



Rev. Elations

by Michael A. Schuler, Parish Minister

“When you start your journey to Ithaca,” the poet C.P. Cavafy writes, “then pray that the road is long, full of adventure, full of knowledge.” A bit later he encourages the reader to “keep Ithaca fixed in your mind,” but not to feel disappointed if, upon arrival, it doesn’t fulfill your expectations. “Ithaca has given you the beautiful voyage,” Cavafy explains, and “without her you would never have taken the road.”

We open another year of spiritual enrichment at First Unitarian Society with “Quest” as our theme. In keeping with recent practice, each month will feature two or more worship services on a subject worth considering in greater depth. During the month of October our focus will be “Unity” with services devoted to personal integration and teachings common to the world’s religions.

We begin in September, however, with “Quest” – an appropriate topic following the recent, successful conclusion of the Society’s eponymous two-year spiritual deepening program. (*Quest III* will begin accepting applications in January). Few concepts are more in keeping with Unitarian Universalist interests and objectives than this one.

At least in more recent times, our faith tradition has embraced a non-teleological perspective. In other words, we don’t hold that history is moving inexorably in some pre-determined direction, that we are headed toward a divinely-appointed heavenly destination or even that human ingenuity will eventually usher in some sort of high-tech Promised Land. Rather, it seems that ours is the task of honing with some degree of intention the fine art of

“muddling through,” simply trying to make the best use of every day we are so graciously given.

To be sure, the importance of vision-casting and goal-setting should not be under-estimated. Having an Ithaca to sail toward (or a Holy Grail to discover) provides us with motivation and focus and lends to our lives an over-arching sense of purpose. But paradoxically, the trials and tribulations pilgrims must put up with en route often end up being their own reward – at least this seems to be the underlying message of a great deal of classic literature. Even Jesus spoke of the Kingdom of God in the present



Biss Nitschke painting at Badger School. On Service Sunday, August 21, over 230 adults and kids did community service across the city. It was fun!

tense (“it is within and among you”) rather than as a future possibility.

Questing should, and often does, create an inner tension as our hunger for answers wrestles with Rilke’s advice to “love the questions themselves,” for authentic, honest living is as much about seeking as finding. Answers are only way-stations, providing a little breathing room, a few moments of respite before we re-embark on the endless human quest for mental health and spiritual

wholeness. Sing out praises for the journey!

Our Worship Services this year will include another new feature: a series of sermons on the Six Sources from which UUs draw inspiration. Either Karen or I will focus on a particular “Source” once a month, and on the ensuing Tuesday there will be a lecture/discussion designed to treat the subject in greater detail. I’ll be speaking to the “direct experience of transcending mystery and wonder” on September 17-18, as well as on the evening of Tuesday, September 20. ...Michael ●

Note: You’ll find Michael’s list of quest related films and books on page 6.

“Where Spiritual Curiosity and Conscience Connect”

Meeting House News

9th Annual "Hungarian Feast" Fund-Raiser Friday, September 16 • 6 p.m.

You are invited once again to share our Unitarian heritage from Transylvania, and our long partnership with the Unitarian village of Nagyajta (NAH joy tah), at the annual Hungarian Feast. On **Friday, September 16**, at 6 p.m., come enjoy an evening of exquisite Hungarian food, prepared by Jennifer Gaber of Nutshell Catering and the experienced Partner Church committee.

The menu will include Csikós tokány (Cowboy Stew – pork with peppers), Gombapörkölt (stewed mushrooms with peppers), Puliszka (Transylvanian Polenta), and Meggy leves (cold cherry soup), as well as salad and dessert. A cash bar will include wine and beer.

There will be music – maybe dancing! – and a short program to share recent events in the village, including their 800th anniversary celebration!

Your contributions will fund youth scholarships and service awards, school books, and the parish music director, for our lovely partner church community in Nagyajta, Romania.

Nagyajta's young people who want to continue their educations after eighth grade need scholarship assistance for room and board, and travel to St. George, the nearest town with a high school. The summer enrichment program that FUS also helps fund gives village students opportunities to explore their cultural identity, history, and the world outside of Nagyajta. The many students we have supported are now serving Nagyajta and other Transylvanian towns and villages.

Make your reservations with committee members in the Commons after services or with Jeanne Sears at 233-9774 ext. 116 or [/memberprogramscoordinator](#). Early birds appreciated!

Donations for the dinner are Adults, \$30; Students and children, \$15; Family maximum, \$75; Children 5 and under free. ●



Pretty good wine, cowboy stew, good company, and delicious desserts are part of the fun.

