



# news @ first . u . providence

## SERVICES IN OCTOBER

### Sunday, October 3 Freedom, Reason, and Tolerance

10:30a Rev. James Ishmael Ford

It is fifty years since the merger of the Universalist Church of America and the American Universalist Association. We will both celebrate and pause to consider what this means and can mean in our lives.

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

*Spiritual Development Ministry Fair during Coffee Hour*

### Sunday, October 10 Greetings from Across the River

10:30a Rev. Todd Yonkman and Rev. Nicole Grant Yonkman

Todd and Nicole are co-pastors of the Beneficent Congregational Church, perhaps better known as the Round Top Meeting House. Beneficent was founded when one of our church leaders, Deacon Snow, offended at the liberalism "up on the hill," led a walk-out. A few years later, he decided Beneficent was too liberal as well and he continued his pilgrimage. Todd and Nicole are in our pulpit, while James speaks on the other side of the river. The sermon text will be Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7. Go ahead, look it up.

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

*Todd and Nicole Grant Yonkman are graduates of the University of Chicago Divinity School and have served churches in Illinois, Ohio, and Indiana. They have two daughters, Fiona and Olivia.*

### Sunday, October 17 By the Rivers of Babylon

10:30a Rev. James Ishmael Ford

By some calculations, on this day in 539 BCE, King Cyrus the Great and his Persian army conquered Babylon, freeing the Jews who had been held captive for two generations. James finds himself thinking of exile, loss, and dreams of freedom.

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

*Our Community Collection will be dedicated to English for Action (see page 9).*

*Social Justice Ministry Fair during Coffee Hour*

### Sunday, October 24 Open Secrets: Reflecting on the Nature of Human Relationships

10:30a Rev. James Ishmael Ford

The remarkable Alexandra David-Neel was born on this day in 1868. A French national, she was able to enter forbidden Lhasa in 1924, disguised as a Tibetan matron. This sets James to thinking about courage, and even more about how people relate to one another.

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

*Stewardship Ministry Fair during Coffee Hour*

### Sunday, October 31 The Fall of Freddy the Leaf: A Reflection on All Hallow's Eve

10:30a **An Intergenerational Service** DRE Cathy Seggel and Rev. James Ishmael Ford

On this day when the veil between life and death becomes so thin, we will reflect on the feasts of Halloween and All Saints through the lens of Leo Buscaglia's classic tale. If you wish to recall someone who passed from life this year, send their name and a few words about them to James before the service (email is best). Bring a photo of a loved one for our traditional Day of the Dead Altar.

*Origins, Play Circle, and Preschool are open for our youngest children (birth-4 years).*

*Community Life Ministry Fair during Coffee Hour.*

### Sunday, November 7 Race Matters

10:30a (Daylight Saving Time ends) Rev. James Ishmael Ford

A little more than a week ago, the Rev. Mark Morrison-Reed spoke at First Unitarian on growing up as an African-American Unitarian Universalist (see page 9). James will consider what Mark had to say and what he thinks it might mean for all of us, whatever our race.

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

*We will be recognizing our newest members today.*

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

O C T O B E R 2 0 1 0

A L L P A R I S H E V E N T S

All-Parish Supper

Friday, October 15

#### Ministry Fairs during Coffee Hour

Spiritual Development - October 3

Social Justice - October 17

Stewardship - October 24

Community Life - October 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  
 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

**Lay Ministry Services**

The "On Call" Lay Minister for the month of October is Kate Menard.

Referrals or requests to the church office for Lay Ministry services - phone calls, visits, notes, meals, transportation in response to emergency needs of our church family - are passed on to the On Call Lay Minister, who coordinates appropriate services with Care Crew volunteers.

To volunteer for the Care Crew, contact any of the Lay Ministers: Mary Frappier, Mary Frey, Martha Manno, Kate Menard, Rick Richards, and Bill Twaddell.

**Deacons' Corner**

The Deacons will begin the church year with our annual phonathon. Sometime in October, you should be hearing from one of the Deacons, probably the same one who called you last year, to see how you are doing. Last year, we instituted a new policy where we will have the same list of congregants each year. We want to establish a connection over our five-year term. We hope you see our call as a way to voice your opinions, both good and bad, as to the spiritual direction of the congregation.

The Deacons have agreed to oversee the Annual Thanksgiving Dinner this year. If you have any ideas about the dinner, or would like to volunteer in any way, please contact one of the Deacons. We will have more information in the November newsletter.

We have begun to prepare for our part of the Path to Membership class on November 20. The Deacons assist in the class, usually making sure everyone is well fed.

We will also continue with the Communion Services, as well as the Maundy Thursday Communion, and our ongoing roles as greeters and ushers.

**Senior Deacons:**

Robert O. Jones, Janet Downing Taylor

**Deacons:**

Judy Bowden, Mary Finger,  
David Bridgehouse, Russell Gifford,  
Mary Frappier, David Spemulli,  
Ruth Arellana, Jacqui Nye



**Monkey Mind**

I like to tell about my Homiletics (i.e., preaching) course in seminary, particularly that first day. The professor, the Rev. Dr. James Chuck, M.Div., Th.D., stood watching as a dozen of us entered for our first seminar. Neatly dressed in a striped, three-piece suit, he seemed to glare at us while idly fiddling with his Phi Beta Kappa key, which hung as a pocket watch fob. Once we were seated, he launched into a brief exposition on the general decline of intellectual capacity among seminarians since his day. But, more important, he then explained that the truly great preacher has three sermons. And, he added somewhat dryly, it would behoove each and every one of us to figure out quickly what our meager sermon might be.

His point was that we have a limited number of themes we are going to draw upon, over and over again. Even the greatest preachers really have only a handful in them. And most of us get by with one.

Since that little speech almost twenty years ago, I've been embarrassed to note that, while I have come up with three sermons: mine are sequential rather than concurrent. At first my sermon was "Can't we all get along?" Then it shifted to "Form is emptiness and emptiness is form." Today it's "For goodness' sake, do something!"

