



# news @ first . u . providence

The Monthly Newsletter for  
The First Unitarian Church of Providence  
Corner of Benefit and Benevolent Streets  
Providence, Rhode Island

M A Y 2 0 0 9

## All Church Events

- Transylvania Dinner – May 1
- Round the Table Dinners – May 9
- All-Parish Supper – May 15
- Annual Financial Meeting – May 31

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## S T A F F

- Rev. James Ishmael Ford, Minister
- Cathy Seggel, Director of Religious Education
- Frederick Jodry, Music Director
- Rev. Christana Wille McKnight,  
Community Minister
- Posey Kooris, Administrator
- Walter O. Sotelo, Administrative Assistant
- Katy Killilea, Membership Coordinator
- Jaime Durango, Building Manager
- Paul Webber, Evening Security
- Tadesse Tsega, Sunday Building Manager

## N E W S L E T T E R

- Posey Kooris, Managing Editor
- Susan Fisher, Editor
- Carol Pentleton, Designer

## Services in May...

### Sunday, May 3 From Providence to Kathmandu: Spirituality and Social Justice

10:30a

Rev. James Ishmael Ford

You may have figured out James believes we are all totally, completely dependent upon each other. He believes it is as if we are threads woven together and that we need each other to be who we are. Today he will take hold of one those threads and follow where it goes...

Our dedicated offering today will go to Hands In Outreach, and particularly the Bal Kendra project.

*Young people begin in classrooms and worship in Chapel.*

### Sunday, May 10 "The Day the Earth Was Silent"—An Intergenerational Service Mother's Day, Flower Communion, and Teacher Recognition

10:30a

Cathy Seggel, DRE, Rev. James Ishmael Ford, and Ginny Fox

We will celebrate many aspects of our spiritual community, focusing on the traditional Flower Communion.\* We will also be celebrating mothers and teachers from our Spiritual Pathways program. Oh, and there's a very interesting story and commentary about waging peace that Cathy and James believe ties all this together.

\*Please bring a flower to share in the flower exchange. (There will be plenty of extra blooms at church if you forget.)

*Nursery and Toddler rooms open.*

### Sunday, May 17 How to Become a Gay Church

10:30a

Rev. James Ishmael Ford

James spent a couple of days at the beginning of the month in Washington, DC, as part of the Human Rights Campaign's Clergy Call. On this 19th anniversary of homosexuality's removal from the World Health Organization's international classification of diseases, James will report back on his experiences and reflect a little on what this issue might mean for us as Unitarian Universalists at the beginning of the 21st century.

*Young people begin in classrooms and worship in Chapel.*

### Sunday, May 24 A Memorial Day Celebration

10:00a (Note the earlier start time!)

Rev. Jose Ballester and Rev. James Ishmael Ford

We will again join the congregation of Bell Street Chapel while Brown's graduation exercises fill the area around campus. The joint service will be led by Jose Ballester with the assistance of James Ford.

*No First Unitarian Sunday School*

Bell Street Chapel is located at 5 Bell Street, Providence, off Broadway just east of the Route 10 overpass. Limited parking is available in the designated lot behind the Chapel; additional parking on Ridge Street, the Chapel side of Broadway, and Bainbridge Avenue. *Note:* Bell Street Chapel suggests stowing personal items out of sight and accepts no responsibility for damage to or loss of personal property.

### Sunday, May 31 Preaching Damnable Good Works

10:30a

Rev. James Ishmael Ford

Later this afternoon James will be preaching at the ordination of Catherine Senghas, his former intern and recently appointed Executive Director and Senior Minister of the Unitarian Universalist Urban Ministry in Boston, the oldest church-related social service agency in the United States. We'll get a little peek at what he thinks about the liberal ministry, past, present, and future.

*Young people begin in classrooms and worship in Chapel.*

**12:00p Annual Financial Meeting in the Hirst Auditorium**

### Lay Ministry Program Begins

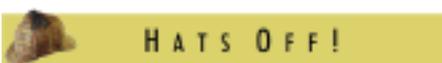
After its installation on Sunday, February 15, First Unitarian's Lay Ministry Team embarked on its mission to respond to family crises and emergency needs of our congregation.