Attention Pregnant Women and Moms with Children ages 0-4

You are invited to join a group of moms who meet the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month (next meeting September 8) for the purpose of validating and celebrating the joy and challenge that motherhood can be. Come to the Childcare Room from 9:30 to 11 a.m.

This is a time to build self-awareness, learn some gentle yoga, and much more. Children are welcome to attend as this will be held in the Childcare Room with toys. Please RSVP to Lynn at [lynnsingsyoga\(at\)gmail.com](mailto:lynnsingsyoga@gmail.com). ●

Relationship Class Still Open for 8th Graders

As many of you know, FUS offers an excellent class on relationships and sexuality for 8th graders. *Mind, Body and Soul* is a favorite among youth, as it far beyond the typical fare of middle school sex ed class. It's an opportunity for conversation in a mixed gender group with the leadership of responsible adults who can assure that accurate information is being shared and talked about. During the year youth talk about many things. Some examples include:

- Distinguishing between infatuation and love
- Foundations of a good relationship
- Basic human needs—emotional, physical, social, and spiritual
- Arousal and gender differences
- Body image
- Sexual orientation
- Dating violence, sexual assault, and more.

We currently still have space available in our 11 a.m. session. If you know any 8th graders, please encourage them to register for this excellent class. Registration information is available at [/cre](#). Questions? Contact Leslie Ross at [/DRE](#). ●



*There is always a great
bake sale at AWP!*

Art in the Wright Place

Our annual Children's R.E. fundraiser "Art in the Wright Place" will take place this year on Sunday, November 20, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. *Art in the Wright Place* features many area artists selling pottery, textile arts, woodworking, photography, stained glass, and more. Those of you who have attended this event before know how wonderful it is. Those of you who haven't, find out what you've been missing! If you're interested in helping with this event by either setting up, staffing our café or donations table, or cleaning up, please contact Erica Colmenares at [ericacolmenares\(at\)gmail.com](mailto:ericacolmenares(at)gmail.com).

If you have an art item that you'd like to donate for the event (in addition to artists' booths, we have a booth of donated items; 100% of the sale of these items goes toward our Children's RE program!), please contact Leslie Ross at /DRE. Donated items must be original (e.g., not mass produced) and in excellent condition. Art prints need to be framed and no larger than 18" x 24." ●



Volunteer Chefs Needed

Your help is needed to prepare and/or serve the Saturday, October 15, and Saturday, November 19, evening meal at the men's homeless shelter at Grace Episcopal church. The details are flexible, but basically someone will buy the food and then we'll meet in the FUS kitchen to prepare the meal or you (and your FUS friends, perhaps) could prepare something at home and then bring it to Grace Episcopal.

This is a great opportunity to get together to share in the fun of cooking and provide a vital service to the local homeless men of Madison.

If interested, please send an e-mail to Daniel Bradley at [fusvolunteer\(at\)yahoo.com](mailto:fusvolunteer(at)yahoo.com) or 556-5659. ●

UU Women's Alliance September Meeting

The September meeting of the UU Women's Alliance will be held on Wednesday, September 14, at noon in Westmorland Room at Oakwood Village West.

The Rev. Michael A. Schuler, recently returned from sabbatical, will be the honored speaker. Michael was called as Parish Minister to First Society in the spring of 1988. He holds master and Ph.D. degrees in religion and the humanities, and previously served congregations in Iowa and New York. Michael was a featured speaker at the recent UUA General Assembly and the General Meeting of UUs in North Carolina.

The luncheon will be catered by Nancy Deer. Charge will be \$11 per plate. Please make reservations before Friday, September 10, by contacting Kathy Nix at 836-5616 or [nixkl\(at\)tds.net](mailto:nixkl(at)tds.net). Please note any dietary restrictions. ●



More Meeting House News

Welcome Orientation for Curious Adults

Join us for a brief welcome session and find out more about the “who, what, when and where” here at the First Unitarian Society, on Sunday, September 11, between services in the Atrium Auditorium. We will share resources to help in your understanding of our services and program offerings. ●

Become a Member of First Unitarian Society!

Sunday, September 25, we will be holding a “Membership Book Signing” event from 12:30 to 2 p.m. in the Landmark Auditorium. This Membership event is an opportunity for those ready to become members to formally commit to the Society and sign our membership book. Membership is open to those that have taken our “New UU” series or have a UU background.

The afternoon will also include an opportunity to meet one of our ministers and some of our Board of Trustees, a discussion of the benefits and responsibilities of membership, and the presentation of a chalice pin. If you feel you are ready to join, please contact Jeanne Sears at 233-9774 x 116 or [/memberprogramscoordinator](#). A packet of information will be mailed for you to complete. RSVP’s are required for this event! ●



New UU Registrations Are Available For Interested Adults!