Not that there isn't some continuity. But, truth be told, I haven't preached on the first theme in ages, although I hope it continues to inform me and what I have to say. I'm pretty sure the second one hasn't actually disappeared from my preaching; it is, after all, an endless well and is the grounding for all my thoughts on how we should be engaged in the world.

But mostly when you come to church, what you hear is the third one. I'm finding my thinking and my concerns as I consider the grave responsibility entailed in that awesome historic pulpit are how do we engage the world.

And so: For goodness' sake, do something!

Of course, we need a background for that "doing." We need to know who we are. We need to have a sense of where we want to go. But we don't need to wait until we've achieved "complete and total awakening" or "figured it all out." Ready or not, now is the time.

For me, the baseline is always going to be simple acts of direct service. Nothing in the universe quite compares to handing a hungry person a sandwich. The teaching-someone-how-to-fish thing is important, too.

But there is much more that needs doing right this moment. Racial tensions run like a poison through the body politic and need to be engaged. We need to address the questions of boundaries and immigration in ways that are open-eyed and openhearted. If we are one and many, and the two things are inseparable, and therefore we are family, we need to publicly stand for equal access to things like education and health care. We need to ensure that our culture doesn't let people go hungry or homeless. These are moral responsibilities. These are the first half of that sentence "For goodness' sake, . . ."

And here in Rhode Island, something enormously exciting is afoot. Current polls suggest we in this state are ready to embrace same-sex marriage. Both the Democratic and Independent candidates for governor have declared for marriage equality. Clear majorities in the state House of Representatives favor marriage equality, and we are within reach of support by the state Senate. It is genuinely possible our state can pass marriage equality in the spring of 2011.

Bottom line, it seems that one little sermon might be of some value. And here's the sermon:

- There's something to do.
- Something for the ages.
- Something to right ancient wrongs.
- Pick something, there's so much opportunity.
- But, for goodness' sake, do something!



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



## Spiritual Pathways

### Harvesting Opportunities

The Spiritual Pathways Program year began with our annual Teacher Orientation evening. More than 45 volunteers met to build community and share expectations. Inspiration and energy was also gathered as we prepared to greet and guide children, youth, and adults on paths of UU faith development. I reflected on the term *faith* and on my colleague Michelle Richards' use of the word as a verb, a process, informed by our experiences, interactions, and institutional affiliations. Faith is more than a series of ideas about religious matters. It is a foundation from which our beliefs emerge. On Sunday mornings, we have a particular opportunity to encourage spiritual exploration and faith development in safe, sacred space.

The Orientation participants also reviewed policies, procedures, and routines. Teacher teams looked over curriculum resources, drafted schedules, and checked on supplies and room preparation. The enthusiasm and commitment of our teachers is exceptional! I am so looking forward to welcoming the congregation of new and continuing members to our church.

In terms of the congregational curriculum, our moment in history provides compelling opportunities to act on shared Unitarian Universalist values. The time is ripe to lead interfaith efforts that spread the good news of the common ground that all religions share. As a multigenerational, multicultural faith community, we can harvest the opportunity to hold up what is important, share our stories, and create meaningful memories while we transform our own lives and our waiting world.

I am available to discuss our classes and programs by email, phone, or by appointment in my church office.

Cathy Seggel, Director of Religious Education  
401.421.7970  
dre@firstunitarianprov.org

## Parent Open Houses – Making Connections in Our Sunday School

This school year, the Religious Education Committee and the Director of Religious Education are creating opportunities for parents, volunteer teachers, students, and staff to get together for breakfast or at Coffee Hour gatherings on Sunday mornings. Open Houses will be scheduled throughout the fall. Invitations will be mailed to registered families and will be listed in the weekly *Meeting House Times* and church emails.

These events are intended to help families get to know one another, while providing a time for teachers and parents to communicate. We hope that all parents will participate.

### Open House Schedule

- Sunday, September 26, 11:30a - Parents of Senior High (9th-12th graders)
- Sunday, October 3, 12:00p-3:00p - Parents of 8th graders (Coming of Age)
- Sunday, October 17, 9:45a - Parents of 6th and 7th graders
- Sunday, October 31, 9:45a - Parents of Nursery, Play Circle, and Preschool
- Sunday, November 7, 9:45a - Parents of Kindergarten-5th graders (Auditorium)

## Parenting through a Unitarian Universalist Lens

Director of Religious Education Cathy Seggel will lead this session on Wednesday, October 13. More information on page 7.

## The Religious Education Staff

- Director of Religious Education: Cathy S. Seggel, M.T.S.
- Youth Music Director: Marcia Taylor
- Interim DRE Assistant: Amy Webb
- Sunday Assistant: Kate Guilbault

## Teachers, RE Committee Liaisons, and Curriculum 2010-2011

### Origins (0-24 months): Nursery

Staff: Sally Ann Dilorio, Kiera Wilhelm, Samantha Sasse;

