



## SERVICES IN NOVEMBER

### Sunday, November 7 Race Matters

10:30a

Rev. James Ishmael Ford

**Reminder: Daylight Savings Ends! Fall back one hour!**

James is concerned with the sad truism that Sunday is the most segregated day in the country. A little more than a week ago, we were visited by UU minister and author Mark Morrison-Reed, who spoke of growing up as an African American Unitarian Universalist. James will draw on Mark's comments, as well as his own reading and recent conversations, for a discussion of this matter of heart and engagement.

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

*Our Communion Service in the liberal tradition follows the worship service.*

### Sunday, November 14 Hanging Out with T. S. Eliot

10:30a

Rev. James Ishmael Ford

This Sunday, James will deliver the sermon he promised a while back, about T. S. Eliot, birthright Unitarian, explorer of Buddhism, and eventually a high-church Anglican. James is interested in the poetry, of course, but will also reflect on spiritual journeys.

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

### Sunday, November 21 The Secret of Saying Thanks

10:30a

DRE Cathy Seggel and Rev. James Ishmael Ford

**A Multigenerational Service**

What is gratitude? How can we best celebrate this traditional American holiday? It is rich and complicated, as are our lives.

*The Community Collection will be for our Transylvanian partner church congregation.*

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

### Sunday, November 28 Hanukkah Anticipated

10:30a

Rev. James Ishmael Ford

This year, Hanukkah will be observed in Jewish communities between the first and ninth of December. James finds himself fascinated with how this minor holiday, a holiday that the rabbis actually did not like, has become a major festival for Jews in America. He also wonders what it can mean for us as an emergent spiritual tradition that acknowledges its roots in Christianity and Judaism but is largely marking out a new way.

*We will recognize our new members during the service.*

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

### Sunday, December 5 Light One Candle: A Reflection on Human Rights

10:30a

Rev. James Ishmael Ford

In this world of hurt, what can we as individuals do that can actually be useful? James will reflect on the work of Amnesty International and how it offers a way for the busy person to also do some good. He will think how this approach can be helpful to us in our shared lives.

*Child dedications will be celebrated during the service.*

*Young people in grades pre-K-7 begin in the Meeting House, then go to their classes.*

*Origins (birth-2 years) and Play Circle (2-3 years) rooms are open.*



The Monthly Newsletter for

The First Unitarian Church of Providence

Corner of Benefit and Benevolent Streets

NOVEMBER 2010

ALL-PARISH EVENTS

**A Benevolent Bounty Dinner and Auction**

Saturday, November 6

**All-Parish Supper**

Friday, November 12

**Thanksgiving Dinner**

Thursday, November 25

INSIDE

Monkey Mind.....	2
Spiritual Pathways .....	3
Sight Lines .....	4
Around the Church .....	5
Community Life .....	6
Spiritual Development.....	8
Social Justice .....	9
Church Calendar .....	11
Back Page: A Benevolent Bounty .....	12

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NEWSLETTER

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DEACONS' CORNER

The callers are coming, the callers are coming! It is again the time of year when the Deacons make their annual calls to the congregation to find out how things are going and to see if there is anything you need, like, or dislike. You should be hearing from one of us, in most cases the same person who called you last year. We plan on making all calls between now and the end of January.

The Path to Membership class originally scheduled for October 30 has been rescheduled to November 20. The Deacons will be there to provide an excellent brunch and assist in answering any questions that newcomers might have.

As spiritual leaders of the congregation, we are involved in Communion services, which are held at various times during the church year. At this time, there are three scheduled. We will assist our minister, James Ford, with Communion on Sunday, November 7, following the regular worship service. The Communion service is in the liberal tradition, non-creedal, emphasizing themes of remembrance, reconciliation, thanksgiving, and interdependence. All are invited to join in this meaningful celebration. There will be two additional Communion services during the church year: a Soulful Sundown service on January 30, 2011 at 4:00p, hopefully with musical accompaniment, and our annual Maundy Thursday Service on April 21, 2011 at 7:00p.

We are delighted to be hosting our annual holiday gathering and dinner on Thanksgiving Day, from 1:00p to 4:00p in the church parlors. We hope to see many of you there. (See page 5 for details)

*The Deacons:*

*Robert O Jones, Janet Downing Taylor,*

*Senior Deacons;*

*Judy Bowden, Mary Finger,*

*David Bridgehouse, Russell Gifford,*

*Mary Frappier, David Spemulli,*

*Ruth Arellana, Jacqui Nye*



## Monkey Mind

It's hard to believe that in 2016, which is just a hop, skip, and a jump away, we'll be celebrating the two-hundredth anniversary of our Meeting House. Before that, in 2014, Providence will be hosting the Unitarian Universalist General Assembly, our annual denominational convention, which draws between 4,000 and 6,000 people. We'll be the major church host for that event. So, some big markers in our common life are coming up.

And, do you know, I think we're more than up for it!

