

## Services in the Meeting House

### Sunday, May 3 My Favorite Goddess

10:30a

Rev. James Ishmael Ford

Over the years James has recycled this title a number of times. Usually it is to reflect on Mary, the mother of Jesus. This time he wants to do that but expand it to include a celebration of the many faces of the divine feminine.

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

*Our Community Collection will be for Therapy Missions, a nonprofit organization that sends occupational and physical therapist volunteers to places in the world where such services are scarce or nonexistent.*

### Sunday, May 10 Julia's Story: A Multigenerational Service

10:30a

Rev. James Ishmael Ford & Cathy Seggel, DRE

Today is Mother's Day. One of the roots of this celebration traces to Julia Ward Howe, one of our Unitarian ancestors. We will tell her story and reflect on what she hoped for with a mother's day of peace. We will also honor our volunteer Sunday school teachers during the service.

*Infants–three-years-olds room open on the Parish House second floor.*

### Sunday, May 17 Coming of Age Recognition: A Multigenerational Service

10:30a

Coming of Age Class, Mentors & Teachers  
with Cathy Seggel, DRE & Rev. James Ishmael Ford

Our annual recognition of eighth-grade Coming of Age honorees will be the centerpiece of the worship service. With their mentors by their sides, the class will share reflections about their individual beliefs, and the congregation will celebrate and affirm the beginning of the next stage of their lifelong faith development. Please join us for this meaningful rite of passage.

*Infants–three-years-olds room open on the Parish House second floor.*

### Sunday, May 24 A Memorial Day Celebration at Bell Street Chapel

10:00a (note the earlier time)

Rev. James Ishmael Ford

This year we will celebrate Memorial Day with our brothers and sisters at Bell Street Chapel. James will be preaching. Don't forget: Services at Bell Street start at 10:00a!

*No Sunday School classes.*

*Bell Street Chapel is located at 5 Bell Street,  
off Broadway, on the West Side of Providence.*

### Sunday, May 31 On Reading the Koran

10:30a

Rev. James ishmael Ford

One day James decided he should read the Koran. He did. He has thoughts.

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



We are a  
Welcoming Congregation

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## Staff

- Rev. James Ishmael Ford, Minister
- Rev. Mary Margaret Earl, Community Minister
- Rev. Gene Dyszlewski, Community Minister
- Rev. Gwendolyn Howard, Community Minister
- Cathy Seggel, Director of Religious Education
- Frederick Jodry, Music Director
- Posey Kooris, Administrator
- Walter O. Sotelo, Administrative Assistant
- Jenn Nardone, Membership Coordinator
- Jaime Durango, Building Manager
- Paul Webber/John Forde, Evening Security
- Pedro Vasquez/Anderson Correa  
Sunday Building Managers

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- Posey Kooris, Managing Editor
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- Next Deadline: May 15

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## Monkey Mind

One never knows where the next lesson will come from. I know, in fact, I only catch them – these opportunities to be a little broader, a little more expansive, a little truer to the world and my commitments to grow deeper – when I’m willing to listen. Not the easiest thing for me, I admit. But occasionally it happens.

So, for instance, I was meeting with a friend of mine the other day. He told me about an incident on his way to our meeting. He was driving along when, in a moment, his mind wandered and, in merging traffic, he cut off a driver. It was a brief, mildly dangerous, and – for my friend – very embarrassing moment. He is normally a good driver, conscientious and kind.

Then came that awful moment. The two cars pulled up beside each other at a red light. The other driver rolled down her window and began berating my friend. Instead of pretending she wasn’t there, instead of protesting or even yelling back, he rolled down his window and apologized. She continued yelling. He apologized again. She took a deep breath and yelled once more. He apologized again. Exhausted, she waved okay.

I was instantly reminded of another story, one from Chuang Tzu, an ancient Taoist sage. It took a while, but I found it. In that little research project, I found myself reflecting on the possibilities for me, and maybe for others committed to the grand project of not turning away.

If a man is crossing a river  
 And an empty boat collides with his own skiff,  
 Even though he be a bad-tempered man  
 He will not become very angry.  
 But if he sees a man in the boat,  
 He will shout at him to steer clear.  
 If the shout is not heard, he will shout again,  
 And yet again, and begin cursing.  
 And all because there is somebody in the boat.  
 Yet if the boat were empty,  
 He would not be shouting, and not angry.

If you can empty your own boat  
 Crossing the river of the world,  
 No one will oppose you,  
 No one will seek to harm you.

I have this feeling I’ve encountered two sages: one, an ancient Chinese hermit, poet, and storyteller who tells truths; the other, a friend who lives in Cambridge, also a teller of truths. Each, I find, pointing to the way, each offering a door through which we can walk.