This group of church members, chosen by the Reverend James Ford and approved by the Prudential Committee, has the counsel and support of Rev. Ford and the many hands of the Care Crew. There are 44 Care Crew volunteers who have agreed to accept assignments. Sometimes a card, a phone call, or a friendly visit may be all that is needed. At other times, volunteers may provide emergency meals, transportation, and child care.

All requests are directed to the Lay Ministers, who will determine which services are needed. Each month, one Lay Minister will take the lead in responding to requests made to the church office or to any one of the Lay Ministers. When the Lay Ministers cannot meet particular needs, they will endeavor to provide referrals to other services that may be helpful.

The Lay Ministry Team and Care Crew volunteers are available during times of illness, death, birth, or other times when some help would be welcomed. They are ready to work together to share the caring and hope that anyone who is going through a stressful time – or knows of someone else who is – will let them know.

*Lay Ministers: Stewart Armstrong, Mary Frappier, Mary Frey, Martha Manno, Kate Menard, and Janet Noble*



...to our Coffee Hour Providers:

**March:** Christy Chase, Roberta Groch, Amy Dolan, Russell Gifford, The Transylvania Partner Church Committee, David House, Melissa Guillet, Marilyn Eanet, Ruth Worthen, Suzanne Craig, Gerry Spremulli, The Girl Scouts, Anne Connor, Kate Menard, Beth Armstrong, Mary Frappier, Michael Ciappelli, Jacqui Nye, Ryk McIntyre, Suzanne Craig and Elsie Buffum;

**April:** David House, Nancy Shand, Ellen Anderson, Tom Getz, The Music Committee, Anne Connor, Susan Harrison, Dianne Mailloux, Ruth Worthen, Kate Menard, Liz Palter and all who brought something to surprise us;

...to our youth and advisors for a wonderful, meaningful Youth Service; and

...to parents who cooked for the April teacher lunch.



### MONKEY MIND

For many reasons psychological and historical, the majority of those attracted to Unitarian Universalism are inclined toward the left of the American political scene. Of course, this is a problem. When one moves in a sea, it is sometimes hard to notice the sea.

Now, this is my crowd. I recently took one of those online tests that placed me politically in a social liberal niche, on the economic axis two thirds of the way from a capitalist toward a socialist perspective, and socially about three quarters of the way to libertarian from totalitarian. It put me right between Nelson Mandela and the Dalai Lama. I rather liked that.

The catch is to not think that because I think it, it is necessary right or true. While I would like to think this perspective comes from cool analysis, and there is much of that; still, there are also all sorts of reasons psychological and historical for my standing where I do. I – we who care about being honest and useful in this world – should therefore be a bit suspicious of our perspective..

Nowhere is this problematic aspect more complex than in how we give our attention to the social concerns of the day. Up close and ugly, I think about my relationship with the struggle for marriage equality. My best analysis says this is the side of the angels and the irresistible tide of history. I'm pleased to be an active member of the Religious Coalition for Marriage Equality here in Rhode Island and, in fact, I'm one of the UU clergy scheduled to be in Washington, DC, early in May for the Human Rights Campaign's Clergy Call. I'm also so, so proud of our community giving these issues serious attention through our own congregational commitment toward Welcoming and our UU Legislative ministry, both statewide and here in our congregation's attention to legislation relative to marriage equality and BGLT civil rights in general. And I'm pleased as punch to be completely mixed up in these projects.

The problem for me is thinking that those who oppose this are bad people. I would like to say I don't. But the raw truth is I just think it. I think they're filled with hate. I think they're intentionally ignorant, which is somewhere in the vicinity of unforgivable. The litany of my personal criticism of those opposed to BGLT rights and particularly marriage equality is quite long.

And, of course, I am wrong.

Not, I'm confident, in the larger sense; there is a deep call to justice in the call to BGLT rights. I've arrived at my sense of these things through a long and sometimes painful process.

But, I need to watch my feelings about those who stand in opposition. Closely...

Now, I'm avoiding at this point going into analysis of why people of good will and intelligence oppose marriage equality. It's too easy. And it lets me off the hook of looking into my heart and my emotions, of owning who I am, and how I stand in the world...

