



# news @ first . u . providence

## SERVICES IN APRIL

**Thursday, April 1**      **Maundy Thursday Communion Service**  
**7:00p**      **Rev. James Ishmael Ford and the Deacons**

We will celebrate a Unitarian Universalist service of communion. James will be the celebrant, assisted by the Deacons of the First Unitarian Church. The Rev. Sean Manchester, Episcopal chaplain at the Eleanor Slater Hospital, will preach. All are welcome to this modern adaptation of an ancient rite celebrating radical interdependence.

**Sunday, April 4\***      **A Season of Hope - Intergenerational Service**  
**10:30a**      **Rev. James Ishmael Ford**

Our family celebration of the rites of Spring. Deeply respecting the Christian tradition, we will honor this day in our own way as religious liberals with stories, songs and music. James will explore aspects of the traditional story of Jesus and how it can be meaningful for us today.

Following our tradition, children will receive their pansy plant as they leave the service.

*Origins and Play Circle rooms are open.*

**Sunday, April 11**      **The Art of the Deal**  
**10:30a**      **Rev. James Ishmael Ford and the Scriveners**

Over the past year, we've had a number of conversations about covenant; that is, how we choose to come together as a spiritual community, and how this is so important to our liberal spiritual tradition. At the beginning of the year, Margaret Balch-Gonzalez, Stephen Koelz, Martha Manno, and James, also known as the Scriveners Group, were charged with listening as deeply as possible to these conversations, reflecting on the matter largely, and then producing a draft of a new covenant to replace our current document, which was last revised in 1882. Today they share the results of their work.

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

**A Congregational Conversation on Covenant follows the service at noon in the Auditorium.**

**Sunday, April 18**      **God Is Not Your Uncle**  
**10:30a**      **Rev. James Ishmael Ford**

On this day in 1906, an earthquake pretty much destroyed the city of San Francisco. It looms large in James's imagination, a native son of the San Francisco Bay Area. And it happens that, when he thinks of that earthquake, he also thinks of the Yiddish saying, "God is not nice. God is not your uncle. God is an earthquake." James will share a little of what he thinks about earthquakes and God.

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

**The Annual Meeting follows the service at noon in the Auditorium.**

**Sunday, April 25**      **Annual Youth Group Service - Intergenerational Service**  
**10:30a**      **Senior High School Youth Group**

Our high school youth will present a creative interpretation of the UU Principles. There will also be our traditional recognition of graduating seniors. Come support our youth.

*Young people in grades pre-K through 7 worship in Meeting House.*

*Origins and Play Circle rooms are open.*

**Sunday, May 2**      **A Report from Sabbatical**  
**10:30a**      **Cathy Seggel, DRE**

Our religious educator, Cathy Seggel, has had many adventures. She will share them with us.

### \*Important Parking Notice!

On Easter Sunday (April 4) and again on Mother's Day (May 9) the Hope Club parking lot will not be available for church use. Please leave yourself extra time to find parking elsewhere on those days.

### The Monthly Newsletter for

**The First Unitarian Church of Providence**  
**Corner of Benefit and Benevolent Streets**

**A P R I L 2 0 1 0**

### ALL PARISH EVENTS

**Maundy Thursday Communion Service**  
**Thursday, April 1 at 7:00p**

**All-Parish Supper**  
**Friday, April 9**

**Congregational Conversation on**  
**Covenant**  
**Sunday, April 11**

**Annual Meeting of the Congregation**  
**Sunday, April 25**

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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  
 Henry Colpa, Evening Security  
 Pedro Vasquez, Sunday Building Manager

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

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

## Stewardship 2010

As this issue of the newsletter goes to press, we are in the midst of our annual budget drive to raise pledges for the annual operating budget of the church for the fiscal year beginning July 2010. In April, we will be conducting the final phase of the drive.

During the first few weeks of April, volunteers will be contacting church members who have not yet pledged. It is a thankless task but an important one. Next year's budget will be based in large part on the expected income from the pledges we make this spring, so we need to hear from everyone who intends to contribute to the work of the church in the coming year.

This last phase of the budget drive will be followed by several meetings of the Budget Committee and the Prudential Committee as they jointly craft a realistic, balanced budget for approval at the Financial Meeting in June. Their deliberations will be based on real numbers, so every pledge is very important.

If you have not made your pledge, please do so as soon as possible. Return your pledge card by mail or call the church office. Your pledge does make a difference.

If you have already pledged, please take a moment to review the materials that we distributed as part of this year's budget drive. If, on reflection, you find you can increase your pledge closer to the 2% to 3% of your income that it takes to fully support our operating expenses, please call the church office.

And thank you!

The Stewardship Committee:

John Simmonds, chair;

Neil Bartholomew, Susan Fisher,

Rev. James Ford, Herb Fried,

Graham Nye, Cy O'Neil



## Wheel of Life

### Condolences to:

Karen Rameaka and her family on the death of her husband, Richard.

Michelle Bailey and Karen Holleran on the death of Michelle's nephew, Gene-O.

The family of Claudine Blanchard on her death. Claudine had recently moved to South Hadley, Massachusetts

**Speedy recovery to** Janet Downing Taylor, Lynne Fazzi, and Doris Bridgehouse.

**Congratulations to** Bob Cox, who became a great-grandfather.



## Monkey Mind

The other day I was at an event where the main speaker was a prominent minister in our denomination. He was speaking of various things, but one point particularly caught my attention. He described a trip to Latin America he made with some friends a few years ago. It was to a country that had been torn by civil strife and included revolutionary activities, paramilitaries, and much of the deep ugliness of covert war. Our country had dirty hands in the mess, as did many people.