As I think about it, I realize what an institution (and I mean that in all the good ways that word can be used) we have been, are, and are moving toward being. If you pay close attention to the newsletter or follow our Facebook page or just listen to conversations during Coffee Hour, it is possible to know what's going on with the various leadership committees, but let me focus in on a couple for you.

These days, the Prudential Committee is reflecting on our lives together and where we would like to see ourselves going. Important stuff. When I first arrived, I wandered around touting my "hidden agenda," as I liked to call it, which was my own five-year plan. The Pru Comm agreed that we need to have outlines of where we hope to go, and they pointed out we've had several in recent years. Well, there's been lots of reflection, along with collecting what it is we've been saying we want. And we're now near to putting the finishing touches on a real church five-year plan, bringing together a little of my stuff, but mostly those ideas that have been looked at within our community over the past years. Thank you, Stew Armstrong and the Pru Comm, for this important work!

I very much look forward to our having a roadmap. It can be very important.

I'm impressed with how the leadership is taking this job seriously - not surprised, but impressed. For instance, there's been lots of housekeeping work going on that doesn't get much credit but is what allows us to be the dynamic congregation we are. For instance, the hard work - and I mean it can feel like swimming through glue - to put together a church policy manual. That one has been the work of a number of people following Dan Kubas-Meyer's focused leadership. Thank you, all! I think before the year is out we'll see in place the kind of how-to-do-it manual that is very important for our ability to successfully navigate the shores and shoals of communal life.

Thinking about this, I'm feeling a little maudlin. You guys are the cat's pajamas! Thanks for making this church such a lovely community, both right here at home and in how we reach out to the world.

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



## Lay Ministry and the Care Crew

The mission of First Unitarian's Lay Ministry is to reach out to members and friends in our church family who may be in need of support. Working in collaboration with our minister, James Ford, the Lay Ministers respond to referrals or requests, calling upon volunteers in the Care Crew to phone, send notes, cook meals, provide transportation, or respond to emergency needs in our church family.

Referrals or requests should be made to the church office (401.421.7970). Requests will be passed on to Kate Menard, our "on call" Lay Minister for November, who will coordinate with the Care Crew.

Volunteers for the Care Crew are always welcome. Contact any member of the Lay Ministry Team for information.

*Lay Ministry Team: Mary Frappier, Martha Manno, Kate Menard, Rick Richards, Bill Twaddell*



## Spiritual Pathways

### The Secret of Saying Thanks

The season of gratitude coincides with my proclamation that start-up practices and proceedings are, indeed, complete. That means that our Spiritual Pathways programs of faith development are launched, and we can take a deep breath before winter holidays and cold-weather events. For me, the chilly, darker times challenge me to go with nature's cycle, resting in the dark, wearing fleece, packing away my sandals.

There is good news. In just over a month, our children, youth, and adults have gathered to create a healthy, loving faith community. The following are just a few highlights from my gratitude journal:

- About 40 volunteers gathered at a spirited teacher orientation last month.
- An evacuation drill was done to prepare teachers.
- Our worship messages in Chapel have included: What Is Worship?, Autumn/Harvest Rituals, UU Identity, and Bullying. By the way, sixth- and seventh-graders are serving as enthusiastic Worship Associates. YMODE helps lead songs with Marcia Taylor, our Youth Music Director.
- The Coming of Age program is in full swing. Parents were oriented about the Our Whole Lives sexuality curriculum, Spiritual Exploration, Service, and UU identity components. This class leads our UUSC Guest at Your Table effort. Adult mentors from the congregation, matched with eighth-graders, met for an orientation lunch. Erica Napolitano is Mentor Coordinator.
- The sixth- and seventh-grade Neighboring Faiths class is preparing to visit Temple Beth El and the Providence Vedanta Center. They are anchoring the November Food Drive for the Community Food Share Pantry.
- The fifth-grade Toolbox of Faith group is managing the annual day after Thanksgiving Buy Nothing Day Coat Drive.
- Our senior high youth went on a challenge trip to URI and have been meeting on the auditorium stage until the basement boiler project is complete.
- Parent Open Houses have happened for the youth group and the sixth-, seventh-, and eighth-grade groups. Remaining grades will meet by early in November.
- Volunteer teachers will gather for a luncheon event this month with Pat Ellenwood, who will be presenting helpful tools for classroom management.

Here's the secret for saying thanks, from Douglas Wood, author of *Old Turtle*.

The heart that gives thanks is a happy one,  
for we cannot feel thankful and unhappy at the same time.  
The more we give thanks, the more we find to be thankful for.  
And, the more we find to be thankful for, the happier we become.

This may be the cycle of the year for dim light and chilly air. It is also the time to notice that our larder is full of the bounty of fall. I look forward to sharing this season of gratitude and hope.

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

## Important Corrections to 2010-2011 Resource Book

Please make a note of the following changes to the information in the Resource Book that was mailed out in early September.

**On page 3** (2010-2011 Church Calendar): November 21 - Thanksgiving Service is a full multigenerational service, including all young people pre-K and older.