REC Liaison: Tricia Wilhelm

### Play Circle (2-3 years):

#### “Celebrating Me and My World”

Staff: Chelsea Waite, Morgan Ivens-Duran, Erin Capra

REC Liaison and Volunteer Teacher: Tricia Wilhelm

### Preschool (3½-4 years) :

#### “We Are Many, We Are One”

Teachers: Cindy Hiatt, Heidi Vasquez, Charlie Hunt, Joe Grady

REC Liaison: Tricia Wilhelm

### Kindergarten: “Creating Home”

Teachers: Kathy Quilici, Kathy Ahlquist, Sarah Sasse, Susan Farady

REC Liaison: Kathy Ahlquist

### 1st Grade: “Wonderful Welcome” and

#### “Treasure Hunting”

Teachers: Sarah Capelli, Michael Dawkins, Caitlin Frumiere, Heather Robledo

REC Liaison: Cheryl Bartholomew

### 2nd Grade: “Free to Believe”

Teachers: Wendy Litke, Liz Rennie, Domenic Napolitano, Philip Swayze

REC Liaison: Cheryl Bartholomew

### 3rd Grade: “Moral Tales”

Teachers: Michael Capelli, Kate Bowden, Karen Rameaka, Cynthia Rosengard

REC Liaison: Melinda Van Lare

### 4th Grade: “Bibleodeon”

Teachers: Chris Matos, Laura Kuzner, Paul Brule, Glenn Wurz

REC Liaison: Susan Harrison

### 5th Grade: “Toolbox of Faith”

Teachers: Ellen Anderson, Tamara Barney, John Mensinger, Henry Shepherd

REC Liaison: Melinda Van Lare

### 6th/7th Grades: “Neighboring Faiths”

Teachers: Judy Bowden, Kelly Schneider, Len Bento, Norm Seggel

REC Liaison: Roberta Groch

### 8th Grade: Coming of Age and

#### “Our Whole Lives”

Teachers: Odile Mattiauda, Rita Rossi, Jim Edwards, Jon Henson

REC Liaison: Sally Caruso

Mentor Coordinator: Erica Napolitano

### High School Youth Group (9th-12th Grades)

Advisers: Maia Bailey, Jane Rosenbaum, Lach Franquemont, Joe Killilea

REC Liaison: Jennifer Karl

## Stewardship Ministry Fair To Be Held on October 24

The Stewardship Ministry includes the Canvass Committee (which plans the annual spring pledge drive), the Finance and Investment Committee (which oversees the activities of our endowments), the Building and Grounds Committee (which maintains our physical plant), the Planned Giving program, and fundraising activities. Together, the members of these groups serve as stewards of our historic home, our financial legacy, and our current and future financial support for the programs and operations that sustain the life of First Unitarian.

The Stewardship Ministry Fair will offer the opportunity for church members and friends to learn how this ministry supports the work of the church and how they can become involved in this vital area of church life.

### Visit with the Canvass Committee at the Stewardship Ministry Fair

This month, the Canvass Committee will participate in one of the four Ministry Fairs, the Stewardship Ministry Fair, to be held during Coffee Hour on Sunday, October 24 (see above). Although one would think that people with a personal stake in our congregation would want to know more about church finances, some people are in the habit of running in the other direction whenever they learn that the Canvass Committee is present. Given that they mostly are aware of us during the annual pledge drive, this may not be surprising.

However, the Ministry Fair will not be a time for fundraising, or for asking anything of you other than your interest and enthusiasm for all that is made possible by your financial participation in this congregation. It will be an opportunity to learn where the money goes, why your contributions are important, and (if you are interested) how you might be able to help with specific tasks to further the health of the congregation. You might even discover that you find the financial health of the congregation so interesting that you want to join us!

—The Canvass Committee:

Jim Barfoot, Neil Bartholomew (chair),  
Carol Drewes, Herb Fried, Graham Nye



## Sight Lines

Now that the church year has begun in earnest, I find things charging ahead at an amazing pace. It seems to me that I just wrote my September newsletter article, and here it has become October! As I was sitting down to write, I found myself looking forward and wondering what things will look like nine months from now when I am finishing my term. This caused me to ask myself again why I accepted this position as President of the Prudential Committee. Not to over-personalize, but this took me back in time to 2000, when my wife, Beth, and I moved here from Concord, New Hampshire. I do remember something Beth always says about moving: that you should go to the local UU church if you want to find people and community.

In Concord, I had become extremely involved in my church. I must confess that this eventually led to a feeling of being burned out. This feeling, in turn, probably made me a bit of an isolationist upon my move to Rhode Island. However, things have certainly changed. I have gone from “just” singing in the (awesome) choir to attending Coffee Hour (and actually talking to people), conducting the Community Band, serving on the Search Committee that brought us our beloved James, going through the wonderful covenant process with all of you, and finally being chosen last year as your President-Elect. Of course, then all the activities and events associated with that position commenced. So far, it has been a great experience!

What has brought about this huge transformation in me? I would have to say that for me it's all about community. And what does community mean to me? I do believe that we are all part of the bigger world community as well as our First Unitarian community. We are also part of the interdependent web of all existence. Our church here in Providence truly lives these two principles (numbers 6 and 7) of the Unitarian Universalist Association. I have happily found what I guess I was looking for - a true community. There are many others who have found the same thing here. A member of the clergy recently visiting here noted the obvious sense of strong community on our campus. It is here for all of us!

The key for me is again involving myself. As I have gotten more and more involved, I have become aware of what a strong community our church really is. The more time I spend with people here, the more I realize how much I love them. And many folks now embrace me - perhaps because I have let them in.

We all have different needs, reasons to attend church, and things to offer. Wherever you are on your journey, the First Unitarian community is here for you. Get involved, make a commitment, and be a vital part of our community!

Stewart Armstrong, Jr., President  
pres@firstunitarianprov.org





## Around the Church

### Date Change for the Fall Path to Membership Class

*Saturday, November 20, 9:00a -2:30p*

Due to scheduling conflicts, our next class has been rescheduled to Saturday, November 20, replacing the class initially planned for October 30.

The Path to Membership class is for anyone interested in membership, learning more about Unitarian Universalism, and more about First Unitarian. The class is led by our minister, the Rev. James Ford; Director of Religious Education Cathy Seggel; and Membership Coordinator Katy Killilea and includes a delicious brunch made by the Deacons.

Please register by Thursday, November 11. Childcare will be provided for those who request it by Monday, November 8.

Contact: Katy Killilea, Membership Coordinator (mem@firstunitarianprov.org or 401.421.7970)

### New Memorial Bricks Laid in the Meditation Garden

Over the summer, 50 new inscribed bricks were laid in the Meditation Garden between the Meeting House and the Parish House. The bricks were purchased by church members and friends to commemorate and honor loved ones and important events. The money raised from the sale - a total of \$5,000 - is being used to beautify the area just outside the glass wall in the Atrium.

Spend a few quiet moments in the Memorial Garden with the memories of your fellow congregants, and keep any eye on the Atrium Garden as it comes into its own.