Anyway, the group came to a site where a number of indigenous people had been brutally murdered and buried - "disappeared" as they said in those days. The site marked their mass grave, which had been uncovered after the hostilities had ended. There was a plaque listing the names of those who could be identified.

For the speaker the shocking thing was how many of the murdered shared his family name. He spoke, and quite movingly, about how he realized with only a bit of difference in the course of family history, he could have been one of those in that terrible grave. He told us this was a signal marker on the way of identifying with the poor, with the disenfranchised, with the oppressed.

It was an important moment. And one, he suggested, we all need to find in our own lives, in our own way.

I agree. With all my heart. When we know the poor, the disenfranchised, the oppressed, are ours - with only the slightest shifts in the course of events, us - we have opened the way of love, of possibility, of hope for this poor and broken world. Nothing quite like understanding who the family is.

But I felt there was one other point hanging out there, one he chose not to address in his brief homiletic, where this story was to set up another issue he wanted to explore. But . . .

In this particular story, the thought that hung in the air for me was that while those dead shared his name, they probably didn't share his genetics. The name was Hispanic. They were Indians. And I was uncomfortably aware that there were probably many more people in the government, in the military, in the very paramilitary that committed this particular atrocity that shared his quite common family name.

And that is a lesson we all need to learn, as well. With the slightest shift in situation, the oppressor, too, is us. In the great web, we are all joined, the hurt and the whole, the lowly and the high, the good and the bad. As it says in scripture, the sun shines on us all. As does the dark night.

So, my point, the one I think we need to take away, is that it is terribly, terribly important to see our identity with the oppressed. And it is terribly, terribly important to see our identity with the oppressor. And as we move beyond seeing to knowing from the bottoms of our feet to the tops of our heads that the whole thing is us, that we are part and parcel of the great mess, then a genuine healing wisdom can birth.

And we come to this realization on a hundred different paths. On a trip to Latin America or to the Holy Land (any of them), on a hard Zen meditation retreat, in a conversation, on a walk, preparing dinner, washing a child, maybe reading a few words on paper or a screen. Whichever the path, here's the good news: if we take the slightest effort to open ourselves, grace takes over and opens the world and our hearts. And in a heartbeat we notice the connections. And the joy, and the hurt, in it all.

With my own first noticing of these connections, I, at least, have then felt a need to reach out, to be of some use, to try and heal the hurt, to try and heal the world. It isn't the whole reason, but it is a big part of the reason that took my spiritual journey to a serious Zen practice and along the way to Providence and to the First Unitarian Church.

After all, not only am I a part of it, I am responsible for it.

As, dear one, are you . . .

See you in the Meeting House,

Rev. James Ishmael Ford, Minister

Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday,  
9:00a -12:00p Appointments are recommended.

min@firstunitarianprov.org



## Spiritual Pathways

*Cathy Seggel, Director of Religious Education, is on sabbatical until April 20, 2010. Patricia Wilhelm, Chair of the Religious Education Committee for Children and Youth, will contribute to this column while Cathy is away.*

### Cathy Returns!

Cathy Seggel returns in mid-April from this portion of her sabbatical leave just in time to be with us for the Senior High Youth Service on April 25. The RE program has continued smoothly through Cathy's absence thanks to the structure and planning that preceded her leave and the great commitment of the staff and volunteers who have kept things running smoothly in her absence. We look forward to reconnecting with Cathy and sharing our accomplishments.

### Join Your Child in Chapel on April 18

Parents are invited to be our guests in chapel on Sunday, April 18. The chapel theme will be Earth Day. This is a wonderful opportunity to experience the worship component of the RE program and to share this part of your child's RE experience. Please drop your child off in his/her classroom and then head to chapel in the auditorium. Seating for guests will be in the folding chairs set up behind the pews. The children will come to chapel with their class and sit with their class as usual. Following chapel, around 11:00a, parents can rejoin the congregation in the Meeting House for the remainder of worship service.

### April Is "Interest in Teaching" Month

There are several team-teaching opportunities next fall for interested adults in the congregation. Our Sunday school is a cooperative venture, with parents and non-parents sharing their time and talents with our children and youth. Current volunteers have first choice to remain on teams. Spring planning for next fall allows time for teacher teams to meet and be supported by the staff.

Each grade has a minimum of four teachers who agree to help on about half of the Sundays. Teachers stay connected to the adult worship community by attending services on their weeks off and by attending chapel services and appreciation events with other teachers. Our safety policies include having at least two adults in each classroom at all times, signing a Code of Ethics, and requiring background checks.

April is the month when we actively seek interest from those who might like to teach. We look forward to your involvement. Please look for RE Committee members at the table in the Atrium during Coffee Hour or contact the church office.

### Make Plans Now for a UU Summer Time

Now is the time to think about spending part of your summer at one of the many lovely UU Camps and Conference Centers or at the Unitarian Universalist Association's General Assembly. These settings provide varied opportunities for adults and children to enjoy both spiritual and entertaining programs with other Unitarian Universalists from all over the continent. A collection of brochures from sites including Ferry Beach, Unirondack, and Star Island can be found on the RE table in the Parish House Atrium. Early sign-up is recommended, as these programs are popular and fill up fast.

### Coming of Age Boston Heritage Trip: Rainy but Rewarding

The rain did not dampen the spirits of our eighth/ninth-grade Coming of Age (COA) class as they traveled to Boston in March for the much-anticipated Unitarian Universalist Association Heritage trip. They traveled by train to Boston, where they toured the UUA headquarters on Beacon Hill and met with the Youth Ministry staff. Then off to Faneuil Hall for dinner and back to the UUA's Eliot and Pickett House for their overnight stay. On Saturday, they went on two historical tours, of King's Chapel and Arlington Street Church; one highlight was the bell tower of Arlington Street, where they shared some unique variations of Ode to Joy with the folks of Boston.

