



The Madison Unitarian

Newsletter of The First Unitarian Society of Madison • Volume 63 • No. 3 • February 20, 2012

Rev. Elations

by Michael A. Schuler, Parish Minister

In recent decades the word “sacrifice” has hardly been part of the popular lexicon. Politicians dared not utter it and easy credit made it possible for consumers to avoid, or at least defer it. Even as employers, both public and private, required workers to absorb cuts in wages and benefits the issue was typically framed in terms of “necessary concessions” rather than “sacrifice.” What is it about that word that makes it so unpalatable?

Synonyms include “loss,” “deprivation” and “forfeiture,” all of which suggest a disagreeable or unwelcome state of affairs. Understood in these terms, sacrifice is a largely negative gesture serving to subtract from the individual’s overall well-being and potentially diminishing one’s quality of life. Can there be such a thing as a worthwhile sacrifice? Judging from its virtual disappearance from our public discourse, apparently not.

Interestingly, the words “sacrifice” and “sacred” share a common Latin antecedent – sacer – which connotes “holiness” and a relationship to the divine. In more traditional usage, sacrifice was performed in order to establish or renew one’s relationship to those powerful entities on which one’s life ultimately depended. It was not, in other words, a zero-sum game but rather a surrender of something precious in order to procure something of even greater value.

Without arguing for a return to earlier times when sacrifice entailed the ritual immolation of lambs and chickens, or even the renunciation of marriage, property and personal autonomy in favor of more “spiritual” pursuits, I might suggest that the concept is overdue for some serious rehabilitation. There is nothing intrinsically wrong with sacrifice if, after due discernment, we judge it to be voluntary, salutary and meaningful. When, in our honest estimation, those three criteria have been met, sacrifice is merited.

Generosity and sacrifice are themes that will inform worship at FUS in the month of March, and they are also pertinent to another important activity – the Annual Pledge Campaign. I am fully aware that a substantial percentage of our members have experienced loss of income during the current recession and have had to cut back on discretionary spending. In spite of such difficulties, Madison UUs have persevered. Giving to FUS last year increased by 3% at a time when many churches and non-profits saw pledge revenues fall. In other words, our members have kept faith with a religious community that adds intangible but substantial value to their lives.

But the bottom line is this: the First Unitarian Society is in a position that simply requires us to ask for a 10% increase in collective giving each of the next two years. This is what will be required to maintain program and staff at current levels. Some of our supporters will be able to meet this challenge with little difficulty. For others, a measure of financial sacrifice may be required – the voluntary transfer of limited personal assets for the sake of something that is truly and demonstrably worthwhile.

Ultimately, all we can ask of anyone is that, after due deliberation, they do their best. Our members’ giving capacity varies widely and a small pledge can be every bit as important and meaningful as a substantial one. There is no time like the present to reaffirm our faith in this community and one another.



The Experiences With the Web of Life class at 11 a.m. Our unique Children’s Religious Education program remains a core mission.

– Michael ●



Meeting House News

Child Dedications to be Held March 24 & 25

A child dedication is a uniquely Unitarian Universalist naming ceremony which offers parents the opportunity to have their child blessed by our congregation, their family, and our ministers. During this time, our congregation commits to help the child grow in ways of love, truth, justice, and peace. The next opportunity to have your child dedicated here at FUS will be the weekend of March 24 & 25 at all three services. If you are interested in participating, please contact Rev. Kelly Crocker at /ministerRE or 233-9774, ext. 112. ●

Ten Crucial Steps To Fix Health Care: How the Affordable Health Care Act will or won't do that

The FUS Business Group plans another salon from 7 to 9:15 p.m. on Friday, March 2, in the Gaebler Living Room. FUS member Dr. Tim Harrington, co-author of *Great Health Care: Making It Happen*,



will outline ten crucial steps to fix health care. Then FUS member Sara Eskrich, Health Care Analyst with the Wisconsin Council on Children and Families, will comment on how the Affordable Healthcare Act will – or won't – get the job done.