### Engaging the Larger Community: Space for Local Organizations

Those of us who only see the hustle and bustle at the church on Sundays may be surprised to learn how many local groups rent our space during the week. In keeping with our mission to "transform our shared values into action in the world," we have for many years welcomed local self-help groups: three Alcoholics Anonymous groups, plus Alanon, Naranon, and Narcotics Anonymous hold sessions in our building each week; the Samaritans' use our space for both their Safe Place and Training groups two evenings a week. Every year, we have Families First of RI, a moms-helping-moms group that originated at Women and Infants Hospital; Brown University's White Coat ceremony, recognizing students beginning their Medical School program; and, of course, Brown's annual Medical and Bio-Medical School commencements on Memorial Day weekend.

Our newest renters are the RI Chamber Music Concert series, a weekly literary group from Brown University's Rockefeller Library, and PowerScore, an entrance-board prep course for prospective law school students. We have ongoing meditation group and occasional yoga groups rentals. We average 30 non-member weddings and rehearsals each year, plus child dedications and memorial services for non-church members.

From time to time, other nonprofits have their board meetings in our parlors, and our Meeting House is often used for musical performances. The biggest rental we have had in the Meeting House was Krishna Das, a spiritual chanter. When movie production companies are around town, we often accommodate the food services for their crews in the Auditorium.

All in all, First Unitarian runs a seven-day-a-week operation, both days and evenings. Thanks to our efficient and energetic Church Administrator, Posey Kooris, this vital part of our church outreach runs like clockwork!



#### Hats Off to...

Flannery Brown, Lincoln Oliver-O'Neil, Judy Bowden, and Amy Webb for their help with our Homecoming Service.



#### Wheel of Life

**Welcome to:** Elin Astana Macera, daughter of Alison and Chris Macera and newest granddaughter of Peter and Carole Gray.

**Congratulations to:** Church member Elizabeth O'Connell and Robert Galvin on their wedding on August 21.

#### Welcoming Newcomers

##### Newcomers' Café

*Every Sunday during Coffee Hour in the Paneled Parlor*

If you're new to the church, this is a great place to meet people in a less-daunting setting than the regular Coffee Hour. If you've been around for a while, this is a great place to meet people interested in our church and to help them get acclimated. Just follow the signs to the Café; coffee, tea, and goodies will be there, too.

##### Sunday Greeters and Hosts

Volunteers are always needed and welcome to serve as greeters on Sunday mornings (those folks with the multicolored scarves) or as hosts at the Newcomers' Café. If you like to talk to people and enjoy helping people connect to one another, this is a great way to share your talents with the congregation.

Contact: Katy Killilea, Membership Coordinator (mem@firstunitarianprov.org or 401.421.7970)

##### Coffee Hour Co-op!

Our Sunday after-service Coffee Hour is a cooperative effort. We need providers for October. You can bring in home-baked or store-bought goods - cheese, crackers and fresh fruit are welcome alternatives.

Sign up with Janet Downing Taylor at the Coffee Hour Bakers Table in the first parlor any Sunday during Coffee Hour.



**Community Life and Heritage Ministry Fair** ✨

*Sunday, October 31, during Coffee Hour*

The mission of our Community Life and Heritage Ministry is to develop and maintain a culture that fosters strong and authentic connections within the congregation and a sense of belonging to our larger spiritual community. The committees and groups that are currently working to fulfill this mission include the Membership Committee, the Lay Ministry and Care Crew, the Deacons, and the Women's Alliance.

The Community Life and Heritage Ministry Fair is a one-stop opportunity to learn more about how these groups pursue their work, offer suggestions and feedback, and find out how you can become involved in this important part of church life.

**Atrium Art Gallery**



The current exhibition in the Parish House Atrium is anchored by several pieces from Christiane Corbat's Globalheart Project and features works by other First Unitarian artists. The exhibition honors Ms. Corbat's work for Peace on Earth. Sadly, Christiane passed away in 2006, but First Unitarian has been blessed with several of her exquisite works. Her husband, Dr. Robert Westlake, is still a member. She was an amazing artist whose work brought together healthcare and artists. She believed that the arts are a place of transformation and healing. The Peace exhibit will continue into October.



**Community Life**

**October All-Parish Supper** ✨

*Friday, October 15 (Note the date: one week later than usual)*

*Everyone, young and old and in between, is welcome at the All-Parish suppers.*

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

**6:15p Potluck Dinner:** Please bring a dish to share that serves at least eight people - a main dish or a vegetable, a salad, or a dessert. Also please bring tea, coffee, hot chocolate, or marshmallows for the Food Pantry.

**7:45p Program in the Auditorium: Understanding Transgender Identities**

**Speaker:** Jayeson Watts, M.S.W., Director of Youth Pride

The question of gender identity can be difficult and complex for some people. What does it mean to be a transgendered person? What is it like to be a transgendered person in American society? What are the main issues and problems? Our speaker, Jaye Watts, a transgendered person himself, is an experienced counselor and an articulate spokesperson for transgendered people from our community. This event, sponsored by the Standing on the Side of Love Committee, will provide information and build understanding and insight about transgender issues and help us become a truly Welcoming Congregation. Please plan to come.

Reservations are strongly requested. You can fill out the sign-up sheet in the *Sunday Meeting House Times* and drop it with the collection plate, see Jim Estey at Coffee Hour, or call the church office in advance (401.421.7970).

Childcare for infants and children up to age ten will be available for parents who request it in advance. Call Jim Estey (401.351.1748).

**November All-Parish Supper** ✨

*Friday, November 12*



**Program: Libana in Concert: Music of the World to Benefit Women in Haiti**

A very special benefit concert following our November All-Parish Supper will feature a performance by Libana, a global music ensemble of celebrated and talented female singers and instrumentalists that seeks to illuminate the creativity, vision, and spirit of the women of the world. Their performances of traditional and contemporary music and dance have received rave reviews. Proceeds from the concert, co-sponsored by the Village Bank Task Force and the World Affairs Committee, will benefit our micro-economy project, which funds village banks in support of the enterprises of women and their families in such countries as Guatemala and Haiti.

Tickets to the concert are \$15 in advance and at the Parish Supper; \$18 at the door.

To learn more about the group, go to [www.libana.com](http://www.libana.com).