Many thanks to our extraordinary team of COA teachers: Rita Rossi, Odile Mattiauda, Jim Edwards, and Tom Epstein. Their generosity of time and spirit and their commitment to our children and the RE program is truly a gift and exemplifies the heart of our volunteer and cooperative program. Thanks also to the COA parents and the generosity of our First Unitarian community for raising the funds to make this trip possible. Bravo!

### Children's Chapel Themes for April

#### April 4 – Easter Sunday — An Intergenerational Service

Origins and Play Circle rooms are open.

#### April 11 – Our UU Principles

Senior High Youth share their creative interpretation of the principles with our youth.

#### April 18 – Earth Day Celebration

RE parents are invited to be our guests in Chapel from 10:30a to 11:00a.

#### April 25 – Intergenerational Service in the Meeting House

The Senior High Youth Group will conduct the regular morning worship service.

Origins and Play Circle rooms are open.

## Membership News

### Welcome to Our Newest Members

At the end of February Path to Membership class we welcomed nine new members. They are: Cindy Alves, Ophelia Alves, Jim Barfoot, Agatha Critchfield, Ryan Critchfield, Kristina Emberg, Karen Holleron, Elizabeth O'Connell, and Jane Rosenbaum. To help you spot our newest members, labeled photos are posted on the bulletin board in the Parish House hallway.

### Last Path to Membership Class for the Year

The Path to Membership class is for everyone interested in membership or in learning more about Unitarian Universalism and about our congregation. This class is recommended (but not required) for all who plan to become members. The final class for this year will be on Thursday, April 15 from 6:00p to 9:00p. We will share a simple meal, and childcare will be arranged for all who request it. Registration deadline: April 9.

### Meetings with New Members

In April, and May, Membership Committee volunteers will seek to meet one-on-one with each of our church's 2009-10 new members to learn more about what it's like to be new here, and how we can improve the new member experience.

### First Unitarian on Facebook

The church's Facebook page is continuing to grow. The more we use it, the better it will be! If you use Facebook, please become a fan of First Unitarian. If you do not use Facebook but are curious, please let Katy know. She can go online with you and give you a quick tour so you can see if it's up your alley.

To share ideas or register for the Path class, contact Katy Killilea, Membership Coordinator by calling the office (401.421.7970) or emailing her ([mem@firstunitarianprov.org](mailto:mem@firstunitarianprov.org))



## Sight Lines

First Unitarian is humming with activity. I wrote last month about the process we have begun to develop the church's five-year plan. A necessary piece of any plan is the financing of it. In January, our President-Elect Stew Armstrong brought to the PruComm the budget priorities developed by the Ministries Council following the all-ministries planning event in December. The Ministries Council (Cindy Bapties, Cheryl Bartholomew, Bob Cox, and Graham Nye) works with the President-Elect to bring input from the four ministries of the church into the budget process for the following year.

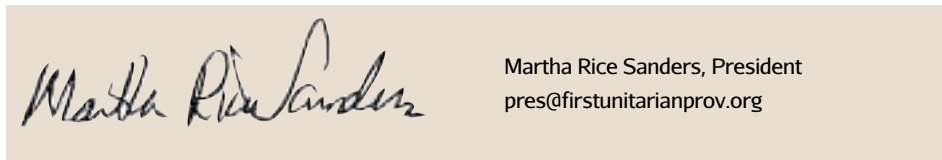
The PruComm combined those priorities with ones we identified from our own deliberations over the year to create the PruComm's "budget priorities." These include items which must be in the budget, such as paying 25 percent more each year out of the operating budget for the salary of the Membership Coordinator and covering increases in health and building insurance. In addition, we voiced our strong support for paying our wonderful staff a cost-of-living increase next year and continuing to contribute our fair-share assessment to the UUA and to our local district. Our fair share is based on our total number of members which, happily, has increased over last year.

In April, the Budget Committee, chaired by our Treasurer, Tony Allen, will develop a proposed budget for 2010-11, taking into account the PruComm's priorities, the budget requests from all the church's programs and committees, and the results of the annual canvass. The Budget Committee includes senior staff, the Ministries Council, and members of the PruComm. In May, the PruComm will create a balanced budget to bring to the church membership for a vote at our annual Financial Meeting in June.

But there's a lot more going on at the same time as our budget planning. The Covenant Writers Group (aka the Scriveners: Rev. James Ford, Margaret Balch-Gonzalez, Stephen Koelz, and Martha Manno) will unveil the fruits of their deliberations to the congregation this month at a congregational conversation on Sunday, April 11. And with the heating system in the old Parish House on its last legs, Art Lusignan and Posey Kooris have been working hard to come up with the best possible proposal for replacing it. So, at our annual meeting at the end of this month, in addition to electing our new leaders, we will vote on adopting the new Covenant and on a proposal to finance the new heating system.

The annual meeting occurs on Sunday, April 25 after the service. I hope everyone will make plans to participate in this special meeting in the life of our congregation.

See you in church!





## Spiritual Development

### Natural Wisdom and Compassion Meditation

Wednesdays at 7:00p

These guided meditations of love and wisdom from Tibetan Buddhism have been adapted into new forms that can touch the hearts and minds of people from all backgrounds and faiths, to help each of us bring out the best in ourselves within our relationships, service and social action.

To register, contact Ken Bent (kenbent@cox.net)

### Reiki Level I Training to Support First Unitarian Food Pantry

Saturday April 17, 10:00a-4:30p

Reiki Master Teacher and First Unitarian member Maureen Gordon-Johanson will again offer a Reiki level I training, focusing on self-healing, all proceeds to benefit the First Unitarian Food Pantry. 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: 6 students. Registration is required. Both men and women are invited - no experience necessary. (A Reiki level II training will be offered in May.) Cost: \$90

Contact: Maureen Gordon-Johanson (401.751.2001 or eastsidewellness@comcast.net)

or see Maureen in the Atrium during Coffee Hour on April 4 for any questions or to register.