The format will be 20-minute presentations followed by social or topic-related meet/greet/and eat. A guided discussion of 45 minutes will end with a summation report.

A payment of \$5 is asked to cover special refreshments provided by Nancy and Mark.

For reservation, please e-mail Hatheway Hasler at [hathewayhasler\(at\)gmail.com](mailto:hathewayhasler(at)gmail.com). ●

Blood Drive Volunteers Needed

Help is needed for Red Cross blood drive coordination. FUS hosts 2 or 3 Red Cross blood drives each year. Blood donors come from all three Madison UU societies. We need help with planning the drives and recruiting donors and helpers. Active participation is needed only in the 4 weeks leading up to and during the drives. Interested in helping? Contact Anne Mosser, [agmosser\(at\)tds.net](mailto:agmosser(at)tds.net), or 845-7458. ●



Women's Alliance

The Women's Alliance will meet Wednesday, March 14, at 1:30 p.m. The program will be "Getting to Know You" and is intended to encourage sharing of our own histories with each other. Nancy Deer will lead the discussion. Treats and coffee will be served. Everyone is invited! ●

Winter Farmer's Market a Success

Many thanks to all those who worked incredibly hard to make our Winter Farmers' Market a great success. We served 200 people a delicious brunch, the vendors said it was the most income they've had all season and we raised \$560 to donate to Porchlight, Inc. for their transportation program. All in all, a great day!

Deepest thanks to...

- The Market Ministry Team: Mary Bergin, Emily Cusic, Jennifer Gaber, Patricia Leonardi, Lynda McAfee, Cindy Rose and Jeanne Sears
- Jennifer Gaber for preparing that amazing brunch and helping to remember all the details
- Patricia Leonardi for gorgeous publicity and washing a million dishes
- Peter Robertson for his inspiring keynote address
- Kevin Appleton for a scrumptious salad chef demonstration
- Aidan Schmidt and Mackenzie Ingvalson for helping with "Kids Painting with Food"
- Richard and Lynn Scoby, Stephanie Sorensen, Lynda McAfee and Cindy Rose for getting there so early to help set up
- Karen Jaeger, Becky Hustad, Brian Frey, Donna Cangelosi, Dee Wylie and Judy Thorpe for cleaning up, schlepping tables and mopping floors
- and to the FoodHaulers for helping with brunch – Gay Eliason, Dan Caucutt, Pamela Magee, Ann Mosser, Mark and Kathleen Hoover, Betty Evanson, and Marge Millier.

It couldn't have come together without each and every one of you – a million thanks!
– Kelly Crocker ●

Help Wanted: Member Center Editor

Do you like keeping your finger on the pulse of the Society? Like to write? Have a sense of humor? You might be just the person to be the volunteer editor of the FUS Member Center, a webpage on our FUS site that could use your touch. Plus you can do it from the comfort of your home! If you think you just might be that person, let's talk! Harry Carnes 233-9774 ext. 122 or /publications. ●



*Shirley Inhorn (left)
and Donna Hartshorne (right)*



Shirley Inhorn and Donna Hartshorne Honored

The Friends of the Meeting House acknowledge with deep gratitude the dedication, service, and generosity over many years of Donna Hartshorne and Shirley Inhorn, who are awarded the Friends' Lifetime Achievement Award for Outstanding Service.

They have contributed immeasurably to the educational and architectural preservation missions of the Friends. Donna has served as the FUS Archivist since 1984 and is the longest-serving member of the Friends' Board, including terms as Vice-President and Treasurer.

Shirley trained most of the current Meeting House Guides, co-coordinated the guide program for over ten years, and is a long-standing member of the FUS Preservation Ministry Team. Thank you, Shirley and Donna! ●

Interested in finding out more about Unitarian Universalism?

We are offering two New UU Orientation Classes before the summer months. This class consists of four sessions. The first is held on Thursday evenings from 7 to 9 p.m. March 8, 15, 22, 29. The second class is offered on Sundays from 1 to 3 p.m. beginning April 22 and continuing April 29, May 6 and May 13. Childcare is offered during this class.