**The Women's Alliance Opens its Program Year with ProJo Columnist Edward Fitzpatrick** ✨

*Monday, October 4 - Business Meeting at 10:30a, Program at 11:00a, Luncheon at 12:00p*

The Women's Alliance is looking forward to a new year of stimulating programs, warm companionship, and good food. We welcome new members at any time; our dues are \$25 per year. The Women's Alliance has been an autonomous society of dues-paying members affiliated with and supportive of the First Unitarian Church since 1882. All are welcome to attend our monthly programs.

Our speaker is Edward Fitzpatrick, a political columnist at the *Providence Journal*. Ed grew up in Smithfield and graduated from Syracuse University with majors in journalism and political science. He has written for the *Hartford Courant*, the *Albany Times Union*, and the *Saratogian*, as well as the *Journal*.

The 2010-2011 Alliance Directory and Calendar, which includes a listing of the programs for the year as well as membership names and addresses, is now available. If you would like to have one, please call the church office at 401.421.7970. For information about membership in the Alliance, please contact the Alliance President, Nancy Libby-Fisher, at 401.751.4298.



## Spiritual Development

### Spiritual Development Ministry Fair

Sunday, October 3 during Coffee Hour

The mission of the Spiritual Development Ministry is to uplift, inspire, and heal the mind, body, and spirit over one's lifespan by challenging and surprising members on their spiritual growth or journey. The groups that engage in the work of this ministry include the Worship and Music committees, Chalice Circles, and a rich variety of ongoing and occasional programs and events.

Many of these groups will be represented at the Spiritual Development Ministry Fair, where members and friends can find out more about these groups, offer feedback and suggestions, and learn about the many ways to become involved in activities of this area of church life.

### First Unitarian Women's Chorus

Sundays, October 3 and 10, 12:00p -1:30p and Sunday, October 17 at 9:00a in the Choir Room

The Chorus is an opportunity for women of all ages (including teens) to get together to sing. Chorus Director Beth Armstrong has years of experience singing and directing choruses of all types and special experience with women's voices. She also has a vast collection of songs that are accessible not only to the experienced vocalist, but also to the beginner. Music reading is not required, so this is a good chance to grab your mom, your best friend, or your daughter and come to church to sing just for the joy of it. The chorus will sing in the Sunday service on October 17. Join us on all or any of the Sundays.

Contact: Beth Armstrong (bestar3@aol.com)

### Parenting through a Unitarian Universalist Lens

Wednesday, October 13, 7:00p-8:30p

We will explore the love-filled, challenging, and soulful work of parenting from a UU perspective. Drawing on resources including Michelle Richards' *Tending the Flame* and sharing our own stories, we will discuss topics like family rituals, answering big questions, and teachable moments. This single session may continue with regularly scheduled support-group sessions.

Please call the church office to reserve a space.

Contact: Cathy Seggel, Director of Religious Education (401.421.7970 or dre@firstunitarianprov.org)

### The Way of Just Sitting

Thursday, October 21 at 7:00p

This is the first of two sessions on the Arts of Zen Meditation for the Beginner and the Old Hand. We will have a presentation outlining the origins of Buddhist meditation and how it evolved into the discipline of Mo Chao Chan, the Zen of silent illumination, or Shikantaza, the way of just sitting. Most commonly, it is just called Zazen, Zen meditation. The talk will include instruction in the basic posture and will explore the techniques of an ongoing practice. There will be an opportunity for a full discussion.

The second session, What Is the Sound of One Hand, Anyway?, will be held on Thursday, November 4 at 7:00p.

Contact: Rev. James Ford (401.421.7970 or min@firstunitarianprov.org)

#### 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. (All three of its senior teachers, including our minister, James Ford, are also Unitarian Universalists.)

Everyone is welcome. Brief instruction will be available to those who come at 6:45p. We are a member community of the Boundless Way Zen Sangha ([www.boundlesswayzen.org](http://www.boundlesswayzen.org)).

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

#### Natural Wisdom and Compassion Meditation

Every Wednesday 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.

Contact: Ken Bent (kenbent@cox.net)

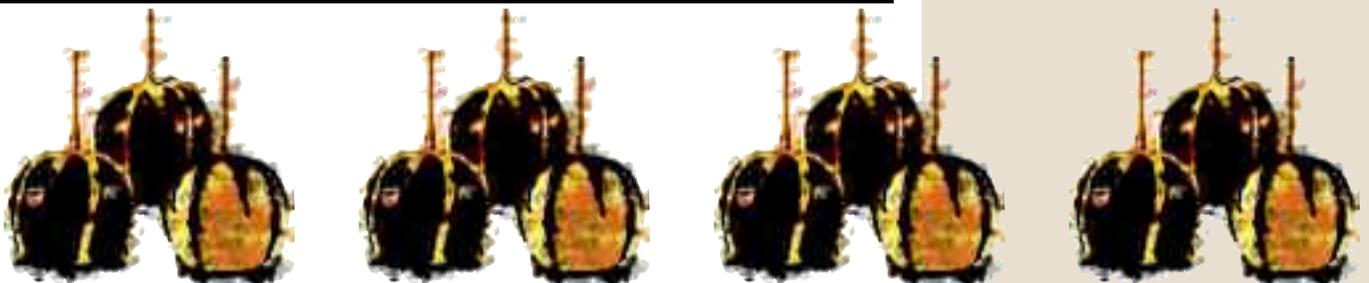
#### Reimagining Religion

Tuesdays, October 12 and 26, 7:00p

After a lengthy study of the Gospel of Thomas, we will continue with an examination of Ecclesiastes, seeking insights from a recent translation by Lloyd Geering, for many years a professor of Hebrew and Old Testament, and from the introduction to his forthcoming book on his favorite Wisdom sage. Come and discover why this famous scholar has frequently translated the Hebrew *elohim* as "nature" rather than "God."

Texts for downloading may be requested from Tom Hall.

Contact: Tom Hall (twh2nd@aol.com)



CONTINUING PROGRAMS

UUMeN

Sunday, October 10, 7:00p-9:00p

**Topic: Anxiety and Men's Issues**

Each of us experiences anxiety at times, and some of us are often anxious. What causes our anxieties, and how do we deal with them? Can anxiety be useful, or is it primarily debilitation? Should we try to eliminate all our anxieties?