December 5 - Children in grades K and older begin in the Meeting House for Child Dedications, then go to their classrooms.

December 19 - Pageant Service is a full multigenerational Service.

**On page 12:** The eighth-grade Coming of Age class begins at 10:30a, not 10:15a.

## Welcoming a Guest at Your Table

Each year at this time, friends and families in our congregation participate in Guest at Your Table - a UU tradition.

By bringing home a beautiful Guest at Your Table box, families and individuals learn about how the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee puts our shared UU principles into action in the United States and around the world. Through its advocacy, education, and partnership programs, UUSC promotes economic rights, advances environmental justice, defends civil liberties, and preserves the rights of people in times of humanitarian crisis.

In each household, the Guest at Your Table box is placed in a prominent spot, often at the family meal table. *The Stories of Hope* booklet brings into our homes the voices of people who share their personal struggles and are working hard for human rights in partnership with UUSC. When we gather with family and friends to enjoy our blessings, we can reflect on the contributions of our "guests" to the movement for universal human rights - and share generously.

Thanks to the UU Congregation at Shelter Rock in Manhasset, NY, gifts of \$100 or more are eligible to be matched, dollar for dollar, doubling your good works! Please consider making a contribution that meets membership levels. Since UUSC is an independent organization (it receives no funding from the UUA or the U.S. government), donations from UUSC members are vitally important.

We will open our Guest at Your Table program with a multigenerational worship celebration on Sunday, November 21. Our eighth-grade Coming of Age students, teachers, and mentors will shepherd the project from the distribution of the boxes in November to their collection in January.



**Seeking Our Future Church Leaders**

The Nominating Committee is looking for individuals who would be interested in volunteering for one of the committees that help govern the church. The Prudential Committee, Nominating Committee, and the Deacons have openings for the coming church year; these positions are all term-limited.

Look for our booth at Coffee Hour, where we welcome your inquiries, thoughts, suggestions, small gifts (okay, that last one is to see if you're still reading). Or you can contact any of the Nominating Committee members directly by phone or e-mail.

*Nominating Committee:*

*Michael Currier, Paul Gazin Jay Glasson, Carrollyn Grace, Joe Killilea, Julie Meyers*



**Finds Us on Facebook!**

Did you know that First Unitarian has a Facebook page? We do – and it's already loaded with updates, links, and great photos! Just type "First Unitarian Providence" in the search box.

Log in, friend us, and check it out!



**Sight Lines**

Last month I wrote about how pleased I am to have found the wonderful community here at First Unitarian. Well, one thing that has happened here for me is that I have made progress on resolving some of my long-standing issues around words and semantics. Like many UUs, I have struggled with the meaning (for me) of many words that are used at church. A partial list might include *God* ("or whatever you call it"), *religion*, *Christianity*, *prayer*, *heaven and hell*, and *spirituality* (or "my spiritual journey"). I have spent hours thinking about these words and, yes, arguing with friends, relatives, and ministers.

But the "biggie" is *faith*. I have actively blocked myself from allowing in the concept of belief. Now, I will not go into here what beliefs I have come to embrace, but something about the community here, and the Sunday services, has somehow opened me to a new faith. In speaking of faith, Rev. Galen Guengrich, Senior Minister at All Souls Unitarian Church in New York City, concludes his thoughts by saying: "Faith is a leap of the moral imagination that connects the world as it is to the world as it might become." This is our Seven Principles in action!

And, the First Unitarian community has brought faith alive for me. Jump in and join this community - the water is fine!

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

**From the Treasurer: First Quarter Shows Us on Track**

The best news, as of September 30, is that our three endowment funds are up 4.3 percent since January 1. Primarily, that's because September alone was a much happier month for Wall Street than most previous months. Still, the endowment funds are down substantially from three years ago, and we therefore rely more than ever on pledges, donations, Sunday collections, and other sources of support that church members and friends can provide. As many of you know, we take 5 percent of the total endowment value, a value that is an average of the three previous years. This year, we look to the endowment to provide us \$195,071, down \$8,012 from last year.

Income from pledges, donations, and Sunday collections was slightly lower - by \$1,639 - in the first three months of our fiscal year (July through September) than a year ago. This may not have any significance, since it could easily reflect a little delay in pledge payments on the part of a few people. Total income (excluding the endowment) was \$71,980 for the first quarter.

Operating expenses were under budget for the first quarter of our fiscal year, coming in at \$129,530 in an annual budget of \$600,847. A quarter of that budget would be more than \$150,000, but expenses are often low in the first quarter. Less is spent on professional expenses, utilities (heat, in particular), and committees and ministries.

In summary, the endowment is up and, although income may be lagging a bit, expenses are in line with expectations. We're on the right track.

-Tony Allen, Treasurer



LEADERSHIP



## Around the Church

### Fall Path to Membership Class

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

The Path to Membership class is for anyone interested in membership and in learning more about Unitarian Universalism and more about First Unitarian.