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 UU and the organization of the Society,
- explore whether their beliefs and values are consonant with UUism,
- consider your next steps to deeper involvement at First Unitarian.

Registration is available in the Commons at the Information tables or at [/newUU](#) ●



Become a Member of FUS

Sundays, March 25 and May 20, we will be holding a "Membership Book Signing" event from 12:30 to 2 p.m. in the historic Landmark Auditorium.

This Membership event is an opportunity for those ready to become members to formally commit to the Society and sign our official membership book. Membership is open to those of you that have taken our New UU series or have 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 [jeannes\(at\)fusmadison.org](mailto:jeannes(at)fusmadison.org). A packet of information will be mailed for you to complete. RSVP's are required! ●

More Meeting House News

General Assembly is Just Around The Corner!

This year's annual gathering of Unitarian Universalist Congregations, General Assembly (GA), will be in Phoenix and will have a special focus on our call to justice work. GA 2012 will be a gathering with multiple ways of engaging in justice work for people of all ages and abilities. Joining with the people of Arizona, we will worship, witness, learn, and work together. The hope is to leave General Assembly grounded in our shared faith and values, energized for justice and equipped with resources to bring our work home to FUS. At this time, civil disobedience is *not* part of the plan. We will witness, worship, and learn!

GA is a wonderful opportunity to connect with other UUs from across the nation, hear from the Unitarian Universalist Association President, and vote on important denominational business. GA is five days to become more informed, to enjoy inspiring worship in a variety of styles, and be one amongst many UUs.

"Early Bird" Registration opens on March 1. FUS will be reserving a block of rooms and planning a dinner for all the UUs from Madison. More details on financial assistance are forthcoming. If you plan to attend, please let Erich Pitcher know as soon as possible at socialjusticecoordinator or 233-9774 ext. 125. Also, check out the UUA site to gather some more information about GA at <http://www.uua.org/ga/2012/index.shtml>. Hope to see you in Phoenix. ●



Cabaret is April 13!

Hola, amigos! Make Friday, April 13 a lucky night by donating to and attending the Cabaret "Latin Spectacular" Auction Party. Each spring, FUS members and friends donate an amazing array of events, services, and articles and then we have fun bidding on each other's items. There's sure to be something that fits your interests and wallet.

Donations don't have to be big or fancy. Mostly, we just enjoy the opportunities to spend time together and share our talents, hobbies, and hospitality. Cabaret puts the fun in fundraising. Last year's auction raised more than \$30,000 for the programs and services that FUS provides.

This year's party will truly be spectacular. We'll have hip-swaying Latin music plus Chef Jen Gaber's scrumptious Latin appetizers and desserts. Child care is free with fun activities for all ages.

How can you help Cabaret be a huge success? Donate an auction item and buy your tickets today. Go to [/cabaret](#) or visit the Cabaret table in the Commons after weekend services. ●



February Board Notes

by Sandy Eskrich, President of the Board of Trustees

At our February Board of Trustees meeting we reviewed the work of the three Board Committees: Personnel, Finance and Governance and asked the question, are these committees spending their energy with activities that help the Board carry out its responsibility for discernment, strategy, developing policies and oversight? This is not a simple question and boards in the future will continue to challenge themselves to stick with this focus. We believe this is one of the keys to a powerful organizational structure for First Unitarian Society.

Also, very importantly, the members of the Board of Trustees as well as the members of the three Board Committees have accepted the challenge to take the lead in registering our Annual Pledge for financial support for FUS. These individuals and families have made a 10% plus increase in our commitment to supporting the work of First Unitarian Society.

Please take the time to review the Annual Campaign materials. <https://www.fusmadison.org/giving>.

Consider your engagement and endorsement of our spiritual organization and make or renew your annual pledge in a spirit of generosity.

Thank you. – Sandy ●



Wartmann Lecture...
Your Reproductive Rights are Under Attack!