We have two New UU classes available this early fall. This class consists of four sessions.

- The first class is offered on Sundays from 1 to 3 p.m. beginning Sept. 25 and continuing on October 2, 9 and 16. Childcare is offered during this class.
- The second is held on Thursday evenings from 7 to 9 p.m. September 29, and on October 6, 13 and 20, 2011.

New UU is an orientation class for newcomers and friends of the First Unitarian Society. During the four weekly meetings, participants have the opportunity to:

- get acquainted with other curious adults,
- learn about Unitarian Universalism and the organization of the Society,
- explore whether their beliefs and values are consonant with Unitarian Universalism,
- consider next steps to deeper involvement at First Unitarian Society.

Registrations are available in the Commons at the Information table or on-line at [/newUU](#). ●

Would you like to know your FUS Neighbors?

If you haven't already done so and would like to be included in our forming "Neighborhood Groups," now is the time to act. We are asking households to "opt in" to be included. Forms are available each weekend in the Commons and online at [/connected](#).

Neighborhood Leader or co-leaders are needed to sponsor the first get together to discuss how your group would like to function. This is a one-year obligation. Questions? Talk to Jeanne Sears, Coordinator of Members Program in the Commons or [/memberprogramscoordinator](#) or 233-9774 ext. 116. ●



Welcome Sally Bowers!

Please join us in welcoming Sally Bowers to FUS as our new Development Director. Many of you may know Sally from her coordinating of our Annual Campaign and our new Rummage Sale.

We are thrilled that, after an open interview process, Sally accepted our offer to take the on-going development position. She brings with her over 15 years of development experience, including work at Tufts Medical Center and the Madison Children's Museum, as well as a demonstrated ability to hit the ground running with great insight, ideas, and organizational skill.

Sally plans to be in the office on Mondays and Wednesdays, and can be reached at [/developmentdirector](#). ●

The "BIG Rummage Sale" is Well Underway!

We are already getting promises for many items to be sold at the upcoming "BIG Rummage Sale" at FUS on October 29.

Looks like there will be something of interest for everyone. Be sure your calendar is marked so you don't miss out!

The Rummage Sale Ministry Team is working hard and I want to take this opportunity to thank them for their commitment.

Members of the Ministry Team are Kathy Bergee, Vicki Jones, Alison Brooks, Liz Krznarich, Ardis Coffman, Anna W. Martin, Becky Dick, Kris McCardle, Kay Frazer, Pamela McMullen, Karen Roser Gredler, Ann Smiley, Sara Green, Karlene Tyksinski, Tammy Hofmeister, Liz Wessel, Mark & Kathleen Hoover, Lisa Vogel West, Becky Hustad, Janet Woerner, and Amy Jochem.

We can still use more help! If interested please go to [/sale](#) for forms to sign up and donate items. Questions or problems? Contact Sally Bowers at 233-9774 ext 123 or [/developmentdirector](#). Thanks! – Sally Bowers, FUS Director of Development ●

FUS Business Salon: "Income and Wealth Inequality in the USA"

Following our successful discussions about the US economy, the FUS Business group has decided to offer four more Friday evening programs in the Gaebler Living Room. Mark your calendars for September 23, November 4, February 10, and April 13.

On September 23, from 7 to 9 p.m. the Salon will deal with America's growing inequality in income and wealth. What can be done about it and what can we do as individuals? FUS economists Martin David and Lee Hansen, with commentator Dick Goldberg, will introduce the topic and provide the setting for our salon discussion. Break-away groups will give the audience a voice. Brian Joiner will sum up our observations.

Nancy Vedder Shults and Mark Shults will provide refreshments for the social hour that enhances our conversation. A donation of \$5 is requested to cover expenses.

For more information: [hathewayhasler\(at\)gmail.com](mailto:hathewayhasler(at)gmail.com). ●



The "Big" Rummage Sale
is Saturday, October 29



Another Informational Session on Meditation

You are invited to join Cortland Dahl for a single-session introduction to meditation on Tuesday, October 4, at 7 p.m. in the Meeting House. Simple meditation techniques will be presented. A free will donation will be taken at the door. Cortland has been practicing meditation since 2003 and is a student of Yongey Mingyur Rinpoche. For more information please see www.tergar.org, e-mail: [madison\(at\)tergar.org](mailto:madison(at)tergar.org) or call (608)513-6942. ●