At least as I’m willing to listen, to pay attention, to catch the lesson as it is offered.  
 See you in church,

Rev. James Ishmael Ford, Minister  
 Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday,  
 9:00a-12:00p. Appointments are recommended.  
 min@firstunitarianprov.org  
 James’s blog: [www.patheos.com/blogs/monkeymind](http://www.patheos.com/blogs/monkeymind)

## The Lay Ministry and Care Crew

The Lay Ministry and Care Crew help those in the congregation in need of calls, cards, visits, rides to the doctor’s office, emergency babysitting, emergency elderly companionship, or meal delivery.

Referrals or calls to the church will be passed on to the Lay Ministers and Care Crew volunteers.

**The Lay Ministry Team:** Kate Menard, Rick Richards, Tori Smith, John Wilhelm

## Deacons’ Bench

The Deacons have been making calls to people in the congregation since late fall. We had contact information for 350 households and were delighted to talk to 187 people. (If we missed you, we are sorry and would still like to hear from you.) We also held a meet and chat during Coffee Hour for people who had not had a chance to talk on the phone.

We found that people are happy, except for James Ford’s leaving, and have a wide variety of ways of connecting at the church, including, of course, the Sunday program. Yet, approximately half of the people we talked to do not attend the service regularly and engage through other programs and activities. Hence, there is a need for a wide variety of options.

To provide those options, we need your volunteer time as a leader of a group. The church is the people, and the people make us successful. Your time can be big help in providing programs to meet everyone’s needs. If you would be interested in a group based on a particular topic – a new book club, for example – please volunteer to start one. Like to cook? Offer a cooking class. How about a quilting class/group? The options are unlimited. Small groups bring people closer together.

In May, the end-of-life programs, sponsored by the Deacons, continue with the Rev. Ralph Mero offering a discussion on Tuesday, May 5, at 6:30p about the state of death with dignity legislation in Rhode Island. Working on that goal will be another way of connecting with the church. Then on May 12, the Funeral Consumers Alliance will present a program on funerals, all that you need to know. We are pleased to be offering these opportunities and hope you will join us.

**The Deacons:** Ruth Arellana, Senior Deacon; Stew Armstrong, Kate Bowden, Shirley DiMatteo, Joe Fisler, Tom Getz, Ariadne Greenberg, Sharon Kernan, Steve McCloy, Mary Speare



## WHEEL OF LIFE

### Condolences to:

**James and Jan Seymour Ford** on the death of Auntie Julia Bernard.

### Congratulations to:

**Steve McCloy** on the birth of his grandson, Duncan Spencer McCloy, in Portland, ME.



## Spiritual Pathways

### The Appreciation, Recognition, and Transition Dance

I am deeply tuned in to the beautiful beat of this long-awaited spring. Our UU faith-formation ministry is blossoming along with the bulbs and flowering trees. Teachers and mentoring adults report learning as much as they teach, with our young people. It is a spirited dance, each sharing the lead. Soon, lilac and dogwood blossoms will burst forth, heralding the time to show our deep gratitude for the many (50 plus) volunteer teachers who generously hold positions as spiritual guides for children and youth in our faith development program. This year, we will also hold up those who led adult religious education offerings.

Spring means graduation; ceremony and celebration season is upon us. Our senior high youth service was an early gift to the congregation, more like salsa, complete with bridging of graduating seniors. The honorees received symbolic life tools: thorny roses, a *UU Pocket Guide*, and a chalice pendant. This month, the eighth-grade Coming of Age recognition service will showcase youth belief statements and will include a congregational celebration of the transition to the next stage of lifelong faith development.

In between Sundays, the Religious Education Committee and I have been waltzing through curriculum, policies, practices, and support systems. We are pleased to be offering meaningful resources for next year's Sunday classes, along with ways of encouraging a "full week faith." We are in the midst of harvesting next year's teams of volunteer teachers. It is not too late for you to enjoy this opportunity, beginning in September. If you are interested in participating on a teacher team, please let us know by contacting me or a committee member by email, phone, or in the church office. You will be supported in learning how to do that dance.

A significant change is upcoming. Our congregation of children, youth, and adults will be practicing the two-step of a loving farewell to one ministry alongside a warm welcome to an interim one. There will be lessons all around.

I look forward to being with you in this season of appreciation, recognition, and visioning for the future. I am available to chat by phone, email or visit with you in my church office.