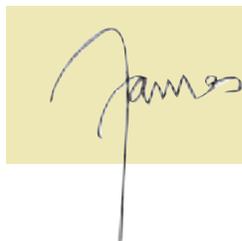
Here my commitment is to watch this, to notice this, and to reflect on this.

And this is perhaps exactly where social engagement and spiritual reflection meet.

The rubber hitting the road.

Perhaps you might like to try it, as well.

See where it goes...



Rev. James Ishmael Ford, Minister  
Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, 9:00a–12:00p  
Appointments are recommended.  
min@firstunitarianprov.org





SPIRITUAL  
PATHWAYS

NEWS AND NOTES

## The Language of Flowers: I Care. I Hope that You Bloom Again.

I have given myself permission to quote Brian Nelson again this month because I am trying to learn the language of the flowers of which he writes. It was a long winter. Look around. May is providing proof that blooming is possible. Our children and youth teach me that each week, regardless of the season. And, in many Unitarian Universalist congregations, including ours, a Flower Communion tradition is celebrated at this time of year in common worship, exchanging blossoms and community. It is natural to compare bursting blossoms to searching souls. For example, our religious education programs for children, youth, and adults encourage health and growth, regardless of the weather, throughout the years. Once the seeds arrive, the fertilizer is spread, and the ground is watered, attention and care are essential. In other words, resources that nurture ethical, spiritual, and religious identity and faith development are chosen as explicit curricula for use by volunteer teacher teams who spend time with classrooms of children and youth on Sunday mornings.

The 2009–2010 curriculum plan is shared on this page. Traditional favorites are included, as well as new, innovative offerings from the UUA Tapestry of Faith series. As many congregants have heard me say, the importance of the actual curriculum pales when compared with the impact that dedicated volunteer adult leaders have on the precious buds of our young people. I am extremely grateful to the more than 50 gardeners of the spirit, volunteer teachers, who generously share their presence and our implicit curriculum of generosity and mentorship each season. Ministry to and with children and youth happens when listening to weekly joys and worries in small circles, traveling to neighboring houses of worship, meditating in chapel pews, dancing and singing, regardless of abilities, on happy and grumpy mornings. Volunteers in our spiritual pathways program have a sense of that language of flowers, so audible in May. I continue to take lessons from teachers and learners and flowers.

I care. I hope that you bloom again.

*“A single note or a symphonic cacophony, the outcome is always the same; Music, my friends... Experience the ineffable.”*

Thus began the intricate words of the responsive reading at our annual youth group led service. That reading grew from a compilation of congregational responses to a youth survey that was enhanced by the clever musings of a youth grouper. Brought to tears when I listened at the Saturday morning rehearsal, I was not surprised at my joy when the Sunday service was moving and inspirational.

— Cathy

### “Standing at the Podium”

#### A Reflection on the Youth Group Service

by Lincoln Oliver-O’Neil

Standing at the podium, hands resting on the single sheet of paper that was my contribution to this service, I felt calm and composed. I was next to Sophie Siegel-Warren and Olivia Boone, two seniors who were also participating in the reading with me. Though my gaze was directed outward as we recited our verses, I could feel their presences, loud and energetic. I have been in the audience for these Youth Services for many years, learning about Death, Quests, and even the UU basement itself, to name a few. But being up in front of the congregation like that gave a strange new perspective to the experience.

Not only was I administering part of the worship, but I was able to realize what this service means for the two who were standing beside to me at the time, and all seniors who have passed through our Religious Education program. The Youth Service is a gift from the congregation to the whole Youth Group, but a gift to the seniors in particular. This service is their “Final Huzzah” as students in our RE program. It is their chance to go out with a bang and leave a mark on the congregation. For some, the opportunity to share a school of thought or group of ideas with a large body of people will never come again. Thinking this way, I summed it up and came to this conclusion:

Only two more years, then it’s my turn...I can’t wait.