Madison Unitarian Deadlines

Volume 62 #12

Deadline: September 7

Publication and Assembly: Sept. 19

Volume 62 #13

Deadline: September 28

Publication and Assembly: October 10

Volume 62 # 14

Deadline: October 19

Publication and Assembly: October 31

Volume 62 #15

Deadline: November 9

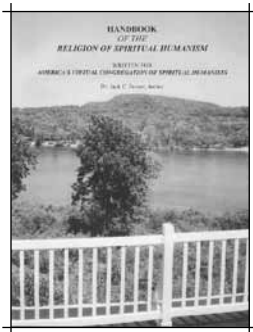
Publication and Assembly: November 21

Volume 62 #16

Deadline: November 30

Publication and Assembly: December 12

Please send your contributions to [newsletter\(at\)fusmadison.org](mailto:newsletter(at)fusmadison.org). Thanks! ●



Humanism Book Published

Jack Ferver, a former president of First Unitarian Society and professor emeritus of education at UW-Madison, has recently published an intriguing study guide entitled *Handbook of the Religion of Spiritual Humanism*. The book consists of 90 one-page “Reflections” meant to provoke deeper thinking about a host of issues related to religion and spirituality. In conjunction with the release of his book, Dr. Ferver has also established “America’s Virtual Congregation of Spiritual Humanists” for those who are looking for alternatives to traditional religion on the one hand and secular or “naturalistic” humanism on the other.

To procure a copy of the book or more information about spiritual humanism, please contact Jack Ferver at [jcferver\(at\)wisc.edu](mailto:jcferver@wisc.edu). ●

Michael's Suggested Reading and Viewing about "Quest"

Quest-related Films

The Straight Story • An elderly, small-town man’s eventful journey across Iowa on a riding lawn mower, to reconnect with his estranged brother.

The Hurricane • Details boxer Rubin “Hurricane” Carter’s efforts to prove his innocence and escape a life sentence.

Smoke Signals • Two young Native American men leave their reservation in search of the father who had abandoned one of them as an infant.

Marty • A first-generation immigrant from the Bronx battles his mother and his peers in a quest for love.

Rounders • Gambling derails a law school student’s studies, but his aim is to compete in the World Series of Poker.

Julie and Julia • In their quests for the perfect meal, two women’s stories intersect.

Quest-related Books

Rabbi Jesus by Bruce Chilton • A well-known Biblical scholar’s reconstruction of Jesus’ quest for the Kingdom of God.

Cultivating the Mind of Love by Thich Nhat Hanh • An interesting mixture of autobiography and wisdom teaching by this well-known Buddhist writer.

Path Without Destination by Satish Kumar • A social and environmental activist, raised in the rigorous Jain religious tradition, shares his spiritual odyssey.

Let Your Life Speak by Parker Palmer • Though this series of essays, Palmer reveals and perceptively analyzes his vocational, emotional and spiritual struggles.

Returning by Dan Wakefield • Before discovering King’s Chapel (Unitarian) in Boston, Wakefield details his experiences with secularism, orthodoxy and alcoholism.]

The Geography of Bliss by Eric Weiner • The author travels the world in search of its happiest culture.

Leaving Church by Barbara Brown Taylor • An Episcopalian priest accepts and then questions her call to ministry. ●

Renovations Completed in Meeting House Rest Rooms

Frank Lloyd Wright might not notice the difference architecturally, but our eyes and noses certainly do! The newly restored rest rooms of the Landmark entrance are fresh and green, thanks to a project of the FUS Preservation Committee, funded by the Friends of the Meeting House.

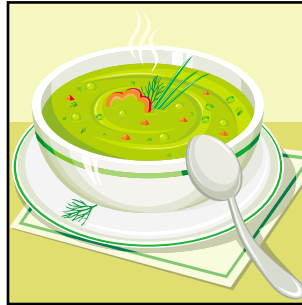
With a gift of \$40,000 from the Friends, project supervision from FUS Preservation Project Manager Bill Holden, and work performed by Greve Construction of Waunakee, the project :

- Tore out old walls and fixtures.
- Installed new walls, vents and electric.
- Modified the infamous “wrong” angle of the men’s urinal.
- Scraped the floors and refinished them.
- Added new partitions, doors and fixtures, including a waterless urinal, low-flow toilets, compact fluorescent lighting, and motion-sensitive lights and fans.
- Replaced a trap in the men’s rest room, thought to be the source of nasal distress.

The project started in May and was completed in June. Temporary signs for the await more permanent ones.

Greve Construction also did the restoration work on the doors and windows in the Gaebler Living Room. Because their work came in at \$9,000 under budget, the Friends’ gift of up to \$40,000 may go looking for other preservation work at the Landmark Meeting House.