Take good care, and don't forget to enjoy the dance,

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

## Congratulations to Our Graduating Seniors!

Emma Lyons, Emma Rome Corbin, Sandy Greenberg, Marilyn Van Erp, Tiasia Litke-Shiple, Robert Sasse, and Emily Voutes were present for the recognition ceremony at the Youth Service.



## Opportunities to Teach and Learn

Some team-teaching opportunities are open next fall for interested adults in the congregation. Spring is when we explicitly seek interest from those who might like to take part. Cathy Seggel and the Religious Education Committee are happy to connect at any time during the year. We look forward to your involvement.

Interested? See RE Committee members in the Atrium during Coffee Hour or contact Cathy.

## Constantine's Corner



The Rev. James Ishmael Ford is – quite ironically, perhaps – a god among men. Week after week, he presents the congregation with well-prepared, thoughtful, passionate sermons. Then, once a year, youth groupers storm up from the basement and fill the Meeting House with the sound of inexpertly played kazoos. The moral fabric of the congregation appears to have survived this year's invasion.

Our service was entitled "Why Was 6 Afraid of 7? An Exploration of the 7th Principle in Theory and Practice." Emma Lyons, Emma Rome Corbin, and Sandy Greenberg presented sermonettes. Musical performers included Angela Sun, Emma Rome Corbin, Adele Andrews, Sandy Greenberg, and Bailey Saddlemire, with the entire youth group joining in on the chorus of Leonard Cohen's "Hallelujah." Adele Andrews wrote the responsive reading and Arek Schneyer's words guided the meditation. The order of service cover was designed by Emma Lyons and Bryelle Davis. A slide-photo presentation by Marilyn Van Erp was projected above the pulpit. Many youth served as ushers, read closing/opening words, or aided in some meaningful way. Furthermore, the service would not have been possible without the dedicated work of our Youth Group advisors, DRE Cathy Seggel, and other First Unitarian adults.

The service was an exploration, and a call to action. Drawing upon our own experiences, literature, spirituality, and more, we brought forward all manner of ideas: The importance of becoming a Green Sanctuary. The spiritual and profoundly personal nature of recycling. The spiritual disconnect which may exist between the adult and children's versions of the Seventh Principle. The teachings of The Lorax. Experiences at GA 2014 in Providence, and hoped-for experiences at GA 2015 in Portland, OR. Continuity and change in human interactions with the broader world throughout time. The relevance of religion in the environmental struggle.

The service also recognized our graduating high school seniors, marking their transition from one part of their spiritual life to the next.

Though we youth have no pretensions to rivaling Rev. Ford, we hope that in bringing our annual offering to the spiritual life of the congregation, we may enrich others and be enriched by others in our spiritual journey.

Furthermore, Constantine showed up in the Meeting House for the first time in long memory. *Ave, Constantine* – and to all a good night!

– Sandy Greenberg



## Sight Lines

### From the President

As I write, the daffodils have started to bloom in my neighborhood, the peonies have poked up from under the ground, the flowering trees are budding and will burst into their spectacular show in a week or so, and spring has finally started in Rhode Island. I couldn't be more relieved. I am a flower gardener, and although I honestly can say I find virtue in all of our seasons here, I have to admit I love spring the most. It's a fact that no matter how awful and cold and long the winter was, the plants still return. And the older I get, the less I remember about what plant I moved where in September, so my garden is always full of mostly welcome surprises in April!

In the spring at church, we see the flowering of the work that started in the fall. The budget is being formulated, the RE teachers are finishing up a curriculum, the staff is preparing year-end reports, and this year, James is completing not only his ministry with us, but ending a decades-long full-time UU ministry.

I am coming near to the end of my year as President of the Prudential Committee. We have been dealing with issues that affect the staff, tightening up the relationships between the church and some of its programs and committees, talking with the UUA staff about the coming transition, encouraging the work of committees and ministries of this wonderful congregation in many ways. I am seeing the results of our winter of work and I am looking forward to some rest and reflection in the summer.

But not yet. We still have a few loose ends that aren't tied up. We have to choose an interim minister to help see us through the next year as the Search Committee does the work of finding our next settled minister. We have to create and propose a budget for next year (which will be presented to the congregation at the annual meeting on June 7), with all the decisions that entails. We have to find a way to say goodbye to our beloved minister, James Ford, that is both respectful and enjoyable.

In the meantime, the children are still in RE classes, the choir is still singing, James is still preaching. So, try to resist the siren call of the garden and the beach and the fishing hole on Sunday mornings. The work goes on and the place is busy and productive. There is the Women's Alliance yard sale, a May breakfast, a musicale, some Saturday evening suppers, a food pantry, work to do at Harrington Hall, legislation to follow and support or decry, and other reasons to come to church. In the midst of the busy-ness of the season, we are still together, our church family, blooming and growing.