Date: Sunday, March 11
Time: 3 p.m., reception following
Location: Landmark Auditorium
Fee: Free

Reproductive rights, abortion, contraception, women's healthcare, sex education. These are all battles that are raging on the national and local stage.

- In Wisconsin, the landmark Healthy Youth Act, which mandates scientifically-based sexuality education in schools, is in danger of repeal.
- Wisconsin has **turned down** federal funds for Healthcare Exchanges intended to make finding affordable health insurance easier.
- Abortion services are becoming increasingly unavailable - even in the case of rape.

These are the topics that Wisconsin Assembly member Chris Taylor will be addressing on Sunday, March 11, in the Landmark Auditorium. As a former lawyer and Public Policy Director for Planned Parenthood of Wisconsin, Taylor is perhaps the person in Wisconsin best positioned to help inform and give perspective us on these vital topics.

Ms. Taylor has a long career as an advocate for basic human rights. In 2003, she started working for Planned Parenthood of Wisconsin as the policy and political director. She was one of the driving forces behind the passage of the *Compassionate Care for Rape Victims Act*, the first pro-active reproductive health bill to pass in over three decades.

This lecture is free, open to the public and followed by a reception. Please plan to come. Your rights are under attack. ●

Thanks to William and Joyce Wartmann, the Society sponsors an annual endowed William and Joyce Wartmann Lecture on Human Sexuality and the Liberal Religious Tradition. The lecture occurs each spring and has always been a forum for the presentation of critical and controversial issues facing society. ●



Chris Taylor



Noon Musicales

Friday at 12:15 – Landmark Auditorium

February 24

Linda Warren, harp; Leyla Sanyer, violin; and Philip Delaquess, cello.

Music of François Naderman, selections from Respighi's Ancient Airs and Dances.

March 2

Catherine Schweitzer, soprano and Jeff Gibbens, piano

Songs and arias by Mozart, Brahms, Massenet, Zeller, Verdi and Strauss.

March 9

**The Dream Songs Project
 Joseph Spoelstra, guitar and Alyssa Anderson, soprano**

Music of Dominick Argento, John Dowland, Maura Giuliani and Matyas Sieber.

March 16

Marilyn Chohaney, flute and Linda Warren, harp

Music of Mozart, Krumpholtz, Shaposhnikov and Prokofiev.

March 23

Philip Delaquess, cello and Dan Broner, piano Ludwig van Beethoven - *The complete Cello Variations.*

March 30

Laura Medisky, oboe and Vincent Fuh, piano Music of Bach, Saint-Saens, Alyssa Morris and Madeleine Dring.

Join us each Friday for great music in a great spot. And bring a brown bag lunch if you like - free coffee and tea! ●



Adult Education

Classes for "Curious Adults" Now Open for Registration

We mailed the Winter/Spring (Nearly) *Everything Program Guide for Curious Adults* early in January. If you didn't get one, you can pick one up at the Religious Education table in the Commons before or after service. The *Guide* lists (nearly) all of our adult programs, including our Adult Education classes.

We have updated our Adult Education registration system. This system will allow you to pay online with either a debit from your checking account or with your credit card.

Directions are provided for you on the website at www.fusmadison/adult-ed. Questions about Adult Education classes? Contact Deb Mies, Religious Education Program Coordinator at /REprogramcoordinator. ●

"Seminary For a Day" with Revs. John Buehrens, Michael Schuler, Kelly Crocker and Karen Gustafson

Date: Saturday, May 5
Time: 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

(Sign up for the entire day or individual sessions.)

Location: Landmark Auditorium

Fees: \$40 for all day (with lunch) or \$10 per session

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to study for the UU ministry? Ever thought you might want to try it, if only for a day? Our FUS Ministers will be joined by Rev. John Buehrens to give you just this opportunity. There will be four sessions:

- Our Theological House with Rev. Buehrens;
- Movement Meditation with Rev. Michael Schuler;
- Universalists and Unitarians in America: A People's History with Rev. Buehrens;
- In Nature's Honor: Creating a Theology of the Earth with Revs. Kelly Crocker and Karen Gustafson.