Cathy Seggel, Director of Religious Education  
401.421.7970  
dre@firstunitarianprov.org  
Office Hours: Monday–Friday and Sunday

## Curriculum 2009 – 2010

- Newborns – 2 years old: Origins Nursery
- Playcircle (2–3 year olds): *Celebrating Me and My World*
- Preschool (3–4 year olds): *We Are Many, We Are One*
- Kindergarten: *Creating Home*
- 1st Grade: *Treasure Hunting* (new – *Wonderful Welcome*)
- 2nd Grade: *Free to Believe* with *Experiences with the Web of Life*
- 3rd Grade: *Moral Tales*
- 4th Grade: *Bibleodeon*
- 5th Grade: *UU Traditions* (new – *Toolbox of Faith*)
- 6th Grade: *Neighboring Faiths*
- 7th Grade: *Questing Year* – Similar to this year’s Junior High Social/Social Action  
(and *Families* to complement Welcoming Congregations theme)
- 8th and 9th Grade: *Coming of Age*
- 10th–12th Grades: Senior High Youth Group



NEWS AND NOTES

**Membership News**

by Katy Killilea, Membership Coordinator  
 The final Path to Membership class for the church year will have happened on April 18, and a brunch celebrating and welcoming all of this year's new members is planned for early May. Our guests and newcomers will have an opportunity specifically for informal conversation with James Ford after Coffee Hour on May 17. In the coming weeks, we'll be able to tabulate how many members we've gained this year, but there are some figures to present at this early date. With my apologies to *Harper's*.

**2008–2009 Membership Index**

- Total number of Purple People Greeter volunteers: >100
- Ratio of scarves thought to be in circulation to those actually seen: 5/4
- Signatures in the guest registry between November and March: 71
- Number of new name tags printed since November: 85
- Minimum number of Newcomers' Cafes held: 25
- Approximate amount of coffee, in gallons, consumed by guests since 11/08: 15
- Varieties of Girl Scout cookies offered to newcomers at Coffee Hour: 5
- Path to Membership Classes held: 3
- Average number of attendees at each class: 20
- Total number of new members: to be announced

**Food Pantry Going Green**

The Food Pantry is making the transition from disposable plastic bags to the cloth reusables.

Please consider buying a few extra bags the next time you are shopping and giving them to the First U Food Pantry. There will be a collection barrel in the Atrium. Your help is needed and greatly appreciated.



SIGHT LINES

This is the time of year when important decisions are made regarding next year.

It starts with the Annual Canvass. Every one of us makes a decision about the level of financial support we can pledge to for the work of our congregation next year. The decision each of us makes regarding our pledge has a very direct impact on what we can plan for the coming year.

This year, of course, it's been particularly challenging for the Stewardship Committee, given the situation in the larger economy. Keeping or finding a job has become iffy for many of us; and then there are those of us who are retired and have seen their life savings take a significant hit. Not surprisingly, charitable giving across the nation is down significantly.

All of that said, this year's canvass has gone reasonably well. Things are in the clean-up phase – phoning and emailing those from whom we have not yet heard. While there is reason for optimism, at this writing we wait to see whether we as a congregation are able to sustain our level of giving to the church, despite the uncertainties and hardships. If you have not yet pledged, know that every pledge, no matter the size, makes a difference. It's not too late to call or drop by the office on Sunday and make your pledge.

The next important area of decision-making goes on within the Budget Committee. The Budget Committee is charged by the PruComm, our governing board, with preparing a draft balanced budget for the coming year. Their job will not be easy, for while we have reason to hope that annual giving – which provides over 50 percent of our annual income – will stay constant next year, we know that another important area of income will not.

We depend on earnings from our endowment for about a third of our income each year. Like so many other churches and not-for-profit institutions that rely on support from an endowment, the depressed stock market has created some very daunting challenges. For our congregation, the decline in the stock market means about a \$9,000 decrease in income from endowment support for next year's budget.