Beth Armstrong  
President, Prudential Committee  
pres@firstunitarianprov.org

## Treasurer's Report

In my April Treasurer's Report, I discussed the budget process. As of April 15, it appears that we will lack sufficient funds for a number of initiatives we hope to pursue next year. These include fully funding our obligation to the UUA and the Ballou Channing District, maintaining current funding of employee health insurance, and funding the "Race to 300." By not funding our "Race to 300" program, we continue to use our property endowment for operational support of things other than maintaining our buildings.

Currently, our budget drive has not met the goal of \$410,000. While we have received 31 new pledges for next year, more than 47 households who pledged last year have not pledged yet this year. We will need over \$23,000 to close the gap.

Please keep in mind that ministers seeking a new pulpit will be looking at our financial commitment to First Unitarian. Thank you to those who have increased your commitment.

– Graham Nye, Treasurer



## Preliminary Report of the Annual Budget Drive Team

Thank you to the 317 members and contributing friends who have made a thoughtful and generous financial commitment to First Unitarian. Your pledges underwrite the hopes we all share for an exciting and challenging church year as we begin the transition to new ministerial leadership.

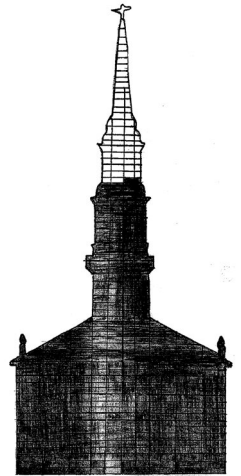
Our brick-by-brick facade shows our progress toward the goal of \$410,000: total pledged to date: \$386,594. This is the "tax-day report" (as of April 15); the full final results will be formally presented at the Annual Meeting on June 7.

We have so much to be proud of:

- All the Prudential Committee members and Deacons have pledged.
- All April 18, 2015, Path to Membership participants pledged.
- 135 households increased their pledges (41% of the pledges received).
- 102 households pledged the same amount as last year.
- 31 households pledged for the first time.

As of tax day, 47 households (who pledged over \$30,000 last year) have not pledged. Those donations would more than close the gap. We remain hopeful that Rev. James Ford's appeal to those who haven't yet renewed and other personal connections will help us reach our \$410,000 goal. There is still time to pledge before the Budget Committee concludes its operating budget to begin July 1, 2015.

With our deepest gratitude,  
Annual Budget Drive Team



## Find Us on Facebook!

First Unitarian's Facebook page is loaded with updates, useful links, photos, and more!



Type "First Unitarian Providence" in the search box and check it out!



## Community Life

### May All-Parish Supper

Friday, May 8

Everyone, young and old and in between, is welcome at these monthly gatherings of members and friends of the congregation.

**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. You can bring a main dish, a vegetable, a salad, or a dessert.

### 7:45p Program in the Auditorium – “A Concert by THE GNOMES”

Celebrate the coming of springtime with a wonderful concert by The Gnomes. They are an exciting, popular, talented group of folksingers and instrumentalists who offer a lively program of traditional musical tunes from all over the world – Celtic, Russian, Eastern European, Caribbean, Native American, and more. The Gnomes play an eclectic blend of world fusion music, and they play it fast and with energy and with soul. The band members include some of Rhode Island's finest musicians including Phil Edmonds (Irish whistle, accordion), Cathy Clasper-Torch (fiddle, keyboard, vocals), Mike Fischman (guitar, mandolin, banjo, vocals), Peter Breen (bass guitar, vocals), and Matt Niebels (percussion). You won't want to miss this great show.



Reservations for the dinner are strongly requested. Please fill out the tear-off form in the Sunday *Meeting House Times* and put it in the collection plate, see Jim Estey at Coffee Hour, or call the church office in advance (401.421.7970). Childcare for infants and children to age 10 will be available for parents who request in advance; call Jim Estey (401.351.1748).

## Saturday Social Suppers

May 2 starting at 5:30p

The May Social Supper will be held at the home of Dolores and John Braica in East Providence.

People new to the church are always encouraged to attend; it is a very nice way to meet others from our church family.

For reservations, contact Shirley DiMatteo (shelly-dimatteo@verizon.net or 401.861.1537) with the number of people in your party and what you would like to bring.

The June 6 Supper will be held at the home of Dave and Gerry Spremulli in East Providence.

## May Breakfast to Support RI Coalition for the Homeless

Saturday, May 16, 8:00a–10:30a

If you would like to help make this a successful event by volunteering that day or making muffins and pastries, please talk to Rebecca Alberg at Coffee Hour or call her (401.231.4104).