– Michael May,
Chair of the Preservation Committee ●



Circle Suppers will begin their 28th year in October

Time once again to sign up for Circle Suppers! Circle Suppers are informal group meals which meet monthly from October to May in members’ homes or in settings selected by those hosting and are wonderful ways to meet new and interesting people.

Hosts set the date for the supper, set up the menu, provide the main dish and call/e-mail each of the guests in their circle and assign food/beverage items to bring to the supper. Guests are asked to bring an appetizer, salad, side dish, dessert, drinks or “extras” such as bread or rolls. Substitutes are those who cannot commit for all the months but can fill in for cancellations.

It’s easy to get started. Just fill out the form below and mail it to Dawn Stucki (address below) or use the on-line form at [/circles](#), e-mail the information to [destucki\(at\)tds.net](mailto:destucki@tds.net) or just call Dawn at 849-8078. Then it’s time to eat and meet! ●

Registrations Close September 12

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Phone h _____ w/c _____

E-mail _____

We plan to host in:

- Any month
- Preferred month(s) _____
- We can substitute occasionally

Send to Dawn at 19 Village Homes Dr, Waunakee, WI 53597



Musical Offerings

Choir Season Startup... Singing in Community is good for the body and soul...

Our choir season soon begins in earnest and new and returning singers are most welcome.

The Meeting House Chorus begins rehearsing on Wednesday, September 7, at 7 p.m. in the Atrium Auditorium. The Society Choir will begin on Thursday, September 8, at 7 p.m. in the Music Rehearsal Room near the Atrium Auditorium.

For more information about our adult choirs please contact Dan Broner, FUS Music Director, at [/musicdirector](#).

Our Children and Teen Choirs begin on Wednesday, September 7. The Cherub Choir, ages 4 through 2nd grade, rehearse from 7 to 7:25 p.m. The Choristers, grades 3 through 8, rehearse from 7:30 to 8:10 p.m., and the Teen Choir, from 8:15 to 9 p.m. All meet in the Music Rehearsal Room. Children and teen choirs are open to children of FUS members and non-members with children enrolled in the FUS Religious Education program. New singers are very welcome and walk-ins are accepted. For more information please contact Heather Thorpe at [/directorchildren-choir](#). ●

Singing Meditation: "Come, Come, Whoever You Are"

Inaugurated by Ruthie Rosauer of LaCrosse, Wisconsin, in 2004, Singing Meditation is a spiritual practice that "(combines) the joy of singing, the energy of community, and the power of silence, to provide transformation."

FUS Music Director Dan Broner will lead our singing meditation program for participants, teen-aged and beyond. Join him on the second Tuesday of the month beginning September 13, from 7 to 8 p.m. in the Atrium Auditorium.

In singing meditation, simple chants from a variety of traditions are sung repeatedly until they dissolve into silence of their own accord. Once the singing has stilled the mind, we hold two to five minutes of silence, then move on to the next song. This mindful repetition disconnects our minds from planning and worry and moves us into the present moment. You don't have to have a good voice or be able to read music to participate. It is not a choir. No sign up is necessary; just show up and experience the calming wonders of singing meditation. ●



"Brother Sun" to Sing For Our Worship Services Labor Day Weekend...

Joe Jencks, Pat Wictor, and Greg Greenway have formed a dynamic new male trio called *Brother Sun*. Nationally touring folk artists from three major points on the map - Boston, New York, and Chicago - Pat, Greg, and Joe celebrate the amazing power of singing together on a well-crafted foundation of guitar, slide guitar, and piano.

Their debut recording, "Brother Sun" is currently #2 on the Folk DJ Chart in the US, and they have headlined several major festivals in the US this summer including Kerrville Folk Festival in Texas, and the Falcon Ridge Folk Festival in New York.

Brother Sun will be performing songs from the Labor movement for our worship services on September 4. ●

Barclay Martin Ensemble benefits Safe Harbor Child Advocacy Center...

I am pleased to report that the recent Barclay Martin Ensemble concert at FUS raised over \$1200 for Madison's Safe Harbor Child Advocacy Center. A big round of thanks to the attendees who contributed cash, to the band for offering their services, to the hosts who housed the musicians, and to Laurie Schwartz and Abby Swetz who underwrote the concert.

– Dan Broner ●



Religious Education

Classes Begin Soon!

Children's RE classes begin on Saturday, September 10. All parents should have received an e-mail outlining details. If you haven't, please contact Leslie Ross at /DRE. Also note that while there is no fee for child care, we do ask that you register your infant and toddlers so we can assure adequate staffing for the number of children expected. You can register at /cre. ●

Parent Resources

Interested in finding resources that will help bring Unitarian Universalism into your home life? Starting September 1, look for the "Resources for Parents" tab on the CRE page of our website. There you'll find book lists, spiritual practices for families, blessings, and more. ●

Been on the Fence About Teaching?