(For session descriptions, see *The (Nearly) Everything Program Guide for Curious Adults* or <http://www.fusmadison.org/seminary>.)

John Buehrens served as president of the UUA from 1993 to 2001. He is now minister of First Parish in Needham, MA, and is a member of the adjunct faculty at Harvard Divinity School, from which he graduated in 1973. He is also author of three books which can be found in our FUS library.



Notes About the New On-Line Registration System

This January, the FUS website transitioned from using an e-mail and pay-pal based system to a new web-based registration system provided by Shelby systems, our long time church database supplier. Shelby has had some technical difficulties, which we apologize for. Here are a few tips we are aware of that seem to help.

Logging in. We sent out passwords and user names to most of you last week. The "Retrieve Password" works. *Be sure you are using the e-mail on-record at FUS.* No log-in or password? Register as a new user.

If you do not see the Tabs, or only some, close your browser and reopen the page. Try logging out and back in.

Enable Cookies It looks like several people have had problems because they have restricted cookies on their browser. Unfortunately, this system requires cookies to be enabled.

Update Your Browser Out-of-date browsers often will not work.

– Thanks! - Harry Carnes, Webmaster ●

This is a sampling of classes that are beginning soon. Please check your copy of The (nearly) Everything Program Guide for a complete list of all our offerings and a registration form or go to <http://www.fusmadison.org/adult-ed>.

**“Mothering and Identity”
with Rev. Karen Gustafson**

Monday, February 27, March 5, 12, and 19

Join us for a course that is for anyone who has been or has a mother who struggles to reconcile the reality of mothering with the myth of the “good mother.” We will look at the myth and the ways in which it has affected our past relationships and explore ways to limit the myth to allow authentic relationships, acceptance, forgiveness and growth. (Appropriate for mothers and daughters 16 and over to take together.)



**“Parent Reading Group”
with Rev. Kelly Crocker**

Dates: Thursday, February 23 or Sunday, February 26

Today’s busier, faster society is waging an undeclared war on childhood. With too much stuff, too many choices, and too little time, children can become anxious, have trouble with friends and school, or even be diagnosed with behavioral problems. Join us as we discuss the work of Kim John Payne and look for ways to help reclaim for our children the space and freedom they need.



**“Exploring Sufism”
with Rev. Kelly Crocker and Rev. Jerry Mosser**

Tuesday, February 28, March 6 and March 13
Historically, Sufism is rooted in Islam. Sufis seek to understand and experience an aspect of Islam that cultivates the inner life in search of divine love and knowledge. Join us for discussion, a visit to a worship service and celebrate the divine through the Dances of Universal Peace.



**“Ten Steps to Positive Discipline”
with Linda Nyland**

Dates: Sundays, March 11 – April 1

Conscious Discipline® is an emotional intelligence program consisting of strategies for responding, rather than reacting, to life events, based on the principles of Dr. Becky Bailey, PhD. Explore the ways to communicate, instill empathy and create homes where children choose to be helpful.



Telling Your Spiritual Life Story in Beads with Janet Swanson and Merilee Wertlake

Dates/Times: Friday, March 9, 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Sat., March 10, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Note: Includes Sat. lunch and materials fee
Beads and spirituality are inextricably linked. If you were to tell your spiritual life story on a timeline, what would it look like? How could it be expressed if it were a strand of beads? This powerful exercise can help bring clarity and a sense of the wholeness to your life.



“Humanism: Heeding the Guidance of Reason and Results of Science,”

Fifth Source lecture by Michael Schuler, Tuesday, March 20, 7 p.m.

Landmark Auditorium, \$5 suggested donation at the door.