Proceeds from the breakfast will go to the Rhode Island Coalition for the Homeless.

Tickets are on sale in the Atrium during Coffee Hour. Adults \$8 / Children \$4 / Children under 5 free.

## Mother's Day Sale to Benefit Girls' Education

Sunday, May 3, during Coffee Hour

Stop by the Atrium on Sunday May 3, before or after church, to choose something special for your mother! It's a triple-impact gift. Your mother will enjoy beautiful jewelry, kitchen items, or a scarf made by artisans in the less developed world. The women who make the items gain income. And we donate the proceeds to help girls stay in school. Educating girls is one of the most important tools to alleviate poverty.

First Unitarian Girl Effect Task Force: Polly Walker, Marilyn Eanet, Martha Manno, Co-leaders

Questions: Contact Polly Walker (polly41walker@gmail.com)

## Newcomers' Café

Every Sunday during Coffee Hour

If you're new to First Unitarian, please come by our Newcomers' Café, where I look forward to welcoming you. It's a great place to meet people in a less daunting setting than the regular Coffee Hour. Held in the intimate Paneled Parlor (just beyond the fireplace in the Parish House), the Café offers coffee, goodies, and fellowship and is hosted by a rotating cast of church members who will be happy to answer questions and introduce you to others in our community.

If you've been around the church for a while, this is a great place to help new folks to acclimate.

Contact Jenn Nardone (mem@firstunitarianprov.org) to sign on as a Café host.

## Our Coffee Hour Co-op

Our Coffee Hour is a cooperative effort organized by the Women's Alliance with donations from our congregation of baked or bought goodies such as brownies, cookies, fruit, cheese and crackers, sandwiches, coffee cake, and more. In order to feed the ravenous crowd each Sunday, we need eight people bringing donations that serve 24 each.

Sign-ups are preferred in order to plan for each upcoming Sunday. Sign up in the first parlor during Coffee Hour and go home with a reminder so you won't forget.

## Atrium Bookstore

Besides the books that we get from the UUA's own Beacon Press and Skinner House, we have begun to offer books from Skylight Paths Publishing, an interfaith publisher of various faith traditions. And don't forget: We also carry books written by several church members and by our own minister.

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## HATS OFF TO...

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### Our Coffee Hour Providers last month:

Dee Reynolds, Melissa Guillet, John Dooley and the Girl Scouts, Anne Connor, Lyn Bradford, Sandy Schacht, Paul Almeida, Tony Allen, Anne Caldarella, Shirley Brown, Karen Rameaka, Betty Finn, Bella Teixeira, Martha Cussler, Elsie Buffum, Jacqui Nye, Steve McCloy, Elissa Emerson, Derek Smith, Karen Boulanger, Yvonne Federowicz, Roxanne Stern, Janet Noble, Peter Gray, and all of you who brought something in to surprise us.



## Community Life

### Joy of Spring Musicale

*Saturday, May 2, starting at 7:30p*

First Unitarian is blessed with musicians who give their talent to the church throughout the year. On May 2, a group of our musical artists are banding together to present an evening of song and instrumental pieces celebrating the Joy of Spring. This joyous spring musicale, a fundraiser for the church, will feature performers presenting a variety of music, spanning folk, classical, jazz, and Broadway genres. The common denominator is the high quality of performance. Performing in solo and ensemble will be Neil Bartholomew, Jennifer Charleson, Lynda Gulley, June and David House, Fred Jodry, Tricia Kammerer, Maurice Methot, Steve McCloy, Janice Okoomian, Victoria Richter, Wendy Oliver, Claire Rosenbaum, Mel Shelly, Marcia Taylor, Jackie and Phip Wheelock, and the First Unitarian Church Choir.

The musicale starts at 7:30p in the Meeting House, with a dessert reception to follow in the Atrium. The suggested donation is \$10 per person, but this is a fundraiser, and greater amounts will be gratefully accepted! All proceeds will support the mission of First Unitarian.

You and your friends won't want to miss this wonderful performance. Please mark your calendar and spread the word – for a fine evening of music.

This event is sponsored by First Unitarian Church of Providence's Prudential Committee, the Music Committee, and the Church Choir.



## Save These June Dates:

### A "Farewell to James" Party!

*Saturday, June 13, 1:00–4:00p*

*RSVP by June 1*

James Ford's last Sunday with us will be on June 14, followed closely by his move to California. We're planning a fun way to celebrate James's seven wonderful years of ministry with our congregation and to say our fond goodbyes. Come to church on Saturday, June 13, for fellowship, refreshments, a few short speeches, a little music, and James's favorite – chocolate!