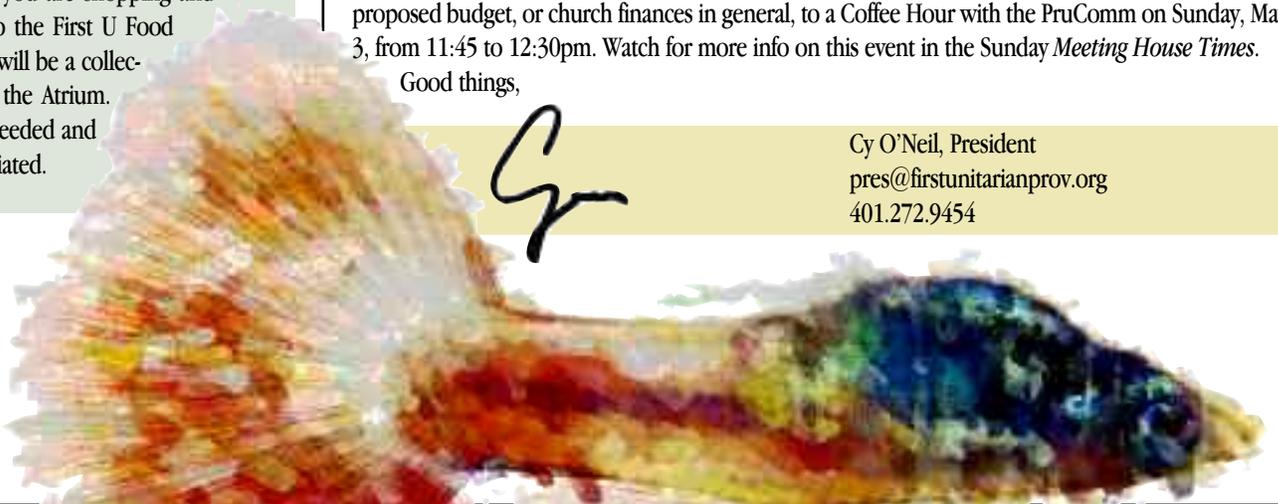
We already run things on a very lean budget around here. Figuring out how to trim our expenses to cover this shortfall, and yet sustain and grow our core programs, will pose some very tough choices for the Budget Committee.

In early May, the committee will forward a balanced draft budget to the PruComm. The PruComm will review this draft and prepare a budget to recommend to the congregation at the Annual Financial Meeting that will be held on Sunday, May 31. Mark this important date on your calendar, for at this meeting, we will vote on how to allocate our limited resources in support of the important work of this congregation.

In preparation for the Financial Meeting, the PruComm is inviting anyone interested in next year's proposed budget, or church finances in general, to a Coffee Hour with the PruComm on Sunday, May 3, from 11:45 to 12:30pm. Watch for more info on this event in the *Sunday Meeting House Times*.

Good things,

Cy O'Neil, President  
 pres@firstunitarianprov.org  
 401.272.9454





## TOGETHER IN FELLOWSHIP

We invite you to join in this month's fellowship activities. We welcome your ideas, comments, or questions. We are all listed in the church directory and all wear orange name tags on Sunday.

*In fellowship, Carol Adams, Jim Estey, Mary Frappier, Kate Menard, Janet Noble, Gerry Spremulli, Dave Spremulli*

### May's Round-the-Table Dinners



*May 9, 6:00p – 9:00p*

Participants are assigned to one of these small dinners (6 to 12 people), which provide the opportunity to get to know some new folks and have fun, as well as contribute to a delicious meal.

As you read this, most of the Round the Table dinners will be full and we will be working from a waiting list. But don't let that discourage you from calling. The waiting list is primarily a source for fill-ins in case someone has to cancel at the last minute but if the list gets big enough, we will create an additional dinner. We have a couple of hosts in waiting.

Contact: Mary Frappier 401.521.7951 or Janet Noble 401.732.0256

### May All-Parish Supper – Friday, May 15

*(note the date change – third Friday of the month)*

**5:45p Social Hour:** Bring hors d'oeuvres to share and wine for your own party if you wish.

**6:15p Potluck Dinner:** Please bring a dish to share that serves at least 8 people. You can bring a main dish, a vegetable, a salad, or a dessert.



**Program: A Visit from the Mayor: Providence Today and Tomorrow**  
**Speaker: Mayor David N. Cicilline**

How is the city of Providence doing? What are its main strengths and problems? What has been the effect of the recession? What is the extent of poverty and unemployment? And what about its future? Come hear the mayor's views on the "state of the city."