Now's the time to jump the fence and land in a classroom! We need just a few more teachers to start this year off on solid footing. Consider joining a team of three others to teach one of the classes below. To sign up, or for information, contact Leslie at /DRE.

- *Celebrating Me and My World* (pre-school) at 9 a.m.
- *Experiences with the Web of Life* (K-1st) at 9 a.m. and Saturdays.
- *Holidays and Holy Days* on Saturdays.
- *Bibleodeon* on Saturdays.

Deadline for Middle School Overnight is September 15!

Middle school youth are invited to spend a night at Upham Woods Outdoor Learning Center in Baraboo, WI on September 30. Get to know other FUS friends, explore the outdoors, unplug and try new activities. Activities will include a fast-paced, camp-wide "Amazing Race" style teamwork challenge, canoeing, archery and a nature service project.

The cost is \$55, including lodging and meals. We will depart Friday the 30th at 5:30 p.m. and return Saturday at 7:30 p.m.

For more information and to register, download the Health and Youth Expectation Agreement forms at <http://4h.uwex.edu/uphamwoods>. Along with that, please download and complete the FUS Parent Permission Form. A link to that form can be found at /upham. Send forms and a check made out to FUS c/o John Horn at Horn Law Firm 414 D'Onofrio Dr #330 Madison, WI 53711. We need 2-3 adult chaperones (no registration fee required). If interested, please contact Leigh Arora at [indiamama\(at\)tds.net](mailto:indiamama(at)tds.net). Registration deadline is September 15. ●





Social Justice

Interfaith Hospitality Network Recruitment Pitch

Perhaps you remember way back in the spring, the Social Justice Program was seeking at least two new leaders for our Interfaith Hospitality Shelter Program. The search continues.

Instead of shocking you with startling statistics or captivating you with the average age of a homeless person in Dane County, I'll just be direct. Strong leadership is essential to this program's success. Right now we have an interim leader, Nancy Kosseff, and a leader who is ready to step down, Ann Boyer. Replacement leaders at this critical moment will determine whether or not FUS will continue its nearly decade-long involvement with this program.

We have not renewed our commitment to this program because we do not have a leadership team willing to commit to another year of service. I invite you to consider the letter at right from Amy Noble, a person who works to ease the immense burden of homelessness for youth. - *Erich Pitcher* ●

Fall Social Justice Retreat Planning Committee Forming

Join in the planning of the Fall Social Justice Retreat on October 22. So far speakers are confirmed from Ground Works and Operation Welcome Home. This retreat will focus on economic justice and democracy issues. Please join the planning group which is still forming. Two co-leaders are needed. Their job will be to set the agenda, work with Erich on logistics, recruit speakers, and decide our menu. Also needed are volunteer helpers on the committee. Contact Erich P to partake in this exciting planning opportunity. 233-9774 X 125 or /socialjusticecoordinator. ●

Dear FUS community:

I have been a member of First Unitarian for over 10 years. Among many things, my involvement has included teaching RE classes, committee work, trips to Trees for Tomorrow and attending worship services on Sunday morning. I have been a dedicated member of this congregation.

With our community of over 1,400 adult members, it is impossible for me to know all or even most of the other members. Those who know me, know that my work involves supporting homeless families in Madison. This past year alone Madison schools identified 1,010 students who were homeless in this city.

As an FUS member I have always been proud of our social justice activism, our founding relationship with Dane County United, our Family to Family outreach and many other activities which put into action our values as stated in our principles. We even have a paid staff position to address social justice issues; how many churches in Madison have that resource and commitment?

Earlier this year, I saw an announcement in the bulletin that our involvement with The Road Home might end because of a lack of people willing and able to serve in a leadership capacity. I was stunned. Our involvement is four weeks a year and consists of providing food and volunteers to help support the congregations who are sharing their buildings with homeless families. We, as Unitarian Universalists, must work to end injustice in our community and celebrate the inherent worth and dignity of every person. What better time than now to help ease the burden of homeless?

If you want to speak with Erich Pitcher, Social Justice Coordinator, about our involvement with The Road Home call 233-9774 extension 125. If you'd like to talk to me, feel free to call 274-2845.

Sincerely,
Amy W. Noble



Service Sunday: Over 230 volunteers come out and did community service on Service Sunday at 17 locations. Pictured at left: Ben Powell with a frog. Ben helped with the Lakeshore Nature Preserve trail maintenance. Note: no frogs were harmed in the taking of this picture.