Please RSVP by June 1 to Beth and Stew Armstrong at (bestar3@cox.net)

## Start Your Summer with a Picnic in the Park!

*Sunday, June 14, 12:00p–3:00ish at India Point Park*

We'll kick-off summer 2015 with a picnic in the park after the Sunday service. Join old friends and make new ones during an afternoon of food and fun! Let's celebrate summer and play some games: we'll have kickball, and croquet. Pack a lunch and bring a blanket. The Membership Committee will provide drinks and watermelon.

Check out the event on our church Facebook page (search "First Unitarian Church of Providence" and click on Events) and add your input.

## Women's Alliance Programs

### The Women's Alliance

*Monday, May 4*

*Business Meeting: 10:00a*

*Program: 11:00a followed by a luncheon (\$10)*

#### Seeking Roger Williams, the Seeker

Speaker: Professor J. Stanley Lemons

We celebrate Rhode Island Independence Day with a talk on Roger Williams by Professor Emeritus of History at Rhode Island College and Historian of the First Baptist Church in America Professor Lemons, who specializes in the history of American culture.

*The American Association of State and Local History twice (1981, 2003) recognized Professor Lemons with their Award of Merit (their highest award) for his contributions to Rhode Island history.*

Non-members *and men* are always welcome to join us for our monthly programs and luncheon.

## Special Thank-Yous

### Antiques & Uniques

Thank you to all who donated items and time to our second annual Indoor Yard Sale. The funds raised will go toward the Alliance's support for local charitable organizations helping women and families. This year the Alliance will be donating to Sojourner House, Planned Parenthood of SE New England, Boys & Girls Clubs of Providence, and Edesia/Global Nutrition Solutions.

### Easter Desserts

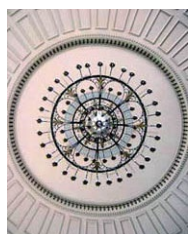
Thank you to all who ordered the wonderful desserts prepared by The Great Women's Alliance Baking Show bakers. This annual fundraiser contributes to our financial donations to local charities, listed above, which help women and families.

## Gourmet Coffee Sale in the Atrium

The Women's Alliance sells delicious organic gourmet coffee each Sunday during Coffee Hour. We offer several varieties of both beans and ground coffees from New Harvest Roasters. Your purchases help the Women's Alliance support community charities and church projects.

## Support for Camp Street Ministries

Your Eastside Marketplace grocery receipts can benefit the programs at Camp Street Ministries. Bring them to the collection box at the back table of the Atrium near the Haynes Room. The Women's Alliance passes them on to Camp Street Ministries.



## Spiritual Development

### Cakes for the Queen of Heaven: In Ancient Times continues

*Sundays, May 3 & 17, 12:30–2:00p*

These are the last two sessions of this five-week course in feminist theology, published by Unitarian Universalist minister Shirley Ann Ranck. "Cakes" is a rich exploration of women's religious history within pre-Christian, pre-Judaic, African, Asian, and Native American cultures. The course introduces the pre-patriarchal goddesses of prehistoric and early historic times, and their early and ultimate loss of power as patriarchy became the established social structure.

This series examines important elements of today's women's lives: personal, interpersonal, and societal. The primary question raised is: How would your life have been different if, when growing up, the divine had been imaged as female? Participants are encouraged to share their own experiences and beliefs, creating trust and strong bonds of friendship.

Facilitated by Alison Green and Svetlana Goretaya. Snacks provided. Let us know if you need childcare.

Sign-ups: Alison (alisongreenwill@gmail.com) or Cathy Seggel (dre@firstunitarianprov.org)

### End of Life Issues – Last Two Sessions

*Tuesdays, May 5 & 12, 6:30–8:00p*

#### State of Death with Dignity Movement in Rhode Island – May 5

Will a Death with Dignity bill have a chance here in Rhode Island?

Led by our own Rev. Ralph Mero, a moving force behind Death with Dignity in Washington and Oregon

#### Funerals – May 12

Do you want a funeral? What do you need to plan? When should you plan it? What are the advantages of planning now? Do you need a contact with a funeral home even though you or your loved one wants to be cremated? Costs.

Speaker from the Funeral Consumers Alliance of Rhode Island

### Art in the Atrium

In May we are having a collective show of fine artists from our congregation, including Elizabeth O'Connell, Don Gregory, Doris Bridgehouse, James Barfoot, and Thomas Terceira.