The class is led by our minister, Rev. James Ford; our Director of Religious Education, Cathy Seggel; and our Membership Coordinator, Katy Killilea. The session includes a delicious brunch made by the Deacons.

This is the first Path class of the new church year. If you are unable to participate in this session, additional classes are planned for Saturdays in January and March and a Thursday evening in May.

Please register before Friday, November 12. Childcare will be provided for those who request it when they register.

Contact: Katy Killilea (mem@firstunitarianprov.org) or the church office (401.421.7970)

## Frequently Asked Questions about Membership

### What's the point of being a member?

Being a member shows that you have chosen First Unitarian as your spiritual home. Members are responsible for steering the priorities of the church: they vote on the budget, they "call" (invite) a new minister, they elect or serve as church officers and chair committees. Members are eligible to have rites of passage (e.g., child dedications, weddings, memorial services) in the church, can rent building space at a discounted rate, and receive the *UU World* magazine.



### What should I do to become a member?

If you are interested in becoming a member of First Unitarian, you are encouraged to attend one of the Path to Membership classes offered during the church year. You will have an opportunity during the session to become a member. To be a full, voting member, you must be at least sixteen years old, have signed our membership book, and have made (within the past 12 months) a contribution of record (by check or by cash in a labeled envelope). In addition, members are expected to participate in church life by sharing their time and making an annual pledge.

### What does it cost to be a member?

There is no minimum required contribution for membership. Members are not expected to give a specific dollar amount; they are encouraged to commit between 2 percent and 4 percent of their annual household income, depending on their level of commitment to the church community and their other financial obligations.

### What if I want to become a member before (or after) the next Path to Membership class?

Contact our Membership Coordinator Katy (mem@firstunitarianprov.org or 401.421.7970) to make arrangements.



### WHEEL OF LIFE

Healing thoughts for **Marida Hollos**, who is undergoing treatment at Miriam Hospital.

Congratulations to **Bob and Mona Speaker** on the birth of their third great-grandchild, Evangeline Rose Sturla



### HATS OFF TO . . .

**Mary Frey** on her retirement as Senior Lay Minister; and to **Martha Manno** for assuming the Senior Lay Minister role;

**Joe Grady** for leading music in chapel;

Our Coffee Hour Providers for the last two months: **Jacqui Nye, Mary Frappier, Janet Taylor, Cynthia Rosengard, Gerry Spremulli, Kate Guilbault, Sara Cappelli, Tiffany Reed, Anne Connor, Melissa Gullet, Cindy Alves, Lynne Hoppin-Fazzi, Lisa Voutes, Angela and Paula Semonelli, Elizabeth O'Connell, Amy Dolan, Mary Finger, Vikki Bristlin, Nancy Shand, Andrea Lynn Dastoli, Joyce Boober, Marilyn Meardon, Roberta Groch, Kate Menard, Janet Noble, Lynette Kapsinow, Betty Finn, Ryk McIntyre**, and all of you who brought something in to surprise us.



### A Reminder about Access and Parking

Space for the vehicles of visitors and the handicapped are part of what makes First Unitarian a warm, welcoming church. Please leave the spaces in the church lot that are marked for Visitor Parking and Handicapped Parking for those who need them. There are two of each in the church lot, and more handicapped space can be found on Benevolent Street opposite the breezeway between the Meeting House and the Parish House. When using any of the handicapped parking spaces, be sure to display your handicapped placard to indicate your eligibility.

There is additional parking, on Sunday mornings only, at the Hope Club (across Benevolent Street). The City of Providence will be ticketing cars that are parked next to the church on Benevolent Street since fire trucks are unable to get through.



### December All-Parish Supper

Friday, December 17

(Note the date: a week later than usual)

#### Program: A Child's Christmas in Wales

Our after-dinner program will be a special holiday celebration featuring the Aurea Ensemble's presentation of *A Child's Christmas in Wales* by Dylan Thomas. This beloved story will be narrated by popular Rhode Island actor Bob Colonna and will include musical interludes of delightful old English carols and holiday chamber music from earlier times. Our own Fred Jodry (voice and harpsichord), vocalist Kate Lohman, and a string quartet led by Charles and Consuelo Sherba will perform.

Heavily discounted tickets for this concert will be available for those who attend the supper. Please plan to be with us for this celebration.

### Atrium Art Gallery

The November Atrium show will be a solo exhibit by artist Jim Barfoot.

The Atrium Annual Group Exhibit has been postponed to December. Artists of our congregation are invited to submit one or two pieces for this collective show.

In January, the gallery will display photographs by David Bridgehouse with poems by his wife, Doris. A third artist may join them, depending on the available space.

The remaining months of 2011 are open.

Artists interested in showing their work can contact Chiara Romano Van Erp (Romano-vanerp-design@cox.net).