On the weekend of March 10 & 11, Michael will be delivering a sermon on our fifth UU Source, Humanist Teachings. Join him on this Tuesday evening for an insightful look at the humanist intellectual tradition, starting with the Renaissance and Reformation, moving through the Enlightenment and scientific revolution to today’s world where “secular humanism,” has become a bogeyman for many conservative Christians. ●





Social Justice

Justice General Assembly: Learn Locally, Act Nationally Adult Education Class

Join Liz Wessel and Erich Pitcher as we take a collective educational journey about immigration. We will share our stories of immigration, try to better understand



immigration as it affects the Madison community, and develop a culminating project in partnership with Centro Hispano. This course will be both reflective and action oriented. Make sure you register for this action packed class! Registration for this class will close on Monday February 27. Register online at /[ae-registration](#) For more information contact Erich P at 233-9774 or /[socialjusticecoordinator](#). ●

Registration Now Open for the Peace and Justice Retreat

On Saturday, March 17, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. FUS will welcome Rev. Brock Leach from the Unitarian



Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) and kick-off our congregations peace advocacy work at this year's Peace and Justice Retreat.

Come learn about the important work of the UUSC, share your intentions for peace, and enjoy a nutritious lunch with fellow members.

Workshops, conversations, and the spirit of meditation and peace will flow from the Atrium on this special morning. Registration is now open. Please register at /[PJretreat](#). For more information contact Erich P at 233-9774 or /[socialjusticecoordinator](#). ●

The Happy Dance was a multigenerational delight!

Over 200 people stormed the dance floor in the Atrium Auditorium for a family-friendly, LGBTQ affirming dance for all ages. Ladies Must Swing delighted us with their musical repartee. Popcorn was generously shared and spilled throughout the Commons. Thank you to all who attended, all the volunteers, and a special thanks to Ann Pooler for pulling the whole thing off. (Photos on page 11) ●

Service Sunday Brainstorming Session

You are invited to join in a Service Sunday Brainstorming session on Tuesday, March 6, at 7 p.m. in Courtyard D.

- Who should we partner with this year?
- What types of projects might we offer?
- How might we engage other UU congregations?
- Should we include other denominations?
- What good do we hope to do?

Attend this session and let our brains storm! ●

Porchlight Breakfast Program

Did you know that FUS has been involved in preparing a Sunday breakfast monthly at Grace Episcopal Church shelter for homeless men for the past 20 years? 30 members & friends were actively engaged in this social justice project in 2012. Would you consider joining us in 2012? Volunteers generally participate in 1-2 breakfasts during the calendar year. No special cooking skills are needed. A willingness to get up early, to work as a team with friendly, fellow FUS cooks & servers, and a readiness to warmly greet the shelter guests are all that are required. If you would like more information about dates, times, and opportunities, please contact Mary Niederehe at niedmary@sbcglobal.net or 217-8341. ●

Outreach Offering Update:

Recently we collected for the following organizations:

MUM (1/7 & 8, 1/14 & 15).....	\$1,000
Planned Parenthood (1/21 & 22, 1/28 & 29).....	\$1,880

Upcoming Recipients:

Dane County United • Wisconsin Community Fund • Odyssey Project ●



Paths of Peace #96:

This (and at least one more column) are excerpts of writing by Gary Gach, reprinted with permission from *Veterans of War, Veterans of Peace*, edited by Maxine Hong Kingston. He first introduces himself:

I was born in 1947 in Los Angeles. I've worked as an actor, book designer and typographer, assistant hospital administrator, legal secretary, longshoreman, magazine editor in chief, office temp, and web weaver. I attained a B.A. in English in 1970. I'd always shied away from writing workshops, until I happened upon Maxine Hong Kingston's veteran's writing sangha, in 1994. I currently teach haiku at several places and I facilitate mindfulness meditation at the Church for the Fellowship of All Peoples.

Fathers and Sons

Recently, a stranger came up to me and spoke just one sentence, unexpectedly bringing much of my life story into focus. I was at the Church for the Fellowship of All Peoples, founded in 1944, in San Francisco, America's first interracial church. I respect its congregation, the beloved community, as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. would put it. On rare occasions, I've been honored to be asked to their podium. Me, a Jewish Buddhist, addressing a largely black congregation on Sunday—will somebody please say Amen!?