### Bal Kendra: Offering Hope to Children in Kathmandu

The World Affairs Committee has chosen to donate the collection on Sunday, April 11, to Bal Kendra, a children's center in a slum area of Kathmandu, Nepal, serving destitute children too poor to go to school. Bal Kendra teaches them literacy and provides simple, basic education, with a crucial daily snack that is often the only source of dairy food or protein for these children. Having lost other sources of funding due to the worldwide economic downturn, Bal Kendra now survives mainly with the help of Hands in Outreach, a small American non-profit organization. Last year, our congregation's generous response helped sustain Bal Kendra for another year. Together, Bal Kendra and Hands in Outreach are also able to send some of these children to regular school. For a child doomed to ignorance and illiteracy, fit only to scavenge garbage, haul back-breaking loads, or accept helpless exploitation in carpet factories, brick kilns (with dust destructive to their lungs), or as kitchen drudges, Bal Kendra means hope for a life of independence and dignity.

### Looking Ahead to Summer Worship

The Worship Committee has chosen "Living Our Values" as the theme for this year's summer services. Please share your suggestions for speakers and musicians with any member of the committee: Richard Boober, Keith Brown, Jesse Cohen, Holly Dobbs, Marilyn Eanet, Jim Estey, Susan Fisher, Raffaele Gianfrancesco, Lynda Gulley, Ryk McIntyre, Joan Richards, and Claire Rosenbaum.

### Announcing a Worship Associates Program

The Worship Committee would like to invite a few interested members of the congregation to serve occasionally at Sunday morning services as Worship Associates. Ideally, participants should have public speaking ability and experience and a strong interest in worship. They should also be available for a half-day training program on a Saturday.

Contact: Marilyn Eanet (401.433.1299) or Jim Estey (401.351.1748).

## Spiritual Development

### Continuing Programs

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

Every Monday at 7:00p

Boundless Way is an interfaith Zen community, maintaining close connections with the Soto Zen Buddhist Association and the American Zen Teachers Association. Everyone is welcome. Brief instruction will be available to those who come at 6:45p.

Leaders: Jan Seymour-Ford and James Ford  
(benevolentstreetzendo@gmail.com)

#### UUMeN

Second Sunday, April 11, 7:00p-9:00p

#### Topic: Men and Anger

We all have some things in our lives to be angry about. Life is often difficult and unfair. Anger sometimes is empowering, and it can be very destructive. What role does anger play in your life and in our lives as men? What should we do about our anger? Come and share your thoughts and experiences. All interested men are welcome.

This month's facilitator: David Mellor  
(401.286.1216)

#### Reimagining Religion

Second and fourth Tuesdays,  
April 13 and 27 at 7:00p

We continue our examination of Ecclesiastes, seeking insights from a recent translation by Lloyd Geering and from the introduction to his forthcoming book on his favorite Wisdom sage.

Contact: Tom Hall (twh2nd@aol.com) to  
request texts for downloading

#### Spiritual Cinema

Sunday, April 18, 7:00p

#### Featured film: Latter Days

All are welcome to join us for this month's Standing on the Side of Love movie night. Our feature is a classic tale of a promiscuous gay party animal falling for a Christian missionary. Crisis and catastrophe follow as these two opposites attract. Written and directed by C. Jay Cox. A group discussion will follow.

#### Gaia's Hearth CUUPS

(Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans)

First Thursday, April 1, 7:00p-8:30p

Meetings are open. No registration is required.

Contact: Artemis Ezikovich (nimuix@cox.net)

**The Annual Meeting of the  
First Unitarian Church of Providence**

*Sunday, April 25, 2010 at 12:00p  
Parish House Auditorium*

In addition to action on the slate submitted by the Nominating Committee, the meeting will consider motions on the proposed new covenant and on a financing proposal for a new Parish House heating system and such other business as may come before the meeting.

**About the Annual Meeting**

According to the by-laws of the First Unitarian Church of Providence, the Annual Meeting of the Church for the election of officers, members of the Prudential Committee, the Nominating Committee, and the Board of Deacons, and for the transaction of all other proper business shall be held on the Church premises during the Spring of each year.

Five percent of the most recently reported membership number to the Unitarian Universalist Association, or 25 voting members, whichever is greater, shall be necessary to constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, but a smaller number may adjourn from time to time.

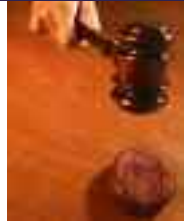
All questions at Church meetings, except as otherwise expressly provided for in the Articles of Incorporation or in the by-laws, shall be determined by a majority of those voting on such questions. Questions may not be voted on by proxy or absentee ballot. However, voting members who are disabled or incapacitated may apply for an absentee ballot seven days before a meeting. Absentee ballots must be received by the Clerk or his or her designee prior to the meeting.

Only those who have been members for more than three months, who are over sixteen years of age, and who in some recorded manner within the previous year shall have contributed to the financial support of the Church shall be entitled to vote.

If you have any questions about your eligibility to vote at the annual meeting, please call the Church office.

If you are not a voting member, you may still attend the annual meeting, but may not vote.

*Robert's Rules of Order* governs all duly called meetings of the Church.



**Annual Meeting**

**Nominees for New Officers, Committee Members, and Deacons**

The Nominating Committee submits to the congregation the following members for election to the positions and for the terms indicated at the Annual Meeting on April 25, 2010. All terms begin on July 1, 2010.