### Coffee Hour Co-op!

Our Sunday after-service Coffee Hour is a cooperative effort. We need providers for November. 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

### November All-Parish Supper

Friday, November 12

Everyone – young, old, and in between, newcomer and old-timer – is welcome at the All-Parish Suppers and the program following. Reservations for the meal 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 Meeting House: Libana in Concert: Music of the World**



This very special benefit concert will feature a performance by Libana, a global music ensemble of talented female singers and instrumentalists who seek to illuminate through their music the creativity, vision, and spirit of the women of the world. Their performances of traditional and contemporary music and dance have received rave reviews. This program is co-sponsored by the Village Bank Task Force and the World Affairs Committee. Please plan to come.

Tickets for the concert are \$15 in advance or at the Parish Supper; \$18 at the door. Children under 12 are admitted free. (Contact Jim Estey if your circumstances require a discounted ticket.) Proceeds from the concert will benefit our Village Bank micro-economy project, which funds village banks that support the enterprises of women and their families in such countries as Guatemala and Haiti.

You can register for the dinner by filling out the sign-up sheet in the Sunday *Meeting House Times* and dropping it in the collection plate; or you can see Jim Estey at Coffee Hour or call the church office in advance at 401.421.7970.

Childcare for infants and children up to age 8 will be available for parents who request it. Call Jim Estey at 401.351.1748.

### Our Annual First Unitarian Thanksgiving Dinner

Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 25,  
1:00-4:00p

Members, friends, and their families are invited to join with other First Unitarians in our annual celebration of Thanksgiving in the church parlors. We will gather for fireside conversations, games, and appetizers at 1:00p and will plan to sit down for dinner around 2:00p.

For this community gathering, we will all share in providing and serving the food. There is a suggested donation of \$3 per adult, \$1.50 per child (maximum of \$10 per family) to cover

the cost of turkeys and incidentals, which will be prepared in the church kitchen.

The Deacons are organizing and hosting this year's dinner (and cooking the turkeys!).

To reserve your space and coordinate your food contribution, you can see Janet Downing Taylor at the Coffee Hour Bakers table on November 7 or 14; or you can call Mary Frappier (401.521.7951) or the church office (401.421.7970). Please sign up no later than Sunday, November 21.



## Community Life

### The Women's Alliance Hosts Author Eve Rifkah

Monday, November 1

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

This month's Women's Alliance program will feature Eve Rifkah, author of *Outcasts: The Penikese Island Leper Hospital* (Little Pear Press, 2010), a collection of poems written in the voices of residents at the early twentieth-century colony in the nearby Elizabeth Islands. The poems chronicle their tribulations and their journeys toward a better life. Ms. Rifkah is an adjunct professor of English at Worcester Polytechnic Institute.

A catered luncheon (\$9.00) follows the program. The program and luncheon are open to everyone.



### Sunday Flowers

We all enjoy the wonderful floral arrangements at the pulpit on Sundays in the Meeting House. The flowers are provided by members and friends of the congregation to honor a loved one or celebrate a special occasion. You can donate flowers for a particular Sunday service; after the service, you can take them with you or give them away.

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

### Win a Quilt for Yourself or as a Gift!!

The Women's Alliance is having a drawing for a quilt hand-made by members of the Alliance. Tickets are \$5 each or three for \$12. You can see the quilt and purchase tickets at the Alliance table during Coffee Hour on Sundays in November. The drawing will be held in December.

The Quilt Project is a fundraiser for the Alliance, which makes annual donations to the church and to local charities.

### How To Be Welcoming: Know and Be Known (and Smell Good, Too!)

Earlier this year, I participated in a very informative webinar led by the star UU growth consultant Peter Bowden (who grew up in First Unitarian). This webinar covered the gamut of things we must do to be welcoming, from getting rid of mysterious bad odors to keeping tidy a relevant, updated bulletin board that newcomers can linger around if they aren't the sorts who dive right into socializing. Peter also spoke a lot about how important it is to people to feel they are known. If someone comes as a visitor for a few weeks and is not recognized by a handful of people, it's likely they'll stop coming. And if they like the church enough to come regularly for a few months but haven't made any friendship connections, they'll likely stop coming, too.

The good people of First Unitarian put a lot of effort into meeting new people, learning their names, and making them feel at home. Please know that experts in this field underline - triple underline - friendliness as a priority.

- Katy Killilea, Membership Coordinator

### You Will Love Being a Greeter!

Volunteers are always needed and welcome to be greeters. Be a greeter as often or as infrequently as you like. Responsibilities include: willingness to talk to people and be yourself. If coming before the service to greet (at 10:15) isn't your bag, volunteer to be a Newcomers' Café or Coffee Hour greeter. There are plenty (nine at last count!) of rainbow and purple scarves, and ideally none of them will go unused.

To sign on as a greeter or if you have questions, contact Membership Coordinator Katy Killilea (mem@firstunitarianprov.org) or the office (401.421.7970)

### 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.

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

#### Check Out the New BCD Web Site

The Ballou Channing District (BCD) has just launched a redesigned and reorganized Web site, offering information about the UU churches in Rhode Island and southeastern Massachusetts, announcing upcoming events, and providing access to a variety of useful resources for church leaders and members, including blogs and webinars, the monthly BCD newsletter, downloadable materials, and Internet links to related sites.