The UUMeN group meets monthly for discussion and for fellowship. All interested men are welcome.

Facilitator for October:

David Mellor (401.286.1216)

**Sunday Pulpit Flowers**

We all enjoy the wonderful floral arrangements at the pulpit on each Sunday in the Meeting House. Donating flowers provides an opportunity for members and friends to honor a loved one or to celebrate a special occasion as part of our community worship. You can order flowers for a particular Sunday to grace the pulpit during the service and take them with you to enjoy or give away after the service.

Contact: Jacqui Nye (funjac@hotmail.com with "Flowers" in the subject line)

**Bless All Who Serve**

The Church of the Larger Fellowship (CLF), our UU church without walls, has about 3,500 members worldwide. We have a military ministry at [www.clfuu.org/military](http://www.clfuu.org/military) and are helping to manage the distribution of a wonderful, new meditation manual for UUs and others in the military. The pocket-sized *Bless All Who Serve* has readings, prayers, and hymns from many faith traditions. The Unitarian Universalist Association printed the books with the help of generous donors who paid to have copies printed for military people and their families, military chaplains, and UU ministers.

If there is someone in your family who is deployed or living in another area who would like a copy, the CLF will be happy to mail this book to them.

For others, *Bless All Who Serve* is available for \$8 at the UUA bookstore at [www.uuabookstore.org](http://www.uuabookstore.org) and is also available to borrow from the CLF Library.

Contact: Lorraine Dennis (ldennis@clfuu.org or 617.948.6166)



**Spiritual Development**

**Is There a Chalice Circle in Your Future?**

Sign-ups through October 10 during Coffee Hour

Nurture your own vital spirit by participating in a friendly and open Chalice Circle, where a small group of men and women come together regularly for conversation, listening, reflection, and laughter. Join a Chalice Circle to engage with others and build new relationships within the community. Participants must be willing to commit to at least eight sessions: this is a committed relationship, no one-night stands.

Contact: Jean Lawlor (401.823.1834), Ruth Arellana (401.261.7769), or Dianne Mailloux (401.353.0137) if you have any questions.

**Drop-in Chalice Circles**

Tuesday evenings, October 26, November 30, and/or December 28, 7:00p

These Drop-in Chalice Circles are for those who would like to join a Chalice Circle but cannot commit to bi-monthly meetings for eight weeks. These single-session Circles will help you begin to build closer relationships with others and reflect on issues of spirituality. No need to sign up; just come to the Parish House on any or all of the Drop-in evenings.

Contact: Jean Lawlor (401.823.1834), Ruth Arellana (401.261.7769), or Dianne Mailloux (401.353.0137) if you have any questions.

**UU Revolution: Becoming a Culturally Dynamic Religion**

Saturday, October 30, 8:30a -3:00p; BCD Fall Conference in Duxbury, MA

The Ballou Channing District (BCD) of UU churches in Rhode Island and southeastern Massachusetts is holding its 2010 Fall Conference on the theme of developing multigenerational and multicultural congregations that are "whole and holy religious learning communities." Keynote speaker Tandi Rogers believes it's time for us to be a force to be reckoned with, or as her keynote title puts it: "UU Revolution Led by RE-Powered Congregations"! Tandi Rogers, who serves as Program Specialist to UU congregations in the Pacific Northwest and Alaska, will lay out the implications of emerging cultural, ethnic, and demographic trends in our country and describe how UU congregations can move toward becoming vibrant and relevant religious communities.

The multicultural and multigenerational theme will be further explored in eight morning and afternoon workshops, including "Growing Congregations of Diverse People: Lessons from Mega-churches," "Realizing Racial Justice," and "Ministry in the New Decade" with a panel of BCD ministers.

Speaker Tandi Rogers is UU Credentialed Religious Educator and a candidate for the ministry. Previously she has been a social justice organizer and a teacher on the Muckleshoot Indian Reservation. She describes her most important ministry as being the mother of three sons.

The day's program also includes worship and music, opportunities to network, lunch, and the UU Network Mall featuring informational displays and items for sale of interest to BCD UUs. The complete program flyer is available at [www.bcduua.org](http://www.bcduua.org). Directions to First Parish Church, Duxbury are available at [www.duxburyuu.org](http://www.duxburyuu.org).

Registration is required by October 21. Registration fee is \$25 for adults, \$10 for youth under 18.

Contact: BCD District Office (508.559.6650 or [bcdoffice@uua.org](mailto:bcdoffice@uua.org))





## Social Justice

### Social Justice Ministry Fair 🌍🌱

Sunday, October 17 during Coffee Hour

The Social Justice Ministry offers ways for First Unitarian members and friends to honor our mission to “transform our shared values in the world.” Some dozen groups and committees plan and support programs, both local and global, including our Community Food Share Pantry, Knitting for a Better World, the UUSC Committee, Habitat for Humanity, the Peace Flag Project, and Standing on the Side of Love.

Come to the Social Justice Community Fair to learn about the wide range of opportunities to make the world a better place. Your feedback and suggestions will be welcome.

### Reflections on Race within Unitarian Universalism: 🌍 An Evening with the Rev. Mark Morrison-Reed

Thursday, October 28, 7:00p 9:00p

What was it like to grow up an African-American Unitarian Universalist? Why does UUism find becoming more diverse such a struggle? Renowned UU minister Mark Morrison-Reed, who served our Toronto church for many years, will be with us to read excerpts from his book *In Between: Memoir of an Integration Baby* and offer a sneak preview of his new book, *Darkening the Doorways: Black Trailblazers and Missed Opportunities in Unitarian Universalism*, to be published this spring by the UUA's Skinner House. This is a rare opportunity to visit with one of the most widely respected ministers in our denomination. James Ford will open the evening with a brief introduction of his friend and colleague. Sponsored by the First Unitarian Church's Standing on the Side of Love Committee



### Supporting Immigrant Rights through English for Action



English for Action (EFA) serves the Latino immigrant community in the Olneyville neighborhood of Providence. First Unitarian's Knitting for a Better World group has been supporting EFA's work by creating and donating warm clothing for participants in its programs.