Note: In accordance with the church by-laws, current President-Elect Stewart Armstrong becomes President (1-year term) and current President Martha Rice Sanders becomes Past President (1-year term) on July 1.

**Dan Kubas-Meyer, President-Elect  
(3-year term)**

Dan and his wife, Tanja, became members of the church in the mid-1990s and have two children in the religious education program (grade 4 and youth group). Dan's volunteer activities with the church include three years on the Prudential Committee (2006-2009), five years on the Personnel Committee (2004-2009), one year on the Budget Committee (2005), and head chef for the Coming of Age Program's pasta supper 2005. Dan is Executive Director of Riverwood Mental Health Services, a nonprofit provider of statewide community-based services for persons with serious behavioral health issues and the chronically homeless. As Executive Director, he is responsible for overall program administration and working with a Board of Directors to effect strategic planning and maintain governance oversight. Dan is an adjunct faculty member at Roger Williams University, where he teaches a nonprofit management course to students at the Gabelli School of Business. He is also a surveyor for the Commission on the Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities, performing three to four accreditation surveys per year at behavioral health organizations throughout the country. Dan has an Education M.A. in Psychology from the University of Hartford. He currently serves as the treasurer of the Rhode Island Council of Community Mental Health Organizations; is a past chairman of the East Bay Chamber of Commerce, and early in his career was a Peace Corps volunteer in the Philippines.

**Gail Brule, Clerk (1-year term)**

This will be Gail's fifth term as Clerk.

**Hamilton (Tony) Allen, Treasurer  
(1-year term)**

This will be Tony's third term as Treasurer.

**Herbert (Pete) Peterson,  
Assistant Treasurer (1-year term)**

This will be Pete's second term as Assistant Treasurer.

**Merritt Meyer, Prudential Committee  
(3-year term)**

Merritt is an architect and developer who specializes in planning, designing, and building residential projects. He has devoted many years to neighborhood planning and architectural preservation. He graduated from Dartmouth with a bachelor's degree in philosophy and then earned a graduate degree in architecture and urban design from Cornell and a second graduate degree from Columbia in architectural history and philosophy. Recently, he has become involved in utility-scale renewable energy. Merritt and his wife, Susan, started attending First Unitarian in 1993 and joined in 2004. He was a consistent participant in the after-church spirituality group from 2006 to 2009. Merritt served on the most recent Ministerial Search Committee, as well as other committees involved in our church building and church history.

**Robert Cox, Prudential Committee  
(3-year term)**

Bob has been active in several Unitarian Universalist congregations since joining the Germantown Church in Philadelphia, his hometown, in 1960. He taught comparative religions in that RE program and claims that developed his ecumenical interests. His work in community and economic development took the family to several UU congregations. His family attended All Souls Church in Washington D.C. between 1968 and 1972, where after the 14th Street riots, he was active in the organization of the CHANGE/All Souls Housing Corporation. All Souls also hosted hundreds of Vietnam War protesters during those years. In 1975 he was selected by the National Science Foundation to organize the New England Innovation Group to

help federal labs and universities transfer their research into viable businesses and jobs. It was then that the Cox family began its long relationship with First Unitarian. Since joining, Bob has served on the Prudential Committee and as President (1981-1983), Deacon, and President of the Ballou Channing District (1985-1986). He has been a UU voice with RI State Council of Churches' social justice interests since 1984. In 2002 he helped organize what is now the UU Legislative Ministry RI, a voice for social justice in the RI General Assembly. In 2009 he worked with the First Unitarian Neighborhood Social Justice Committee to bring new management to Harrington Hall, the homeless men's shelter in Cranston. He is currently co-chairing with Rev. Ford the church's Legislative Ministry program to bring church members and friends together for "conversations" with their respective RI senators and representatives in this important election year.

**Ruth Arellana, Deacon (5-year term)**

Ruth Kiven Arellana was raised at First Unitarian Church, met her former husband, Paul, in the youth group, and raised her children Peter and Kate Bowden at the church as well. Before spending 15 years in Colorado, she was a member of the RE Committee, the Prudential Committee, and the Search Committee which recommended Rev. Tom Ahlburn. Since her return from Colorado in 2003, Ruth has been involved with Small Group Ministry, currently as a facilitator and Steering Committee member; does intake for the Community Food Share; is recycling magazines to raise money for our food pantry; and leads the Five Wishes Program to aid people in making end-of-life decisions. Previously she was chair of the Adult RE Committee and facilitated a Contemplating Career Change Group, among other activities. Ruth returned from Denver to be a local grandmother of "her girls," all in UU Sunday School programs. A retired teacher, Ruth enjoys teaching Western Civilization part-time at CCRI and tutoring. In addition, she facilitates a Great Decisions Program discussing foreign affairs at the Barrington Library. She is currently pursuing a certificate in thanatology, the study of death and bereavement, has plans to work with Hospice, and is applying to various NGO's to teach in Haiti. She loves to cook, garden, read, and travel, but only very occasionally cleans.

**Jacqui Nye, Deacon (5-year term)**

Jacqui Nye has been a member of First Unitarian for eight years. During this time, she has been co-chair of the Membership Committee and co-chair with her husband, Graham, of four annual fundraisers. She is currently the Sunday Flower Coordinator. She was an active participant in the Women's Group and a member of the Women's Alliance. She works in the field of social service and enjoys traveling. Graham and Jacqui were married here at First Unitarian in October of 2004. Her two sons have been involved with the Religious Education program. She has two step-daughters and a grandson and is the proud co-parent of a brand new puppy, Gansett Nye.