June will end our Art in the Atrium season with another collective show including our First Unitarian youth. There may be some room available for June and plenty for next church year. If you are interested, please contact: Chiara Van Erp at (romano-vanerp-design@cox.net)

#### Interested in Buying an Atrium Art Piece?

If you are interested in a buying a piece of art from the Atrium Gallery, you can look for the binder on the coffee table for prices and contact information, then contact the artist directly. The artist will give 25% of the price of their sale as a donation to the church.

### UUMen

*Sunday, May 17, 7:00–9:00p (note: 3rd Sunday, since 2nd Sunday is Mother's Day)*

#### Topic: Forgiveness

We know it's important to do, but can we forgive regardless of the circumstances? What if the hurt was clearly intentional and there's been no expression of apology, remorse, or desire to change? What are the consequences of forgiving someone, or choosing not to? Who benefits – the forgiver, the forgiven, or both? Does it matter? Does forgiving require forgetting? Is it often harder for men to do? "You simply cannot be free without forgiveness," said Nelson Mandela, who spent 27 years in jail. Come explore these issues with us.

Co-facilitators: David Riley (davidriley@aol.com) and Charlie Sweigart (charlessweigart33g@gmail.com)

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

*Every Monday at 7:00p*

Benevolent Street Zendo is a member community of the Boundless Way Zen Sangha, an interfaith Zen community that maintains close ties with the Soto Zen Buddhist Association and the American Zen Teachers Association.

Everyone is welcome. Brief instruction available at 6:45p.

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

### Tai Chi

*Every Tuesday, 7:00–8:30p*

Tai Chi class for Beginners to Advanced, Children to Seniors. All inclusive. Instruction and Performance. For more information or to sign up, contact Sean Connor (seanconnor@cox.net)

### Innate Wisdom and Compassion Meditation

*Every Wednesday at 7:00p*

This drop-in group offers guided meditations of wisdom, love, and compassion. These practices are adapted from Tibetan Buddhism 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, in our relationships, and in our service and social action.

No previous meditation experience required. You can visit our website for a preview of the practices with Benefactors ([foundationforactivecompassion.org/audios-videos-texts](http://foundationforactivecompassion.org/audios-videos-texts))

Contact: Ken Bent (kenbent@cox.net)

### All-Levels Flow Yoga

*Thursdays, May 7 & 21, 7:00p*

Yoga is offered partly with the help of the youth group and taught by Ariadne Greenberg. Ariadne is a senior yoga teacher with thousands of hours of teaching experience. Please bring a mat.

Contact: Ariadne (ariadne15@cox.net)

### Reimagining Religion

*Tuesdays, May 12 & 26, 7:00p*

Reimagining Religion is an ongoing attempt to employ the best recent scholarship in coming to grips with issues raised by radically new developments in the study of religion and thereby achieving a fuller appreciation of what religious literacy entails in the twenty-first century.

Leader: Tom Hall (twh2nd@aol.com)



## Social Justice

### Call for Next Year's Community Collections

*Submissions due by May 29*

One Sunday each month, First Unitarian donates its Sunday offering to a charitable cause, a practice we have been following for several years. Any member of the church can submit a proposal to support either a program sponsored by our church or an organization in which a church member is actively involved.

The Community Collection Committee will entertain proposals from church members for Community Collections during the 2015-16 church year. A very simple proposal form needs to be completed. Submissions must be received by the end of May; selections will be made by the end of the church year.

Forms are available from the church office ([admin@firstunitarianprov.org](mailto:admin@firstunitarianprov.org) or 401.421.7970). For more information, contact: Nori Duncan, PruComm Social Justice Liaison ([nori.duncan@gmail.com](mailto:nori.duncan@gmail.com))

## Neighborhood Social Justice

*Sunday, May 3 at 12:15p*

The Neighborhood Social Justice Committee takes on projects to lighten the load of low-income and homeless Rhode Islanders. Please join us – on this and every first Sunday of each month – to learn more about our work and perhaps to contribute some ideas of your own.

## Loaves & Fishes Outreach Mission

*Tuesday, May 5, noon to 7:00p*

This mission brings food and clothing to Harrington Hall, which is a men's homeless shelter located in Cranston. This mission runs *every first Tuesday* of the month. We are always looking for volunteers, as well as food and cash donations. Specifically, we need seasonally appropriate clothing (clean and lightly worn), large cans of tuna or chicken, protein snacks (hard-boiled eggs, cheese snacks, trail mix, nuts), and especially fruit.

There are three shifts:

noon–1:00p: sandwich crew;

3:00–5:00p: clothing organizers and supply loaders;

5:00–7:00p: delivery crew.

For more information and to sign up, please stop by the Neighborhood Social Justice Committee table in the Atrium after any service on Sunday – or you can now go to ([signupgenius.com](http://signupgenius.com)), locate the "find a sign-up" tab, and search for ([khalmeida@gmail.com](mailto:khalmeida@gmail.com)). Hope you will join us!