EFA will be the recipient of our Sunday Community Collection on October 17.

English for Action was founded in 1999 by a group of immigrant families and Brown University students to address the growing need for ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) classes in Olneyville and, at the same time, to create a community-based, participatory education model that integrates language learning with social change. For its first two years, EFA served 15 adult learners. Since then, the program has grown to include over 500 families, with further expansion.

EFA's education programs are based on the participatory philosophy of the late Brazilian educator Paulo Freire. At EFA, facilitators (teachers) and learners (students) are equal partners in the classroom, working collaboratively to develop curricula and lessons that reflect learners' priorities. In speaking, writing, and creative activities, learners share their stories, respond to current events, discuss community problems and challenges, and, finally, take action. Past class projects have included writing letters to legislators about community problems, organizing and participating in neighborhood clean-ups, and producing materials about issues such as discrimination and community health resources. The principles that underlie the EFA program include:

- We use the process of language learning to build community within and outside of the classroom.
- We analyze and challenge existing power dynamics and distribution of resources in our society and within our organization.
- We believe in the inherent worth, wisdom and dignity of every human, because we recognize that we all have something to teach and learn.

For more information about English for Action and its programs, visit [www.englishforaction.org/efa/](http://www.englishforaction.org/efa/)

### A Generous Community Collection for Pakistan Flood Victims

The response for the Community Collection on Homecoming Sunday, September 12, was among the most largest we have had: \$1,914. Many thanks to all who so generously donated.

#### CONTINUING PROGRAMS

### Knitting for a Better World 🌍

Every Tuesday, 7:00p 9:00p

Come join fellow knitters for a casual evening of knitting and conversation. Work on your own project or join in one of our many group efforts: knitting warm clothes for immigrants at English for Action in Olneyville, prayer shawls for women in the Middle East, dolls for children in Haiti, or hats and mittens for our own Mitten Tree. We have plenty of yarn and needles to get you started.

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

### Neighborhood Social Justice Committee 🌍

Sunday, October 3, 12:15p and

Thursday, October 21, 7:00p

The mission of the NSJC is to have fun drawing energy and insight from our UU principles and traditions, while finding productive and just solutions to the societal injustices threatening individuals or groups in the neighborhoods and diverse communities who have become marginalized, ignored, or oppressed. By working hand in hand as equal partners with those struggling to find their way through these labyrinths, we consciously seek to help each other and to try to make the world a better place one neighborhood at a time. All are welcome to participate.

### Habitat for Humanity Work Day 🌍🌱

Saturday, October 16

The First Unitarian Habitat Work Group volunteers once a month with the Providence chapter of Habitat for Humanity RI, which usually has several houses under construction. Volunteers of all skill levels are welcome; the only requirements are a willingness and ability to do physical work and a minimum age of 16. Our work day is the third Saturday each month. Sign-up is required as space on each month's crew is limited. For information on Providence Habitat, visit: [www.habitatprov.org](http://www.habitatprov.org)

Contact: Peter van Erp (401.351.4881 or [petervanerp@cox.net](mailto:petervanerp@cox.net))

## CONTINUING PROGRAMS

**October Is Coffee, Tea, Hot Chocolate, and Marshmallow Month at the Food Pantry** 🌍🌱*Distribution Day, Monday, October 18*

You can help First Unitarian's Food Pantry serve our neighbors in need by bringing in this month's food items and placing them the barrel in the corner of the Atrium.

Our Food Pantry is serving more clients every month. It takes a lot of volunteers to keep it going! We are always looking for new helpers. You can try it once or sign on to be a regular every month. We especially need folks with a van or truck who can help with carrying food from the RI Food Bank to the church.

Here are some ways to be part of this significant social justice program:

- Volunteer to shop at the Food Pantry once a month (needs a strong back and a large vehicle).
- Pick up produce and bread on Distribution Day (also needs a strong back and a large vehicle).
- Sign up for a shift on Distribution Day: set-up, distribution, or clean-up.

Contact: Elesia Amand (elesa2@verizon.net), Amy Webb (amy.webb7@verizon.net), or Martha Manno (Mmanno7@comcast.net)

**Turn Your Old Magazines into Food!** 🌍*Sundays during Coffee Hour in the Atrium*

You can help convert magazines into financial support for our Community Food Pantry by bringing in your used magazines (three months old or newer) or donating fifty cents or a dollar for magazines that you'd like to try. Of particular interest: magazines in Russian, Portuguese, and Spanish; *Ranger Rick*, *Kids' National Geographic*, *Cricket*, *Spider*, *Seventeen*; music magazines; the *Economist*; *Science*, *Science News*; *GQ*; golf, fishing, car, and other "man mags"; *Kitchen Design*, *Martha Stewart*, cooking magazines; yoga magazines. Food pantry clients are able to take magazines on Distribution Day.



## Social Justice

### Raising a Bell Tower in Transylvania

The Unitarian Congregation of Szentegyhaza, Romania, has raised a bell tower, thanks to the perseverance and talent of the members of their community and the support of the First Unitarian Church in Providence. Through several fundraising events, our church was able to donate \$5,000 to our Transylvania partner church and, as a result, the construction of the tower began in the fall of 2009.



When asked how long the dream has been alive, project manager Mozes Buzogany said, "Truly, since the inception of the Szentegyhaza Unitarian Congregation." Plans were finally put into action during the presidency of Sandor Racz and the ministry of Szabolcs Kelemen, who visited our church in April 2008. Sadly, Sandor passed away shortly after his visit with us, but he clearly left a legacy of devotion and commitment to his church.

The tower was designed by Istvan Mate, who recalls that "during their visit [in 2007], members of our American partner church brought up the idea of erecting a steeple in order to make the Unitarian church visible in the region, and they offered to help." Mate worked with Unitarians and other non-Unitarian neighbors to develop a strategy for a bell tower that would announce the existence of the church to the community. Now, several years later, the project is about three-quarters complete.