**John (Jay) Glasson, Nominating Committee (2-year term)**

Jay has practiced law for 32 years. He is married to Victoria Smith, and they have a son, Adrian, who is 17 years old. At First Unitarian, Jay has served on the Prudential Committee, the RE Wing Development Committee, and has chaired the Finance Committee. In addition, he has been a Sunday School teacher, a Coming of Age mentor, and chair of the Finance Committee.

**Julie Meyers, Nominating Committee (2-year term)**

Julie Meyers has been a member of First Unitarian since moving to Pawtucket with her family eight years ago. She has been involved with the church in a variety of ways. She is completing a three-year term on the Prudential Committee, serving as liaison initially to the Spiritual Development Ministry, then to the Social Justice Ministry, particularly with the Community Food Share and Welcoming Congregation. She also helped start the Knitting Connection, which has been meeting for four years; she is proud that the group has been able to donate many hand-knitted items to local and international organizations. In her non-church life, Julie is a pediatrician. She currently serves as the medical director of a program that helps medically fragile children in Massachusetts get the services they need so they can live at home with their families. She is also involved at the state and national levels in pediatric organizations. Her husband, David Keller, sings in the choir; their two sons, currently in college, were active in the church Youth Group while in high school.

**Joe Killilea, Nominating Committee (2-year term)**

Joe Killilea has been at First Unitarian since 2005. He is a Youth Group Advisor and has been a teacher in the Play Circle of the Religious Education program. He works as an English teacher at UCAP (Urban Collaborative Accelerated Program), the Providence middle school for youth at risk of dropping out. Joe lives in Barrington with his wife, Katy, their seven- and eight-year-old sons, Jack and Briggs, and the family dog.

**Submitted by the 2009-2010 Nominating Committee**

- Beth Armstrong, Michael Currier, Paul Gazin, Carrollyn Grace, Dianne Mailloux, Bill Twaddell; PruComm Liaison, Cy O'Neil



**The Women's Alliance**

Monday, April 5

Business meeting at 10:30a, program at 11:00a

This month's program will feature Kristina DeAngelis, Recruiter/Event Coordinator for the Court Appointed Special Advocate program. CASA provides help for abused and neglected children in finding their way through the Rhode Island child-welfare and family-court systems to safe, loving, permanent homes.

A catered luncheon (\$9.00) follows the program at 12:00p. The program and luncheon are open to everyone.

**Women's Alliance Tea**

Thursday, April 29, at 2:30p

The Women's Alliance has organized a tea for residents of the Oak Hill Nursing and Rehab Center at 544 Pleasant Street in Pawtucket on April 29. Marilyn Meardon will do a reading. Alliance members are invited to bring finger sandwiches or small desserts.

**Saturday Social Supper Schedule**

There will be two more Saturday potluck suppers this year: May 29 and June 26.

To sign up, contact: Janet Noble (401.732.0256 or bamajan2002@yahoo.com)

**May All-Parish Supper**

Friday, May 14

**Program: An Evening with U.S. Senator Jack Reed**



Senator Jack Reed

Our speaker will be Senator Jack Reed, a native Rhode Islander and a dynamic speaker. Senator Reed grew up in Cranston and attended West Point and Harvard Law School. He has represented our state in the U.S. Senate since 1997 and serves on the Appropriations, Armed Services, and Banking and Urban Affairs Committees. He will share his thoughts about the current political scene and the main issues that confront our nation.

This is an extraordinary opportunity for us to hear and to ask questions of our Senior Senator in our own public forum. Don't miss this special event!



**Community Life and Heritage**

**Round-the-Table Dinners**

Saturday, April 24

At these small dinners, six to ten people gather around one table for an evening meal and conversation. Each group meets in a different home; groups are assigned to maximize opportunities to meet new people. The host decides on a menu and assigns portions of it to guests. The Fellowship Committee expects to put together somewhere between 16 and 20 simultaneous dinners around the state this one evening. If requested, some will be child-friendly. Sign up in the Atrium on Sundays in April.



Contact: Janet Noble (401.732.0256 or bamajan2002@yahoo.com)

**The April All-Parish Supper**

The monthly All-Parish Suppers are for everyone – young and old and in-between. Reservations for the dinner are strongly requested.

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

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

**7:30p Program in the Auditorium: The Annual First Unitarian Storytellers' Festival**



Jeanne Bent



Len Cabral



Marilyn Murphy Meardon

This promises to be a wonderful evening of storytelling, designed to appeal to all ages: we are making a special effort to make this evening's program child-friendly, so bring the whole family. Our talented storytellers will be Jeanne Bent, Len Cabral, and Marilyn Murphy Meardon – all celebrated Rhode Island storytellers who

are members of our parish community. The theme will be "Stories to Nourish the Soul." When we were young, we joined with our parents for meals and occasionally for stories that helped us grow and that nourished our souls. This will be a special evening of these kinds of stories.

To reserve your space, please fill out the sign-up form in the Meeting House Times, see Jim Estey at Coffee Hour, or call the church office at 401.421.7970. Childcare for infants and toddlers will be available if requested in advance; call Jim Estey at 401.351.1748 to sign up.

**Art in the Atrium**

On March 22, we opened a new art exhibit by the students of the Carter School of Providence, under the guidance of their art teacher, Adrian Watts-Driscoll. There will be paintings and mixed-media work, by students aged 12 to 21. The Meeting Street Carter School serves students through 21 years of age with a wide range of disabilities. "Our art program is process oriented," says Adrian. "Making visual choices and manipulating materials enhances students' skills and empowers them."

This is the first Art in the Atrium show displaying work of people outside our church community. Karen Rameaka, director of the Carter School, is a church member, and she was one of the first to ask for the use of the space for her students.

In mid-April, we have scheduled a solo show by artist Ruth Emers. She will be exhibiting new work along with some of her signature classic painting and sculptures. In May, Amy Webb and Sally Barker will join together for the last show of the season.