Mayor Cicilline grew up in Providence, graduated from Brown University, and served four terms as state representative from Providence's East Side. He was elected mayor in 2002, re-elected in 2006, and plans to

run again in 2010.

Reservations for the Parish Supper are strongly requested. Please fill out the sign-up form in the *Meeting House Times* and put it in the collection plate, or see Jim Estey at Coffee Hour, or call the church office at 401.421.7970.

Childcare for infants and young children will be available for those who sign up in advance. Call Jim Estey at 401.351.1748 to sign up.

**Scheduling note: There will be no Parish Supper in June.**

### MORE EVENTS

#### All-Church Picnic — June 14

This year's picnic, sponsored by the Membership, Religious Education, and Fellowship committees, will take place at India Point Park after church. This will be a casual celebration, fun for all ages – we'll talk, eat, and play. If you have questions, or would like to help, contact Jenn Nardone, Jon Henson, or Gerry or Dave Spremulli.

#### Transylvania Delight!

*Friday, May 1*

The Transylvania Partner Church Committee is sponsoring an evening featuring a traditional Transylvanian meal prepared by our very own chef, Tom Getz, and a cadre of sous chefs. Dinner will be followed by a program of music and stories from Transylvania. We will complete the evening with a discussion about the history of Transylvania and its connection to our church. This dinner is a fundraiser to help build a steeple at our partner church in Szentegyhaza. Tickets are \$15/person, \$30/family.

Reservations: Marida Hollos 401.273.2207.

#### Ferry Beach, Star Island, and Rowe Camp

That there are opportunities to expand your UU connections over the summer. Rowe and Star Island offer theme-based programs weekly and Ferry Beach has weekly conferences, plus accommodations for camping and vacationing for nonconferees.

All offer family-style dining, rustic accommodations, and the potential for an unforgettable vacation for you and/or your family.

Information is at the Welcome Table and on the web, and folks with firsthand experience will wear ASK ME ABOUT badges at Coffee Hour.

### WOMEN'S ALLIANCE

**Monday, May 4**

**11:00a Program:** Elizabeth Coombs, a paper conservator, will talk about the history and significance of conserving works on paper, as well as explaining where and how it is done.

The Alliance Nominating Committee will present the slate for next year, which will be voted on at the June meeting.

**12:00p Catered lunch** (\$9 or bring your own)

GETTING INVOLVED

**Welcoming Committee Plans Activities**

There's still plenty of work to be done and activities to enjoy. Here are a few of our future plans: adopting the garden plot in the entrance to the parking lot; participating in the Pride Parade in June, which may include renting a truck and having a decoration party; hosting a photo exhibition about families with BGLT members; participating in movie nights with folks at Bell Street Chapel; and hosting adult education workshops.

Contact: Brian Paradis at 617.827.2335 or [briananddeacon@comcast.net](mailto:briananddeacon@comcast.net); Michael Currier at 617.680.6083 or [mcurrier@gmail.com](mailto:mcurrier@gmail.com); Jan Seymour-Ford at 401.305.5361 or [seymourford@gmail.com](mailto:seymourford@gmail.com)

**Wholly Rollers 2009**

The Wholly Rollers raise funds for the RI Chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society by cycling in two MS events: the April 19 MS 25 Quick Ride in Narragansett and/or the June 27-28 MS 150 Bike Tour from Narragansett to Connecticut College and return. We'll train by riding a variety of courses together each Saturday morning from May 3 through June 20.

For more information, contact Greg Kniseley, [mkniseley2@cox.net](mailto:mkniseley2@cox.net) Visit our website at <http://www.silversmithing.com/whollyrollers/>

**Women's Chorus Is Back!**

The UU Women's Chorus will be gathering again beginning Sunday, May 3, and singing together every Sunday for six weeks. All women and teenage girls are most welcome to join us singing a cappella and it is not necessary to read music. It's non-threatening, non-auditioned, and extremely therapeutic! If you can't make all six weekly rehearsals, come when you can. We plan to sing in church on Sunday, June 7. Sessions last from 12:00p to 1:30p in the Choir Room.

Contact: Beth Armstrong at 401.253.7987 or [bestar3@cox.net](mailto:bestar3@cox.net) for more information.