Take a look at [www.bcduua.org](http://www.bcduua.org).

#### Celebrate the Holidays with the Church of the Larger Fellowship

UU Holiday Note Cards: Candles, Gift of Peace, Winter Forest. 4 1/4" x 5 1/2". Blank inside Printed on high quality paper. \$12 per pkg of 10 cards and envelopes.

[www.clfuu.org](http://www.clfuu.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.

Everyone is welcome. Brief instruction will be available at 6:45p. We are a member community of the Boundless Way Zen Sangha.

<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, November 9 and 23, at 7:00p

We continue our examination of Ecclesiastes, seeking insights from a recent translation by Lloyd Geering, a professor of Hebrew and Old Testament, and from the introduction to his forthcoming book on his favorite Wisdom sage. Discover why this famous scholar has frequently translated the Hebrew *Elohim* as "Nature" rather than "God."

Texts may be requested from Tom Hall.

Leader: Tom Hall (twh2nd@aol.com)

**UUMeN**

Sunday, November 14, 7:00-9:00p

**Topic: Men and Capitalism**

Capitalism has been described as both the greatest energizer and the greatest evil of our time. How does capitalism define men's roles and shape men's experiences? How has capitalism influenced the lives of each one of us? What do we gain and what do we lose when we give in to the demands of capitalism?

All interested men are welcome to join us for discussion and fellowship.

November Facilitator: Steven McCloy  
(401.244.5321)



**Spiritual Development**

**The Ethical Thing**

First Tuesdays, beginning November 2, 7:00p

**November Topic: Voting Ethics**

How do we know what's the right thing to do? Whether we know it or not, we engage in ethical thinking almost every day as we negotiate our way through life. Our relationships, our work, our leisure - indeed, all our choices - have an ethical ingredient.

This new group will offer lively discussions of ethics as it applies to the big issues (What are rights, and who has them?) and the small (Is it okay to use those address labels if I don't make a donation?). Future topics will be selected based on the interests of the group. Topics and readings will be posted before gathering.

This month's topic, voting ethics, will focus on the questions: Do I have an obligation to vote? Is it ethical not to vote? If I vote, am I obligated to vote in particular ways? (Suggested reading: "Liberalism, Democracy and the Ethics of Voting," by Annabelle Lever, Department of Philosophy, London School of Economics (<http://users.ugent.be/~frvandun/Texts/Articles/FVD-Guttman.pdf>))

This ongoing group will meet on the first Tuesday of each month. All are welcome.

Contact: Carol Pentleton (carol@thedigitalartist.com or 401.568.0275)



**What Is the Sound of One Hand, Anyway?**

Thursday, November 4 at 7:00p



Almost everyone has heard of the Zen koan "What is the sound of the single hand?" or its slightly inaccurate version "What is the sound of one hand clapping?" We will have a presentation outlining the history of this discipline: Kan Hua Chan, the way of koan introspection, a practice unique to the Zen school. The talk will also explore the major variations on its engagement as a spiritual practice. There will be an

opportunity for a full discussion.

Session leader James Ford has trained extensively in the two major meditative disciplines of the Zen school and is formally authorized as a teacher of both practices. His most recent book is *Zen Master Who? A Guide to the People and Stories of Zen*.

Contact: Rev. James Ford (jamesiford@gmail.com)

**Drop-in Chalice Circle**

Tuesday, November 30, 7:00-9:00p

This drop-in Chalice Circle is open to anyone who would like to experience this spiritual practice and see if it is right for you. At Chalice Circles, you will connect with other church members on a deeper level. It is a chance for those with busy lives to slow down for just a moment. All are welcome!

Session Facilitator: Dianne Mailloux (401.439.6827 or [dkmailloux@cox.net](mailto:dkmailloux@cox.net))





## Social Justice

### Annual Buy Nothing Day Winter Coat Exchange 🌍 🌱

Drop off contributions until Sunday, November 21 at the church

Distribution Day: November 26 on the State House lawn

On November 26, the busiest day in the American retail calendar and the unofficial start of the international Christmas-shopping season, thousands of activists and concerned citizens in 65 countries will take a 24-hour "consumer detox" as part of the fourteenth annual Buy Nothing Day, a global phenomenon that originated in Vancouver, Canada. Some see it as an escape from the marketing mind games and the frantic consumer binge that has come to characterize the holiday season in particular and our culture in general. Others use it to expose the environmental and ethical consequences of overconsumption.

In Providence, as part of International Buy Nothing Day, a winter coat exchange will again be held on the lawn of the State House directly across from Providence Place mall.

First Unitarian's participation in Winter Coat Exchange is being organized by our fifth grade class this year. If you have a coat/s to give, please drop off your contributions at the church no later than Sunday, November 21.

