnivore, by Catherine Friend.

HOST: Adele Hersey - 4412 Grimes, Mpls; 952-926-2486; co-host Helen Ellenbecker.

Wheel of the Year: Beltane/May Day

Join us for the turning of the Wheel of the Year to Beltane, also known as May Day, on Friday, April 30, at 6:30 p.m. in the Social Hall. People of all ages will gather to celebrate the new life blooming and growing around us. Come! Dance with us around the May pole, and welcome the warmth of spring and summer into your life once again! FFI: Morgan Rock MorganERock@hotmail.com

AUW Happenings

(Association of Universalist Women)

**AUW Mother-Daughter
May Day Celebration
Saturday, May 1, 2-4 p.m.**

Save the date of May 1 for a lovely celebration of girls, women, and May Day! Join us for music, snacks and a craft activity making May baskets. **All daughters of any age are welcome!** Bring along a mother/ daughter figure, mentor/ mentee or any important female in your life.

Event is \$5/single, \$10/family suggested. Venue TBA (will be posted on First Universalist's email newsletter and AUW's website www.1uauw.org and email newsletter. If you would like to volunteer to help with set-up, clean-up, music, crafts or food, please email: auw.firstuniv@gmail.com.



The Sounding Board

By John Jensen

I have occupied the keyboard and then Music Director chairs for 18 years as of this month. I say this because the past few weeks had the feel of a sabbatical. I was on tour with Flutist Linda Chatterton, who appeared on our former Five at First Series with her Trio Callisto a couple of years back.

The Mathewsons provided support in their own inimitable way.

I will be back in the saddle again on Easter—a fitting return, somehow. See you soon.

Sundays:

April 4: First Universalist Choir.

April 11: Possibility of Ann Reed and Jill Oliveri

April 18: First Universalist Choir, Children's Choir.

April 25: Universal Jazz Big Band. Also Allen Steinhauer to sing.



About Our People

Please Note: announcements written March 12 or earlier:

First grader, **Miles Liebre**, son of **Carolyn Liebler**, broke his collarbone February 6. He was especially sad not to be able to play hockey, football or baseball for six weeks. We wish him a not-too-painful recovery.

Krista Post fell and fractured her elbow and wrist, requiring surgery. We wish her speedy healing.

Evelyn Battaglia, mother of **Ann Kloth**, died February 4 at the age of 86. Our love and sympathy to Ann and Paul Kloth and their children.

Corky Johnson had knee replacement surgery on February 25, followed by rehab, which was interrupted by hospitalization of husband **Lyle**, after a fall, and son **Wade**, after severe headaches. All are home now and recuperating, we sincerely hope.

Judith Grittner's stepdaughter, Army Captain Catherine Reynolds, has been deployed to Kuwait for a year. We hold Judith, Catherine, in our prayers, along with all the women and men in our armed forces and their families.

Meg Sandifer's mother, Dweena Sandifer, died peacefully on February 17 at age 80. Our care and sympathy to Meg and her partner Jane Miller.

After a month in a cast, **Mary Helmin's son, Ben Sklaney**, had an arm that was not healing properly, and the doctor re-set it. Ben was back at square one and had at least six more weeks of a long itchy cast.

Paul Riedesel's father, Arthur Riedesel, died February 23 in Lincoln, Nebraska. He was 88. Our heartfelt love and support to Paul, Joyce and their family.

Congratulations to **Judy Broad, whose daughter, Jenna Buescher**, gave birth to her first child, **Ella Reese**, on January 31, in Portland, Oregon.

Elle Sachs fell on February 23 and suffered a concussion. We hold Elle in our healing thoughts and prayers.

Joyce Cases's sister, Alice Newstrom of Aitken, MN, died February 26. Our love and sympathy is sent to Joyce and her family.

Our love and care and healing prayers are directed to **Jessie Wicks**, whose medical issues and a snow shoveling-induced health scare have sidelined her for some time.

Kit Ketchum is now 14 weeks into her treatment for breast cancer, and she has set up a CaringBridge website: www.caringbridge.org/visit/kitketchum Kit invites us to visit the site and send prayers, healing energy, and jokes. We hold Kit, her partner **Ginny McCarthy, and their daughters Sophie and Sanjana** in our hearts.

Congratulations to **Erik Peterson, son of Lee and Nona Peterson**, who was awarded the highest honor in Boy Scouting, his Eagle rank, in a ceremony at the church

on Sunday, February 28. Erik, we are all so proud of you!

Our love and caring thoughts to Hennepin County social worker **Gary Melom**, whose job is especially difficult and painful in these hard times.

Our deepest sympathy and love to **Becky Shockley** on the death of her sister, **Dorothy Katherine Payne**, Distinguished Professor Emerita of Music Theory and former Dean of the School of Music at the University of South Carolina, who passed away March 11 in Cincinnati. She was 75, and had suffered from Parkinson's disease for several years.

We send prayers of healing to **Joyce Rudnick**, who fell and broke her left arm. She had surgery March 9.

Congratulations to members **Dan Gremillion and Marisa LaMarca** on their wedding February 20! Our prayers are for them to have a long and happy life together.

Our love and support for new member **Jim Foti** (aka the StarTribune's "Roadguy") who just took a buyout from the Strib to study for UU ministry.

Our prayers for healing go to **Sharon Quast**, who has been fighting multiple myeloma for several years, and suffered a heart attack on March 18 while visiting relatives in Denver. She was rushed to the University of Colorado Medical Center, where they were able to open her occluded artery.