GROWING IN WISDOM AND SPIRIT

**Reiki Level I Training (Women's Alliance Benefit)**

*Saturday May 30, 10:00a - 5:00p*

Reiki Master Teacher Maureen Gordon-Johanson will offer training focusing on self-healing. Reiki is a time-honored healing method that produces beneficial physiological changes, verified by NIH-funded, scientific research. Reiki is offered by many hospitals for pain management and stress reduction.

Class limit: six students. Registration required. Cost: \$90. All proceeds will benefit the Women's Alliance charitable programs.

Contact: Maureen at 401.751.2001 or [eastsidewellness@comcast.net](mailto:eastsidewellness@comcast.net)

**Benevolent Street Zendo:  
An Ongoing Zen Meditation Group**

*Every Monday at 7:00p*

An ongoing Zen meditation group of the Boundless Way interfaith Zen community. Brief instruction available to those who come at 6:45p.

Leaders: Jan Seymour-Ford and James Ford at [benevolentstreetzendo@gmail.com](mailto:benevolentstreetzendo@gmail.com)

More information: [www.boundlesswayzen.org](http://www.boundlesswayzen.org)

**Knitting Connection**

*Every Tuesday, 7:00p-9:00p*

Knitting, crocheting, and conversation.

No registration necessary.

Contact: Julie Meyers at [kelmey@cox.net](mailto:kelmey@cox.net)

**Green Sanctuary at First Unitarian**

*Second Sunday, May 10, 9:30a*

Building awareness of environmental issues, motivating action, and fostering a connection between spiritual practice and environmental consciousness. No registration necessary.

Contact: Bekah Greenwald at [bekah@riverzedgears.org](mailto:bekah@riverzedgears.org) or 401.521.3446

**Reimagining Religion**

*Second and fourth Tuesdays,  
May 12 and 26, at 7:00p*

Coming to grips with issues raised by radically new developments in the study of religion.

No registration necessary.

Contact: Tom Hall at 401.647.2925 or [tw2nd@aol.com](mailto:tw2nd@aol.com)

**Spiritual Cinema**

*Spiritual Cinema is on hiatus and will meet again in the fall.*

**UUMeN**

*Sunday, May 17, 7:00p-9:00p*

*(note the date change to the third Sunday)*

Topic: Men and Listening

Are men really poor listeners? We will explore this question and talk about the value and the problems of listening. We will also practice the mirroring technique of communications created by Harville Hendrix in *Getting the Love You Want*.

All interested men are welcome to join us.

No registration necessary.

Facilitator: Chris Campanile 401.941.1126

**GAIA's HEARTH**

*Saturday May 2, 12:00*

*At the home of Arte Ezikovich, Warren, RI*

Please see our notice posted on the Parish House bulletin board.

If you would like to join us for this event, please contact Arte at [Nimuix@cox.net](mailto:Nimuix@cox.net).

**Cornerstones of Wicca**

*Thursdays, May 14 and 28, 7:00p-8:30p*

Instruction in the basic tenets of Wicca.

May 14 Path - Heathenry

May 28 - Mythology - Norse

Registration requested.

Leader/contact: Diane Donnelly at [dianednnlly@yahoo.com](mailto:dianednnlly@yahoo.com)

**Sylvan Circle**

*Second Sunday, May 10, 12:30p-1:30p*

This family-friendly gathering starts with the Celtic Tree of the month and "branches out" to explore and honor each other's paths.

No registration necessary.

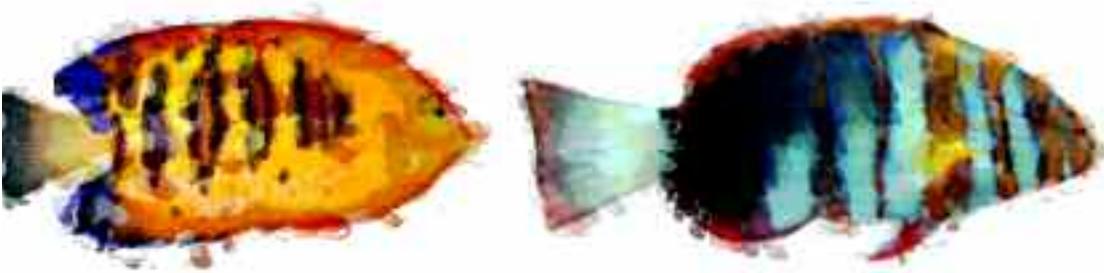
Leader/contact: Arte Ezikovich [nimuix@cox.net](mailto:nimuix@cox.net)