We would be glad to hear from anyone who would like to show his/her work over the summer. The work has to be evaluated for content by the committee and it cannot be for sale.

For questions or art submissions, contact Chiara R. Van Erp (romano-vanerp-design@cox.net).





## Community Life and Heritage

### Ballou Channing District Spring Conference at First Unitarian Church

Saturday, April 24, 9:00a -1:00p

This year's BCD Annual Spring Conference is titled "Faith Forward" and will address two questions:

Can Unitarian Universalism survive developing cultural changes?

How might we have to transform our ways of worship, religious education and outreach to be a thriving faith?

An innovative, dynamic worship service will feature presentations by:

The Rev. James Ford, Minister, First Unitarian Church, Providence

The Rev. Eric Wikstrom, UUA Director of Worship and Music Resources

The Rev. Sue Sinnamon, Thomas Jefferson District Director of Faith Development

Following the service, there will be workshops on presentation follow-up discussions, meeting the spiritual and religious needs of post-boomers, and implications of changing demographics on growth and outreach.

Delegates to the Annual Meeting from the BCD churches will elect District officers and directors, approve the FY2011 budget, receive reports about district operations, recognize new and departing ministers and religious educators, and conduct other business.

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Registration: \$22 adults; \$7 youth (includes lunch and refreshments)

To register: Online, with credit card, visit <http://bcdfaithforward.eventbrite.com>. By regular mail with registration form (available at your church or downloadable from the District website at [www.bcduua.org](http://www.bcduua.org))

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#### Volunteers Needed to Help with Hosting on April 24

The Local Arrangements Task Force (Morgan Ivens, Gail Brule, Marilyn Eanet, and Bill Twaddell) is looking for a number of volunteers to help with various logistics on the day of the conference. Just a couple of hours of your time on that Saturday will help us provide a warm, friendly, and efficient atmosphere for our fellow UU guests.

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Contact: Morgan Ivens ([morgan\\_iven-duran@brown.edu](mailto:morgan_iven-duran@brown.edu)); Gail Brule (401.333.6620), Marilyn Eanet (401.433.1299 or [meanet@cox.net](mailto:meanet@cox.net)), or Bill Twaddell (401.274.0456)

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#### General Assembly 2010 in Minneapolis, Minnesota

Join thousands of Unitarian Universalists (UUs) from across the United States for the 2010 General Assembly (GA) in Minneapolis.

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

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

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

Minneapolis is an ideal setting for GA. It is a progressive, culturally diverse, LGBT friendly city that is rich in cultural arts and has a stunning natural environment. There are 900 lakes and 170 parks within the Twin Cities area.

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For registration and housing, as well as more information about this year's GA: <http://www.uua.org/events/generalassembly/>.

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#### Hats Off

To the February coffee hour bakers:

Elsie Buffum, Steve McCloy, Lucille Riccitelli, Anne Connor, Mary Frey, Lay Ministry, Sarah Capelli, Tom Getz, Rosemary Milburn, Jennifer Ryan, Lori Robertson, Gerry Spremulli, Betty Finn, Marilyn Van Erp.

And a special thanks to Janet Taylor who generously fills in the gaps when we are short!

And to the March coffee hour bakers:

Nancy Dooley, Katy Killilea, Lynda Gulley, William Webb, Dianne Mailloux, Tom Getz, Betty Finn, David House, Susan Farady, Beth Armstrong, Nori Duncan, Karen Holleron & Melissa Bailey, Anne Connor, Melissa Guillet, Michelle Dotzenrod, Michelle Capelli, Kate Menard, Claire Rosenbaum, Ryk McIntyre, Shelley Stephenson, Lynne Hoppin Fazzi, Nancy Shand and Lori Robertson.

#### Important Parking Notice!

On Easter Sunday (April 4) and again on Mother's Day (May 9) the Hope Club parking lot will not be available for church use. Please leave yourself extra time to find parking elsewhere on those days.



## The Welcoming Congregation Committee Is Now Standing on the Side of Love

Last year, First Unitarian achieved the goal of UUA recognition as an official Welcoming Congregation to the LGBT community. Now the Welcoming Congregation Committee has voted unanimously to expand our focus and become the Standing on the Side of Love Committee. The SSL program is sponsored by the Unitarian Universalist Association and welcomes participation from all faith communities. We will work against violence and injustice that arise from identity: racial bigotry, homophobia, and xenophobia. Two of SSL's main projects are combating both homophobia and persecution of the immigrant population. We're all very pleased to maintain our commitment to welcoming the BGLT community, while widening our welcome and social justice focus.

More information about the program at [www.Standingonthesideoflove.org](http://www.Standingonthesideoflove.org)

By now you will have seen the colorful graphic SSL logo. The committee will be selling pins and wallet cards with those messages of love and acceptance. Thanks to everyone who has already bought a pin. Funds raised will be used for programs at church, participation in the Gay Pride Parade, and other activities. Look for our church ad in *Options*, a magazine serving the GLBT community in Rhode Island. It's another way we are spreading the word that we are Standing on the Side of Love.

## Neighborhood Social Justice Committee

The NSJC's mission is to provide spiritual growth opportunities to the members of First Unitarian through service to those in our communities who are facing social, legal, or economic injustice. Our meetings are on the second and fourth Sundays monthly after Coffee Hour.

Contact: David St. Germain (401.536.0715)

## Visit Your Legislative Representative

The First Unitarian Legislative Ministry is looking for church members to host a visit with your senator and/or representative during April and May. Hosts are especially needed on Providence's East Side.