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Volunteers are needed to help at the November 26 Distribution Day. If you are interested, you can contact Greg Gerritt (401.331.0529 or gerritt@mindspring.com) or Phil Edmonds (401.461.3683 or philwhistle@gmail.com).

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## Standing on the Side of Love

### Support SSL in Style! 🌍 🌱

Monday, November 8

Support our Standing on the Side of Love work and get a great new style! Raff Gianfrancesco is sponsoring a fundraiser at his Ives Street salon. All proceeds from that day's haircuts will be donated to support the activities of the Standing on the Side of Love committee. Thanks, Raff!

### SSL Movie Night 🌍

Thursday, November 11, 7:00p

We'll be screening and discussing *Thy Will Be Done*, which follows Sara Herwig, a male-to-female transsexual and her dream of becoming an ordained minister in the Presbyterian church. Producer Alice Dungan Bouvrie says of Sara, "She actively seeks not only to participate in the ministry as an openly transgendered person, but, as an activist, she seeks to transform a world - spiritual and otherwise - that operates by conventional notions of sex and gender." Many of us met and were moved by the story of Sara and her partner, Jen Duhamel, at the October Parish Supper. Join us for a great film and a lively discussion!

The SSL program is sponsored by the Unitarian Universalist Association and is dedicated to standing up against identity-based violence and injustice. SSL welcomes participation from all faith communities, creating a regional coalition working against racism, homophobia, and targeting of immigrants.

At the Standing on the Side of Love table in the Atrium at Coffee Hour, you can find out what we're planning for this year, get on our email list, buy a SSL pin, or order a T-shirt. Check out our welcoming ad in the November *Options Newsmagazine!* For more information, visit our Facebook page or the UUA program website at [www.StandingOnTheSideOfLove.org](http://www.StandingOnTheSideOfLove.org).

## Transylvania Partnership Trip Being Scheduled for Summer 2011 🌍

Sunday, November 21, 12:00p

There will be an important planning meeting of the Transylvania Partnership Church Committee after church on November 21 at 12:00p in the Paneled Parlor. Please bring your calendars, as we will be making plans for the June 2011 trip to Transylvania. Decisions regarding group composition and travel arrangements will be determined.

The Community Collection for November will support the Transylvania Partnership Church.



### Our Community Collections

The September Community Collection for the Peace Flag Project raised \$1,013.

Additional donations to the Homecoming Sunday Special Collection for Pakistani flood victims have raised the total to \$2,040.

Many thanks to all who so generously donated.



### Knitting for a Better World 🌍 🌱

Every Tuesday, 7:00-9:00p

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 learning English through English for Action in Olneyville, prayer shawls for women in the Middle East, dolls for children in Haiti, or hats and mittens for First Unitarian's own Mitten Tree. Beginners are always welcome. We have plenty of yarn and needles to get you started.

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

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**Habitat for Humanity Work Day** 🌍🌱

Saturday, November 20

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 more information on Providence Habitat, please see ([www.habitatprov.org](http://www.habitatprov.org))

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



**Save the Date!** 🌍🌱

**Annual Write-a-thon for Human Rights**

Sunday, December 5

This year's Write-a-thon letters will be sent on behalf of victims of human rights abuse and human rights defenders at risk in a variety of countries including Congo, China, Burma, Iran, and others.

The guest speaker at this year's event will be Louay Aayel, a torture victim with refugee status in the U.S. He is isolated from his family, who have not been given permission to join him. Mr. Aayel is partly disabled because of his experience.



**Social Justice**

**UUSC@First Unitarian:**

**A Film on the Santa Fe Living Wage Campaign** 🌍

Sunday November 14, 12:15-1:15p

The First Unitarian UU Service Committee invites folks of all ages to join them for a viewing of the 25-minute film *La Marcha*, produced by award-winning documentary filmmakers Miguel Grunstein and Dale Kruzic. It tells the story of the extraordinary Santa Fe Living Wage Campaign, which emerged through the efforts of diverse community-based organizations to build a grass-roots coalition, enlist business allies, and illustrate core U.S. values of teamwork, fairness, opportunity, responsibility, and respect. The film is also an educational tool that can be used as a springboard for action on economic justice issues in our community.

The film will be shown as part of the UUSC Committee Meeting. Cake will be served! Everyone is welcome!

Contact: Dianne Mailloux (401.439.6827 or [dkmailloux@cox.net](mailto:dkmailloux@cox.net))

**Neighborhood Social Justice News**

**Land Rights Forum: "The World's Best-Kept Secret"** 🌍

Sunday, November 7 at 12:15p

The historian Thomas Macaulay once wrote that if pecuniary interests were threatened by the law of gravity, we would not lack for arguments against it! NSJC member Cathy Orloff thinks the same is true for economics: that the basic cause of and remedy for widespread poverty has already been discovered but is being suppressed. Come find out whether Cathy is a candidate for paranoia therapy or whether there is something very important and hopeful for you to discover!