Church member **Ruth Roberts**, who died at age 91 in 2006, was awarded posthumously last week the long overdue Congressional Gold Metal for her service in World War II for flying in the military's Women Air force Service Pilots (WASP) Program. Ruth was among the first 385 women pilots to receive her WASP wings. She was an associate professor of psychology at the University of Minnesota for 32 years until her retirement in 1980. Her sister **Jean**, also a church member, now resides at Catholic Eldercare. Jean remembers going on many WASP flights with her sister even though she was not an official member of the group. Ruth continued piloting a private plane around Minnesota for many years after the war with her sister Jean sometimes assisting in the piloting. More than a 1000 women flew non-combat missions during the war, including a few from Minnesota. These women were never commissioned or given benefits and not recognized as veterans until 1977.

Calendar of Events

April 1-30

available online at:
www.firstuniv.org

~ Denotes an event to which more information can be found in this issue of the Liberal.

* Event is closed.

Thursday, April 1

- 5:00 p.m. "Mostly Silence"
Contemplative Group
- 6:30 p.m. Membership Committee
- 7:15 p.m. Nominating Committee

Saturday, April 3

- 10:00 a.m. Archival Group

Sunday, April 4

- Child Dedications
- Services 9 and 11 am, No RE
- 10:00 a.m. Comfort Shawl Group
- 12:30 p.m. Young Adult Steering Committee

Monday, April 5

- 12:00 p.m. Career Transition Group
- 7:00 p.m. UU Stitches

Tuesday, April 6

- 6:30 p.m. Open Labyrinth Walk
- 7:00 p.m. 150th Steering Comm.
- 7:00 p.m. Men's Support Group*
- 7:00 p.m. Pathways to Membership

Wednesday, April 7

- 10:00 a.m. Chi-Gung
- 12:30 p.m. SPIFF Meeting
- 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, April 8

- 5:30 p.m. Executive Committee
- 7:00 p.m. Young Adult Group
(FUYAG)

Friday, April 9

- 7:00 p.m. Drumming Group
- 8:00 p.m. Parents Group

Saturday, April 10

- 9:30 a.m. AUW Board Meeting
- 1:00 p.m. COA Spiritual Toolbox
Retreat

Sunday, April 11

- 10:00 a.m. Youth Art Show Art
Creating
- 10:10 a.m. Intergenerational Choir
- 12:00 p.m. Youth Art Show Art
Creating
- 12:15 p.m. Foundations of Our Faith

Monday, April 12

- 12:00 p.m. Career Transition Group

Tuesday, April 13

- 7:00 p.m. Pathways to Membership

Wednesday, April 14

- 10:00 a.m. Chi-Gung
- 6:30 p.m. Women's Ritual Circle*
- 7:00 p.m. Adult Coming of Age
- 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, April 15

- 5:00 p.m. "Mostly Silence"
Contemplative Group
- 6:30 p.m. Board of Trustees
- 7:00 p.m. Library Committee

Friday, April 16

- 7:00 p.m. Drumming Group

Saturday, April 17

- 9:30 a.m. Bill Schultz Workshop
- 7:00 p.m. Bill Schultz Lecture

Sunday, April 18

- RE-Gifting Sale*
- 10:00 a.m. What We're About
- 10:10 a.m. Intergenerational Choir
- 12:00 p.m. What We're About
- 12:30 p.m. Panel from Center for
Victims of Torture

Monday, April 19

- 12:00 p.m. Career Transition Group
- 7:00 p.m. Rise Up Singing
- 7:00 p.m. UU Stitches
- 7:00 p.m. Visual Arts

Tuesday, April 20

- 2:30 p.m. Elder Film Series
- 7:00 p.m. Children and Youth
Committee
- 7:00 p.m. Library Committee
- 7:00 p.m. Men's Support Group*
- 7:00 p.m. MUUJSA Voting Rights
Gathering

Wednesday, April 21

- 10:00 a.m. Chi-Gung
- 7:00 p.m. Adult Coming of Age
- 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, April 22

- 9:00 a.m. Liberal Collation Group
- 7:00 p.m. Young Adult Group
(FUYAG)
- 7:00 p.m. Foundation Committee

Sunday, April 25

- Earth Day Events*
- Sharing Sunday*
- 10:10 a.m. Intergenerational Choir
- 11:00 a.m. Coming of Age
Pathways Class

Monday, April 26

- 12:00 p.m. Career Transition Group

Wednesday, April 28

- 6:30 p.m. Women's Ritual Circle*
- 7:00 p.m. Adult Coming of Age
- 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Friday, April 30

- 6:00 p.m. Beltane

The Liberal is Published
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First Universalist Church Is Served By:

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The Reverend Justin Schroeder x102

Associate Minister

The Reverend Kate Tucker x103

Minister Emeritus

The Reverend John Cummins

Director of Congregational Life

Heidi Mastrud x124

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Communications Coordinator

Kevin Watson x110

Membership Support

Sandy DiNanni x125

Cleaning Custodian

Mike Higgins

Sound System Operator

Ben Burger

Upcoming Events:

Sunday, April 4

Child Dedications

(p. 4)

Sunday, April 11

Foundations of Our Faith

(p. 3)

Saturday, April 17 &

Sunday, April 18

Weekend of Human Rights:

Featuring Rev. Bill Schulz

(p. 10)

Sunday, April 25

40th Earth Day Celebration

(p. 8)

OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Thursday 8:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Saturday Closed

Sunday 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

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