Earlier that year, I'd suggested a book, *Engaged Spirituality*, for their study group. Its eclectic selections provided grist for the mill for ten sessions. Then the group asked if I

could come in for a month and continue their studies of engaged Buddhism. Engaged, as in being actively involved in the world.

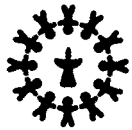
Well, on the third of those four Sundays, as I sat down with five or six members of the study group, about a dozen ladies suddenly filed in. They were well into their seventies and beyond, all smartly dressed as is customary in black churches, heads held high in Sunday go-to-meetin' hats worn like crowns. Someone explained that they were visiting from Chicago and were taking in our study group as part of their tour of the church.

So, I continued--the focus of our attention would be motivation. If our ultimate goal is enlightenment, awakening, liberation—what is our initial intent, setting out upon the path? I could see question marks start to form on people's brows as they thought about this. I was introducing the bodhisattva path, in which one sets out on the Way for the sake of all beings. One lady realized hers might even be considered a kind of selfish altruism, wanting to live in a world in which others were kind, as well as oneself. They were a pretty sharp crew.

And, as Rosa Parks had just died that week, one of the elder visitors said she thought Rosa Parks was like the Buddha in daring to leave the high castle walls of accepted convention in search of truth. We all nodded at that recognition. Soon a meditative piano player could be heard, signaling time for the church service upstairs. (*To be continued*) ●



Gary Gach



Religious Education

Important Dates to Know:

March 18: Coming of Age orientation for parents and youth. Learn more about our 9th/10th grade Coming of Age program. Join us at 10 a.m. in the Landmark Auditorium

March 24/25: NO CRE CLASSES; Join us for Celebration Weekend, when we'll have worship services for ALL ages!

April 1: Registration for CRE 2012-2013 begins

April 7/8: Easter Weekend; NO CRE CLASSES. Join us Sunday for our Easter Egg Hunt following the 9 am Family Easter service

April 22: NO CRE CLASSES; Join us for SmAll Music Sunday at 10 a.m., a special musical program for children and their families

May 12/13: Coming Age worship services on Saturday and Sunday at 11 a.m. ●

Parent Resources

Have you checked out the resources for parents on our website? Go to [/for-parents](#) to find books, essays, spiritual practices, and on-line resources that will enrich your family's spiritual growth. ●

Playground Season

Playground season seems to have arrived early! We want kids of all ages to be able to enjoy our wonderful "whale" playground safely. Parents, we appreciate your cooperation in assuring that children using the playground have adult supervision to help insure the safety and enjoyment of all! ●



Central Midwest District Assembly 2012 is April 27 to 29

This year's regional Central Midwest District Assembly of UUs will be held Friday through Sunday, April 27-29. The theme this year is "Leadership With a UU Spiritual Core." It will be in the Chicagoland area at the Marriot Oak Brook Hill Resort.

Friday night's opening ceremony will feature special guest **Rev. Bill Schulz**, President of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee and past president of the UUA.



Rev. Marilyn Sewell will be the keynote presenter on Saturday morning. She has been interested in the theological and spiritual dimensions of leadership development for some time and is looking forward to exploring this with us. There will be two sessions of workshops on Saturday afternoon and then in the evening, we will show Rev. Sewell's documentary film, "Raw Faith."

Sunday morning, the winner of the District Assembly Sermon Contest will lead a worship service open to all.