For details, contact Bob Cox ([rac45@cox.net](mailto:rac45@cox.net))



## Social Justice

### Our Generous Support for Haitian Relief

The special offering for Haiti collected on January 17, totaled \$4,221. The money was sent to the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC). Dick Campbell, senior associate for media and public affairs for the UUSC, says, "We're quite pleased with the generosity and speed with which Unitarian Universalists have responded. It really motivates us to do the best we can with the money." Martha Thompson, the UUSC's program manager for Rights in Humanitarian Crises, went to Haiti on February 5 on an eight-day assessment mission to determine how the organization could best respond to long-term needs. The UUSC is working in partnership with several groups involved in Haiti, including the Papaye Peasant Movement and the Lambi Fund of Haiti.

The church chose to donate to the UUSC in part because such a large percentage of donations go directly to the work of the Committee rather than administrative costs.

You can follow how the UUSC is using donations to aid Haiti at [www.uusc.org/Haiti](http://www.uusc.org/Haiti).

### 2011 Trip to Our Partner Church in Transylvania

The Transylvania Partner Church group is planning another trip to our partner church in Szentgyhaza, Transylvania in the summer of 2011. Preliminary plans include a choice or combination of:

1. Pilgrimage to Unitarian historical sites in medieval villages
2. Walking and hiking activities in the Carpathian Mountains surrounding our village,
3. Cooperative effort between the two congregations to build the bell tower we have been contributing toward.

We encourage church members of all ages, including families with children, to participate in this trip. Watch for future announcements!

More information or questions, contact Marida Hollos (401-273-2207)

## The Return of the Wholly Rollers

Thinking about dragging that bicycle out of the garage and dusting it off? Or have you been riding recently and would like to ride more if you could find some nice people to ride with? However much you bike or want to bike, consider the Wholly Rollers. We are a loosely knit bike club centered at First Unitarian. Our main purpose is to have fun. Along the way we provide information and support about the health benefits of biking, about bicycle commuting, safety, and maintenance and about bicycle related laws. In addition, some of our members participate in the MS 25 and MS 150, yearly charity bicycle events hosted by the National Multiple Sclerosis Society.

Contact: Paul Hossfield (410.338.3087 or [aus.robustus@gmail.com](mailto:aus.robustus@gmail.com)) For information on the MS bike rides, visit [http://bikerir.nationalmssociety.org/site/PageServer?pagename=BIKE\\_RIR\\_homepage](http://bikerir.nationalmssociety.org/site/PageServer?pagename=BIKE_RIR_homepage)

## Community Food Share – April Is Peanut Butter and Jelly month

*Distribution Day: Monday, April 19*

Many volunteers are needed to make sure that all phases of our operation run smoothly.

- |             |                               |
|-------------|-------------------------------|
| 1:00p-3:00p | Set-up                        |
| 3:00p-5:00p | Distribution with our clients |
| 5:00-6:00p  | Restock and clean-up          |

### Food Donations – April Is Peanut Butter and Jelly Month!

Please add some extra PB and J to your grocery shopping cart and drop them in the barrels in the Atrium for distribution to our monthly food pantry clients. Please, no glass! Glass containers increase the risk of injury.

To help on Distribution Day, contact Elesa Amand ([elesa2@verizon.net](mailto:elesa2@verizon.net)).

For larger donations contact Amy Webb, [amy.webb7@verizon.net](mailto:amy.webb7@verizon.net)

April 2010

"We should rank our beliefs, not by plausibility, but by the harm they cause." –Nassim Taleb



This Month

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				<u>1</u> Maundy Thursday Service 7:00p Gaia's Hearth 7:00p	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>4</u> EASTER SUNDAY SERVICE 10:30a BUUUG 7:00p	<u>5</u> Women's Alliance Benevolent St. Zendo 7:00p	<u>6</u> Budget 7:00p Knitters 7:00p	<u>7</u> Prudential Committee 6:00p Meditation Workshop 7:00p	<u>8</u> Deacons 6:00p	<u>9</u> Parish Supper 5:45p	<u>10</u>
<u>11</u> Sunday Service 10:30a Covenant Conversation 12:00p Mentor/Mentee 12:00p Membership 12:00p NSJC 12:15p BUUUG 7:00p UU Men 7:00p	<u>12</u> Benevolent St. Zendo 7:00p	<u>13</u> Budget 7:00p Reimagining Religion 7:00p Knitters 7:00p	<u>14</u> Legislative Ministry 7:00p Meditation Workshop 7:00p	<u>15</u> Path to Membership 6:00-9:00p	<u>16</u>	<u>17</u>
<u>18</u> Sunday Service 10:30a Worship Committee 12:00p BUUUG 7:00p Spiritual Cinema 7:00p	<u>19</u> Food Pantry 4:00p Fellowship Committee 6:30p Benevolent St. Zendo 7:00p Nominating Committee 7:00p	<u>20</u> Budget 7:00p Knitters 7:00p Yoga (K. Lee) 7:00p Welcoming Congregation 7:00p	<u>21</u> Meditation Workshop 7:00p	<u>22</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>24</u> Ballou Channing District Annual Meeting 9:00a-1:00p Round the Table Dinners
<u>25</u> Sunday Service 10:30a Annual Meeting 12:00p BUUUG 7:00p	<u>26</u> Benevolent St. Zendo 7:00p	<u>27</u> Reimagining Religion 7:00p Knitters 7:00p	<u>28</u> Executive Committee 7:00p Meditation Workshop 7:00p	<u>29</u>	<u>30</u>	



First Unitarian Church of Providence  
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Welcoming Congregation.

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## **Proposed Covenant and Congregational Conversation**

The year long process of re-visiting our congregational covenant reaches an important milestone on Sunday April 11.

The Covenant Writer's Group will present a draft revised covenant during the Sunday morning worship service, to be followed by a congregational conversation at noon.

**Mark Your Calendars!**

**Be Sure To Attend!**