The tower was carved by Istvan Simo, a folk artist, wood carver, and teacher. He also designed the tall wooden Kopjafa that stands in our Mediation Garden and various other carvings given to our church. "I did it with great joy," says Istvan. "I carved into the steeple all the oldest symbols and treasures that represent love and devotion. It was an honor that I could do this work."

The small, yet beautifully crafted church is surrounded by trees and shrubs and accessed through the carved Szekely gate typical of the region. Nestled in the corner of a Szentegyhaza neighborhood, it was not an obvious landmark. With the addition of the bell tower, where soon a hand-crafted bell will hang, the surrounding community will not only hear the ringing of the bell to announce Sunday services, but also see the tower from afar. We'll let you know when the bell rings for the first time!

—Betty Finn, for the Transylvania Partner Church Committee

### Standing on the Side of Love

The SSL Committee is excited about our activities this fall. On October 15, we are sponsoring the program at the Parish Supper, focusing on transgender issues (see page 6). Our Welcoming Congregation survey in spring 2009 revealed that many of us are uncomfortable or confused about this subject. This will be a wonderful opportunity to open our hearts and expand our minds with people who have experienced these issues in their lives. In addition to our speaker, Jaye Watts, a panel discussion will include First Unitarian members Alexander and his mother, Robin, and UU Jenn and her spouse, Sara Herwig, who has been striving to become an ordained minister with the Presbyterian Church.

We are also sponsoring the October 28 presentation by Rev. Mark Morrison-Reid (see page 9) on his experience of growing up UU and African American during the Civil Rights era.

In November, we'll be showing *Thy Will Be Done*, a moving and inspiring film chronicling the struggles of Sara Herwig (our panelist at the Parish Supper) to become a Presbyterian minister as a male-to-female transgendered person. We'll be promoting this film here and in the larger community.

Our work for the rest of the year is shaping up. We'll be working for marriage equality in Rhode Island, organizing coalitions to oppose targeting of Muslims and immigrants in our community, and holding a fundraiser for the First Unitarian Standing on the Side of Love program.

October 2010

"All civilised people have to be ethicists" – P. D. James

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>3</u> Sunday Service 10:30a Spiritual Development Ministry Fair COA Parent Orientation 12:00p Neighborhood Social Justice 12:15p	<u>4</u> Women's Alliance 11:00a Benevolent St. Zendo 7:00p	<u>5</u> Knitting for a Better World 7:00p	<u>6</u> Prudential Committee 6:00p Meditation 7:00p	<u>7</u> Deacons 6:00p	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u>
<u>10</u> Sunday Service 10:30a UU Men 7:00p	<u>11</u> COLUMBUS DAY Church Office Closed Benevolent St. Zendo 7:00p	<u>12</u> Canvass 7:00p Reimagining Religion 7:00p Knitting for a Better World 7:00p	<u>13</u> R.E. Committee 6:00p UU Parenting 7:00p Meditation 7:00p	<u>14</u> Worship Committee 7:00p World Affairs 7:00p	<u>15</u> Parish Supper 5:45p	<u>16</u> Habitat for Humanity 8:30a - 2:00p
<u>17</u> Sunday Service 10:30a Social Justice Ministry Fair COA Mentor Orientation 12:00 12:15 Membership	<u>18</u> Food Pantry 4:00p Benevolent St. Zendo 7:00p	<u>19</u> Knitting for a Better World 7:00p	<u>20</u> Meditation 7:00p	<u>21</u> Zazen 7:00p Neighborhood Social Justice 7:00p	<u>22</u>	<u>23</u>
<u>24</u> Sunday Service 10:30a Stewardship Ministry Fair  <u>31</u> Sunday Service 10:30a Community Life Ministry Fair	<u>25</u> Benevolent St. Zendo 7:00p	<u>26</u> Chalice Circle Drop In 7:00p Reimagining Religion 7:00p Knitting for a Better World 7:00p	<u>27</u> Executive Committee 7:00p Meditation 7:00p	<u>28</u> Conversation on Race 7:00p	<u>29</u>	<u>30</u>

First Unitarian Church of Providence  
One Benevolent Street  
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We are a  
Welcoming Congregation.

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## A Benevolent Bounty to Benefit First Unitarian!

*Auction and Dinner, Saturday, November 6, 6:00p-9:00p*

Our fall fundraiser promises to be a wonderful opportunity to mingle with the community, listen to live music by the John Debossu Trio, bid on unique goods and services donated by members and local businesses, enjoy a delicious three-course dinner by our own Nancy Weiss-Fried - and know that you are helping to sustain and grow all the great programs our church offers.

### A Mouthwatering Dinner Menu

**Soup:** Choice of Fresh Corn Chowder or Roasted Squash and Apple Soup<sup>†</sup>

**Main Course:** Choice of Roasted Vegetable Tian<sup>†\*</sup> (vegetables stacked with feta and mozzarella cheese, basil pesto, and tomato salsa) or Braised Lamb<sup>\*</sup> (in cream sauce with fragrant spices)

**Dessert:** a variety of choices<sup>†\*</sup> from our dessert cart

<sup>†</sup> vegetarian options    <sup>\*</sup> gluten-free options

### An Amazing Array of Auction Donations

Three hours of housework by Neil Bartholomew (priceless!)

Woodsman services by Bill Twaddell

A poem to be composed by Ryk McIntyre

Mexican dinner for six by James and Jan Seymour-Ford

Dinners hosted by Tom Getz and Betty Finn, Martha and Bill Rice, and others

Vacation get-aways to New Hampshire, Martha's Vineyard, Cumberland, and Cape Cod

PLUS desserts and holiday baking, Waterfire experiences, knitting instruction, math tutoring, puppet making,

yoga classes, massages, handmade scarves, and more AND gift certificates from Frog & Toad, Createlier,

Green River Silver Company, Rue de L'Espoir, Books on the Square, and others.

**Tickets:** \$25 per person, on sale in October at the Benevolent Bounty table in the Atrium during Coffee Hour.

**Auction catalogs** will be available in advance (we encourage groups to plan their bidding ahead of time, especially for dinners and vacations).

Contact: Holly Dobbs ([touchjunkies@gmail.com](mailto:touchjunkies@gmail.com) or 617.821.6167)