There will be lots of music throughout the weekend, opportunities to connect with old friends and meet new ones, and time for spiritual reflection. Get the dates on your calendar now and let us know if you're interested in being a part of our DA planning team or offering a workshop. Here is a link for registration, which is now available: www.cmwd-uua.org and www.regonline.com/DA2012. ●

Be a District Assembly Delegate

If you interested in being a delegate representing the First Unitarian Society, at the Assembly, please contact Richard and Lynn Scoby, our DA/GA Ministry Team Leaders, at rscoby2@mac.com or Jeanne Sears, Coordinator of Member Programs, /memberprogramscoordinator or 233-9774 ext. 116. ●

Happy Dance 2012



Madison Unitarian Deadlines

Volume 63 #4

Deadline: Wednesday, February 29
Publication & Assembly: Monday, March 12

Volume 63 #5

Deadline: Wednesday, March 21
Publication & Assembly: Monday, April 2

Volume 63 #6

Deadline: Wednesday, April 11
Publication & Assembly: Monday, April 23

Volume 63 #7

Deadline: Wednesday, May 2
Publication & Assembly: Monday, May 14

Volume 63 #8

Deadline: Wednesday, May 23
Publication & Assembly: Monday, June 4

Volume 63 #9

Deadline: Wednesday, June 20
Publication & Assembly: Monday, July 2

Please send your contributions to
newsletter@fusmadison.org. Thanks! ●

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Upcoming Services at FUS

Saturday, February 25 at 4:30 p.m.

Spiritual Courage in the 21st Century: The Inner Journey by Rev. Jody Whelden, Chaplain St. Mary's Hospital

We travel in the river, we are not the river. The mystics believe touching and living the source of the river is the most important human journey. As it changes us, we change the world. The preeminent mystic Gandhi said, "As human beings, our greatness lies not so much in being able to remake the world – that is the myth of the atomic age – as in being able to remake ourselves." Today we explore living the inner journey in the 21st century. Rev. Jody Whelden, UU minister, is a chaplain at St. Mary's Hospital, Madison. **Musically**, Frank Parks will play mandolin and sing traditional music with Linda Warren playing lap harp.



Sunday, February 26 at 9 and 11 a.m.

"Universalism: Love and Risk" with Rev. Natalie Fenimore

Our Universalist heritage calls us to love the world – even as we experience hate, pain and suffering. How do we embrace the risk of love? How might Universalism be a faith for our time? Rev. Natalie Fenimore is currently the Minister for Religious Exploration at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax in Oakton, Virginia. She serves as the President of the Liberal Religious Educator's Association. She's been a UU for 30 years and a religious professional for over a decade.

Musically, the Meeting House Chorus will sing *Would You Harbor Me?* by Ysaye Barnwell and *This Little Light of Mine*, arranged by Moses Hogan featuring soprano Amber Nicole Dilger.



Saturday, March 3 at 4:30 p.m. Sunday, March 4 at 9 & 11 a.m.

"Shall Giving Be Conditional?"

by Karen Gustafson, Associate Minister

The Worship Theme for March is "Generosity". What is the relationship between generosity and expectation of return? Is "giving from the heart" a recipe for "heart break"? How is generosity a spiritual practice? How is generosity related to resources? These are some of the questions that we will consider in this introduction to our theme. **Musically**, on Saturday, clarinetist Robyn Perrin and pianist Dan Broner will play the musical offerings. Sunday, cellist Philip Delaquess and pianist Dan Broner will play a set of Beethoven variations based on a theme from Mozart's opera *The Magic Flute*.



Saturday, March 10 at 4:30 p.m. Sunday, March 11 at 9 & 11 a.m.

"Humanism Unpacked" by Michael A. Schuler, Parish Minister

When I was writing my doctoral dissertation on "Humanism in 20th Century American Thought" thirty years ago, the term was the source of significant controversy. Conservative evangelicals like Jerry Falwell and Jimmy Swaggart spoke ominously of a secular humanist conspiracy, and even in our own movement self-identified humanists were beginning to feel marginalized. Still, humanism remains one of the "Six Sources" from which UUs draw inspiration. What are its roots and what does humanism stand for? These are two of the questions we'll address this weekend. A more comprehensive follow-up lecture and discussion on this topic will be held at 7 p.m. on March 20.

Musically, on Saturday, Gay Thomas will sing accompanied by pianist Linda Warren. Sunday, The Society Choir will sing *Come Said the Muse*, a setting of verses by Walt Whitman.