**New Congregation-Based Project: Support for Harrington Hall** 🌍🌱

Donations accepted any Sunday

In keeping with our late founder Dave St. Germain's vision, we continue to support the work of the homeless shelter for men at Harrington Hall. They need twin-size blankets (new or cleaned) and toiletries (e.g., toothpaste and brushes, soap, shampoo, shaving cream, razors, socks, gloves). Job Lot recently made a donation of 88 blankets to the House of Hope due to the work of the NSJC. You can drop off any of the listed items at the NSJC table in the Atrium after any Sunday service.

**Neighborhood Social Justice Committee Meeting** 🌍

Thursday November 18 at 7:00p

All are welcome at the monthly meetings of the NSJC. Hope to see you there.

**Community Food Share Pantry: Coffee, Tea, Hot Chocolate, and Marshmallow Month** 🌍🌱

Distribution Day, Monday, November 15

Food items needed in November are coffee, tea, hot chocolate, and marshmallows. Please place your contributions in the barrel in the corner of the Atrium.

Our sixth- and seventh-grade classes are helping.

Food Pantry is the biggest social justice program at First Unitarian and 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 carry food from the Rhode Island Food Bank to the church. Here's how you can help:

- Sign up for a shift on Distribution Day for set-up, distribution, or clean up.
- 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).

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

November 2010

"All adventures, especially into new territory, are scary." – Sally Ride

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<u>1</u> Women's Alliance 11:00a Benevolent St. Zendo 7:00p	2 The Ethical Thing 7:00p Lay Ministry 7:00p Knitting for a Better World 7:00p	<u>3</u> Prudential Committee 6:00p Meditation 7:00p	<u>4</u> What is the Sound of One Hand? 7:00p	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u> Annual Dinner and Auction Fundraiser 6:00-9:00p
	<u>7</u> <b>Daylight Savings Ends</b> K-5 Open House 9:45a Sunday Service 10:30a Mentor/Mentee 12:00p Neighborhood Social Justice Committee 12:15p	<u>8</u> Benevolent St. Zendo 7:00p	<u>9</u> Canvass Committee 7:00p Reimagining Religion 7:00p Knitting for a Better World 7:00p	<u>10</u> Meditation 7:00p	<u>11</u> Worship Committee 7:00p SSL Movie 7:00p	<u>12</u> Parish Supper 5:45p
<u>14</u> Sunday Service 10:30a Teacher Lunch 12:15p UUSC 12:15p UU Men 7:00p	<u>15</u> Food Pantry 4:00p Benevolent St. Zendo 7:00p	<u>16</u> Knitting for a Better World 7:00p	<u>17</u> Standing on the Side of Love 7:00p Meditation 7:00p	<u>18</u> Neighborhood Social Justice Committee 7:00p	<u>19</u>	<u>20</u> Path to Membership 9:00a-12:30p
<u>21</u> Thanksgiving Intergenerational Sunday Service 10:30a Transylvania 12:00p Membership Committee 12:15p	<u>22</u> Benevolent St. Zendo 7:00p	<u>23</u> Executive Committee 7:00p Reimagining Religion 7:00p Knitting for a Better World 7:00p	<u>24</u> Meditation 7:00p	<u>25</u> <b>Thanksgiving</b> Thanksgiving Dinner 1:00p-4:00p Church Office Closed	<u>26</u> Church Office Closed	<u>27</u>
<u>28</u> Sunday Service 10:30a New Member Recognition	<u>29</u> Benevolent St. Zendo 7:00p	<u>30</u> Chalice Circle Drop-In 7:00p Knitting for a Better World 7:00p				

First Unitarian Church of Providence  
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We are a  
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## A Benevolent Bounty to Benefit First Unitarian Church

*Saturday, November 6, 6:00-9:00p*

It's not too late to join in the fun! Tickets for the auction, live music by members of the John Debossu Trio, and wine and light refreshments are available right up until the time the event starts. Tickets are just \$10 per person. (Reservations for the dinner before the auction were closed on October 31.)

Come and bid on unique goods and services donated by church members and local businesses - and know that you are helping to sustain and grow all the great programs you enjoy at the church.

### An Amazing Array of Auction Donations – Just in Time for the Holidays!

- Three hours of housework by Neil Bartholomew (priceless!)
- Woodsman services by Bill Twaddell
- A poem to be composed by Ryk McIntyre
- Vacation get-away packages to New Hampshire, Martha's Vineyard, Cumberland, and Cape Cod
- Mexican dinner for six hosted by James Ford and Jan Seymour-Ford
- Dinners hosted by Tom Getz and Betty Finn, Martha and Bill Rice, and more
- PLUS desserts and holiday baking, Waterfire experiences, knitting instruction, math tutoring, puppet making, yoga classes, massages, handmade scarves, and more
- AND gift certificates generously donated by Frog & Toad, Createlier, Green River Silver Company, Rue de L'Espoir, Books on the Square, and more.

**Tickets:** \$10 per person for the auction only (with music and light refreshments) can be purchased in advance or at the door. 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)