Paths of Peace #92

The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation created an annual series of awards, the Barbara Mandigo Kelly Peace Poetry Awards, to encourage poets to explore and illuminate positive visions of peace and human spirit. For more information and to view the current Poetry Award guidelines, you may write to the Foundation at: Baraba Mandigo Kelly Peace Poetry Awards, Nuclear Age Peace Foundation, PMB 121, 1187 Coast Village Road, Suite 1, Santa Barbara, California, 93108-2794.

The following poem was written by Alison Trabucco in the collection of poems, *The Poetry of Peace* edited by David Krieger and published by Capra Press in 2003.

Feel the Feeling

Feel the feeling of flying with a butterfly and all its beauty.

Feel the feeling of whispering to a ladybug or singing with a sparrow.

Feel the feeling of sitting and watching an orange and purple sunset with a dark shadow of a bird as dark as a pencil's gray streak, swirling with freedom across the sunset.

Feel the feeling of a parrot's squawk, a mouse's squeal, a bird's song, a fish's swish, and a human's love.

Feel the feeling of peace. ●



Meeting Announcements

Preserving Democracy Meet-Up Tuesday, August 30 at 5:30 in Courtyard D

Remember our social justice survey? Many of you said your number one concern was preserving democracy in Wisconsin. This is a meeting for you! Please attend this meeting as we begin to determine how we will work towards a government guided by democracy. RSVP to Erich P /socialjusticecoordinator ●

Economic Justice Initiatives Wednesday, August 31 5:30 p.m. Gaebler Living Room

If you care about cuts to education & health care, the increasing wealth/wage gap, people who are homeless or who are at risk for homelessness, lack of living wage jobs, and all other issues related to the local and state economies please attend this meeting to discuss how FUS can move towards action on these issues. RSVP to Erich P at /socialjusticecoordinator ●

Adult Education



The (Nearly) Everything Guide for Curious Adults is almost in the mail!

We will be mailing the Fall 2011-12 (Nearly) Everything Guide for Curious Adults, which has a list of all of our adult programs, at almost the same time as this newsletter. Meanwhile, as it wends its way towards you, we'd like to encourage you to check the classes at right out, and visit www.fusmadison.org to get the full information and register. If you don't receive a copy of the Guide in the next few days, be sure to pick up a copy in the Commons at the Religious Education (RE) table.

Please also note that you may register by mail or in the Commons and pay by check. The registration form is [online here](#) or available at the information table.

For questions about Adult Education classes, contact Deb Mies, Religious Education Program Coordinator at / [REprogramcoordinator](#); for other program questions, contact Jeanne Sears at / [memberprogramscoordinator](#).

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These classes begin in September, so register soon!

Please see the program guide or www.fusmadison.org/ae-classes for class descriptions.

“Conscious Communication for Couples” with Mary Kay Reinemann

Dates: Thursdays: September 8 and 22, October 6 and 20, November 3 and 17, December 1 and 15;

Time: 6:30 to 8 p.m.

Fee: \$30 pledged/\$40 non-pledged

Note: Child care will be available.

Mary Kay Reinemann is a retired teacher who has been practicing and teaching Marshall Rosenberg’s “Nonviolent Communication” techniques since 2004.



“Where Your Treasure Is, There Will Your Heart Be Also (Analyzing the State Budget)” with John Powell

Dates: Tuesday, September 13;

Time: 7 to 9 p.m.

Fee: \$10 pledged/\$15 non-pledged

John Powell covered state government and politics for more than 30 years for Wisconsin Public Radio.



“What’s New and Important in End of Life Planning?” with Carol Ferguson and the End of Life planning group

Dates: Thursdays, September 15 to October 13 (no session on October 6)

Time: 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Fee: \$35 pledged/\$45 non-pledged

This class is coordinated by the End of Life Task Force: Carol Ferguson, a lay minister; Susan Wester, a retired pathologist; Nancy Johnson, a former funeral director; Shirley Chosy, a retired hospice nurse and lay minister; and Barb Perkins, a hospital social worker.

“Studying the Way of Jesus of Nazareth: A Study/Discussion Group” with Rev. Jody Whelden

Dates: First and third Thursdays, September 15 to December 15

Time: 6:45 to 8:30 p.m.

Fee: \$15 pledged/\$25 non-pledged

Rev. Jody Whelden is an FUS member, a Christian UU minister and a Chaplain at St. Mary’s Hospital in Madison. If you have any questions about the group, call (608)347-0237 or [minister\(at\)jdwhelden.org](mailto:minister(at)jdwhelden.org).



“Frank Lloyd Wright, Unitarianism and the Meeting House” with John Powell and the Friends of the Meeting House

Dates: Mondays, September 19 – October 3

Time: 7 to 9 p.m.