THIS MONTH @ FIRST UNITARIAN

May 2009

"Humor is reason gone mad.." — Groucho Marx

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					<u>1</u> Transylvania Dinner	<u>2</u> Ballou Channing District Annual Meeting
<u>3</u> Sunday Service 10:30a New Member Reception 12:00p UU Women's Chorus 12:00p Neighborhood Social Justice 12:15p	<u>4</u> Women's Alliance 11:00a Benevolent Street Zendo 7:00p	<u>5</u> Lay Ministry 7:00p Knitters 7:00p	<u>6</u> Prudential Committee 6:00p	<u>7</u> Deacons 6:00p	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u> Round Table Dinners
<u>10</u> Green Sanctuary 9:30a Sunday Service 10:30a UU Women's Chorus 12:00p Sylvan Circle 12:30p	<u>11</u> Nominating Committee 7:00p Benevolent Street Zendo 7:00p	<u>12</u> Re-imagining Religion 7:00p Knitters 7:00p	<u>13</u> Worship Committee 6:30p	<u>14</u> Stewardship 7:00p Social Justice 7:00p Wicca 7:00p	<u>15</u> Parish Supper 5:45p	<u>16</u>
<u>17</u> Sunday Service 10:30a Meet the Minister 12:00p Membership 12:00p UU Women's Chorus 12:00p UU Men 7:00p	<u>18</u> Food Pantry 4:00p Benevolent Street Zendo 7:00p	<u>19</u> Knitters 7:00p	<u>20</u> PruComm/Budget 7:00p	<u>21</u> Personnel 12:00p	<u>22</u>	<u>23</u>
<u>24</u> Sunday Service 10:00a at Bell Street Chapel  <u>31</u> Sunday Service 10:30a Annual Financial Meeting 12:00p UU Women's Chorus 12:00p	<u>25</u> Memorial Day Office Closed  Benevolent Street Zendo 7:00p	<u>26</u> Fellowship Committee 6:00p Re-imagining Religion 7:00p Knitters 7:00p	<u>27</u> Executive Committee 7:00p	<u>28</u> Wicca 7:00p	<u>29</u>	<u>30</u>

First Unitarian Church of Providence  
One Benevolent Street  
Providence, Rhode Island 02906

Telephone: 401.421.7970  
Fax: 401.276.4291

Website: [www.firstunitarianprov.org](http://www.firstunitarianprov.org)

Email: [min@firstunitarianprov.org](mailto:min@firstunitarianprov.org)  
[dre@firstunitarianprov.org](mailto:dre@firstunitarianprov.org)  
[admin@firstunitarianprov.org](mailto:admin@firstunitarianprov.org)  
[assist@firstunitarianprov.org](mailto:assist@firstunitarianprov.org)  
[mem@firstunitarianprov.org](mailto:mem@firstunitarianprov.org)

## DEACONS' CORNER

### Dining with the Deacons

On Saturday, March 21, the Deacons provided a gala dining experience for folks who had signed up at last November's fundraising event, UU Idol. Their guests were invited "to surprise your palate and to celebrate Spring." Gathering in the ministers' parlor, they enjoyed *amuse bouche* in silver spoons (potato torda with olives and goat cheese), salad greens and balsamic vinaigrette with cheese wafers, pork tenderloin medallions with sweet Riesling sauce and toasted almonds, and asparagus spears with egg confetti, followed by a dessert of wine-poached pears in coconut crepes with chocolate sauce.

Prepared, hosted, and served by the Deacons, the event raised \$450 for the church.

—*Paul Brule and Mary Kollar, Senior Deacons*  
*Richard Boober, Nancy Weiss Fried,*  
*Robert O. Jones, Janet Downing Taylor,*  
*Mary El Finger, Judy Bowden,*