Contact Joe Salvatore ([joesuu@gmail.com](mailto:joesuu@gmail.com)) for details.



## Senior Agenda Coalition of RI

*Spring Awards Luncheon, Tuesday, May 19*

*Providence Marriott, 12:00-1:30p*

**"Honoring Work that Matters for Seniors"**

Honorees will include former Lt. Gov. Elizabeth Roberts, Julie Baldwin and Nancy Dobie, Anne Mulhall, and Bob Caffrey. All have been active leaders in creating a better quality of life for Rhode Island seniors.

Tickets are \$60 per person. Purchase at (<http://tinyurl.com/lyyvwn>)

## First Unitarian's Food Share Pantry Volunteer at Our Food Pantry

*Distribution Day: Monday, May 18*

The biggest social justice program at First Unitarian is the Food Share Pantry. It takes many volunteers to keep the program going! Volunteer for a shift on Distribution Day:

Set-up: 2:00p–3:00p

Shopping: 3:00p–5:00p

Restock, recycle, and clean up: 5:00p–6:00p

Contacts: Martha Manno ([Mmanno7@comcast.net](mailto:Mmanno7@comcast.net)), Brian Paradis ([briananddeacon@comcast.net](mailto:briananddeacon@comcast.net)), or Nori Duncan ([nori.duncan@gmail.com](mailto:nori.duncan@gmail.com))

## The Pantry Is Open to All

You probably know that volunteers at First Unitarian run a very well attended food pantry. But did you know that members of the congregation who are in need are also welcome to take part and receive food? You do not have to be receiving government help or otherwise demonstrate need. Just come to the church after 2:30p on the third Monday and fill out a brief registration form.

## Your Recycled Magazines = Food for the Food Pantry

Donate your high-interest magazines for others to purchase for just 50 cents to \$1. Popular categories: science, gardening, kids' magazines, handyman, *Geographics*, cars, yoga, fishing, cooking, craft, foreign affairs, current events, and personal improvement, just to name a few. No catalogs, please. Last year, this program earned close to \$370 for our Food Pantry.

## 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: hats, socks, mittens, scarves, and more.

Beginners are always welcome. We have plenty of yarn and needles to get you started.

## Habitat for Humanity Work Day

*Saturday, May 16*

First Unitarian's Habitat Work Group volunteers once a month with the Providence chapter. 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. Sign-up is required as space is limited.

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



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> Joyous Spring Musical from 7:30p Dessert Reception to follow Saturday Supper 5:30p (Dolores & John Braica)
<b>3</b> Worship Service 10:30a Girl Effect Sale at 12:00p Mentor/Mentee at 12:15p Neighborhood SJ at 12:30p Cakes for the Queen	<b>4</b> Women's Alliance Meeting 10:00a Program 11:00a  Zendo 7:00p	<b>5</b> Outreach Mission to Harrington Hall 12:00-7:00p  End of Life Issues 6:30p Tai Chi 7:00p Knitting for a Better World 7:00p	<b>6</b>  Prudential Committee 6:30p Meditation 7:00p	<b>7</b>  Yoga 7:00p	<b>8</b>  All-Parish Supper 5:45p Program 7:45p	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> MOTHER'S DAY Worship Service 10:30a	<b>11</b>  Zendo 7:00p	<b>12</b>  End of Life Issues 6:30p Reimagining Religion 7:00p Tai Chi 7:00p Knitting for a Better World 7:00p	<b>13</b>  Meditation 7:00p	<b>14</b>  Worship Comm. 5:00p Deacons 5:30p	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> May Breakfast 8:00-10:30a  Habitat for Humanity
<b>17</b> Worship Service 10:30a at 12:30p Cakes for the Queen  UU Men 7:00p	<b>18</b>  Food Pantry 2:00p-6:00p  Zendo 7:00p	<b>19</b>  RE Committee 6:45p Tai Chi 7:00p Knitting for a Better World 7:00p	<b>20</b>  Meditation 7:00p	<b>21</b>  Yoga 7:00p	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>  <i>[Brown University Commencement]</i>
<b>24</b> <i>[Brown University Commencement]</i> Worship Service at Bell St. Chapel 10:00a  <b>31</b> Worship Service 10:30a	<b>25</b> MEMORIAL DAY (Church Office Closed)  Zendo 7:00p	<b>26</b>  Reimagining Religion 7:00p Tai Chi 7:00p Knitting for a Better World 7:00p	<b>27</b>  Meditation 7:00p	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>