Fee: \$25 pledged/\$35 non-pledged

John Powell is a member of the board of the Friends of the Meetinghouse and a tour guide for both the Meetinghouse and the Atrium addition.

**Women’s Retreat:
Seasons of a Woman’s Life**

**with Rev. Karen Gustafson,
Janet Swanson and others**

Dates: September 30 to October 2

Location: Siena Center, Racine WI

Fee: \$175 (includes 4 meals, lodging & supplies)

Join us as we gather in autumn to celebrate the wisdom of Maidens, Mothers and Crones (and all those in-between). We will sing and dance, share our stories, and together create a circle of Women’s Spirit. We will embrace and honor the gifts we bring as women to the world. Come and rest. Reflect. Sit along the shore of Lake Michigan and revel in its beauty while you rediscover the beauty around and within you. We invite women ages 15 and older. Maximum number: 40



Join our Ministers

Would you like to spend more personal time with our ministers? Register now for the following classes and retreats.

**Michael Schuler
“Integrity: A Film Series”
with Michael & Trina Schuler**

Tuesdays, October 11, 18, 25; November 1
6:30 to 9 p.m.

**“Unitarian Universalist History:
A Quick & Dirty Overview”**

Saturday, November 5
9 to noon

**“Authority in Religious and
Cultural Perspective”**

Tuesdays, November 15, 22, 29
7 to 9 p.m.

**Annual Spiritual Retreat at Green Lake:
“Virtues for The 21st Century”**

March 23-25, 2012

Pilgrim Center, Green Lake Wisconsin

\$200: (includes meals, lodging and supplies)



Karen Gustafson

“Compassion in Public Life”

Mondays, October 17 to November 7; Time: 7 to 9 p.m.

“Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life”

Saturday, January 7; Time: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Kelly Crocker

“Our Transylvanian Heritage”

Sunday, November 13; Time: 2 to 4 p.m.

“Parents as Spiritual Guides”

Saturday, November 12; Time: 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. Sunday, November 20; Time: 2 – 4:30 p.m.

**“Parent Reading and Discussion
Group: The Mindful Child”**

Sunday, October 23; Time: 2 to 3:30 p.m. and Thursday, November 10; 6:30 to 8 p.m.



Sunday, September 4 • 9 & 11 a.m.
**“The Rugged and the Ragged:
Another Look at Individualism”**
by Michael A. Schuler, Parish Minister

During the late 19th century, orthodox economists and orthodox clergy agreed that labor unions posed a dire threat to free market principles and were an ungodly affront to good order and decorum. That era of the individual as “free agent” bore a striking resemblance to our own. The country paid a price back then. Will we?

Musically, Brother Sun (Joe Jencks, Pat Wictor and Greg Greenway,) will sing songs from the labor movement accompanied by guitar, slide guitar and piano.

Saturday, September 10 • 4:30 p.m.
Sunday, September 11 • 9 & 11 a.m.
**“If Liberal Religion is the Answer,
What Are the Questions?”**
by Karen Gustafson, Associate Minister

In Michael’s introduction to this month’s theme, he says, “Questing should and often does create an inner tension as our hunger for answers wrestles with Rilke’s advice to ‘love the questions themselves,’ for authentic, honest living is as much about seeking as finding.” So, what are “The Questions?” Are they different for everyone or are there some universal questions that call us to seek answers in the context of other questioners and seekers?

Musically, on Saturday, soprano Pattie Reardon will sing *Four Songs of the North* by Laura Zaerr with Linda Warren playing harp. Sunday, vocalists Lynette Margulies and Darcie Johnston will team with veteran jazz pianist Jane Reynolds.

Saturday, September 17 • 4:30 p.m.
Sunday September 18 • 9 & 11 a.m.
“Mysticism UU style”
by Michael A. Schuler, Parish Minister

The first installment of a six-sermon series on our “Six Sources” will focus on the direct and immediate reception of spiritual insight and revelation. Early Unitarians were highly suspicious of “religious experience,” dismissing it as too emotional and subjective to be credible. Emerson and the Transcendentalists challenged the establishment’s prejudices, opening up new wellsprings in the process. A Tuesday evening lecture/discussion will follow up on this service.

Musically, on Saturday, flutist Gary Leisman and violinist Wendy Adams will collaborate with pianist Linda Warren playing the *Suite Antique* by John Rutter. Sunday, Linda Warren and Dan Broner will play excerpts from the *Concerto for Harp* by Karl Ditters von Dittersdorf (1739-1799).



On Sunday, September 4, we will have the honor of “Brother Sun” joining us for worship. Details on page 8.

