



THE MEETING HOUSE TIMES

October 15, 2017

TODAY

10:30a in the Meeting House Inward Journey–Outward Action Lee Clasper-Torch, M.Div.

“Our real journey in life is interior,” wrote Thomas Merton, the Catholic mystic-poet-monk. Just what is the relationship between this “interior journey” and our outward actions? More precisely, how is spiritual practice related to social concern and active engagement for peace and justice in our broken world? The winnowed wisdom of traditions – both East and West – provide guideposts for the living of our own personal inward and outward journeys.

Lee Clasper-Torch served on the faculty of Moses Brown School for 25 years, teaching courses in comparative religion, philosophy, and ethics. He is currently a workshop, presentation, and retreat teacher and serves as the Men’s Engagement Coordinator for the Ten Men Project of the RI Coalition Against Domestic Violence.

Young people begin in classrooms and worship in Chapel. Worship Theme is UU White Supremacy Teach-in #2.

11:30a Food Pantry Shuttle. Meet in the church basement.

Coffee Hour in the Parish House Parlors/Atrium
Coffee, tea, goodies, and fellowship . . . plus
Newcomers Cafe in the Paneled Parlor
Coffee Hour Baking Sign-up
Women’s Alliance Coffee Sale
Atrium Bookstore open

12:00p Coming of Age Mentor Orientation in the Haynes Room

12:15p A Reprise of the 200th Anniversary of the Meeting House in the Auditorium (see page 2)

5:00p Campus UUs (BUUUG)

All college aged young adults are welcome to weekly Sunday evening gatherings. Meeting tonight in the Parish House. Contact Maria (maria_ronchi@brown.edu) or Cathy Seggel in the church office.

THE WEEK AHEAD

Monday, October 16

3:00p Food Pantry Open

7:00p Benevolent Street Zendo in the Atrium

Tuesday, October 17

7:00p Knitting for a Better World

A weekly gathering for knitting and conversation. Bring your own project or work on one of our group projects. Yarn, needles, and instruction available.

Wednesday, October 18

7:00p Natural Wisdom and Compassion Meditation

A weekly drop-in guided meditation adapted from Tibetan Buddhism.

Contact: Ken Bent (kenbent@cox.net)

Thursday, October 19

7:00p Five Wishes Program

NEXT SUNDAY

Sunday, October 22

What Are We Doing Here? Rev. Vanessa Rush Southern
As First Unitarian launches a new ministry, a new chapter, maybe this is a good moment to look and ask what this whole venture is about. And so good to have a prophet from another town weigh in. And good to recommit to the crazy, daring beauty of it all: of church.

Vanessa Rush Southern is the new Senior Minister at the UU Society of San Francisco. Previously she served parishes in Boston, Washington, DC, and Summit, New Jersey and she has just recently returned from living in India for two years. She is the author of This Piece of Eden and Miles of Dream (both by Skinner House books) and was the preacher at the Service of the Living Tradition at the General Assembly in 2013. Vanessa is best friends with Liz Maclay (who is the godmother to Vanessa’s only daughter, Leila), so she thinks the congregation made a really good choice.

For details on these and future programs
(meeting locations, contact information, etc.),
see the monthly newsletter on the church website at
www.firstunitarianprov.org/news

PROGRAM NEWS

COMMUNITY LIFE

A Reprise of the 200th Anniversary of the Meeting House Sunday, October 15 at noon in the Auditorium

If you witnessed the 200th Anniversary presentation last October during the celebration Sunday service and would love to see it again – or if you heard about it and wished you had been there – now is your chance! The History Committee has created a video reproduction of the anniversary program – complete with images of the “cast” and supporting graphics over the live audio recording.

The half-hour presentation tells the story of our magnificent Meeting House, from its 1816 rise from the ashes of our second Meeting House through dramatic alterations and events in the Victorian era to its restoration after the disastrous fire in 1966.

The video was brilliantly assembled by Oscar d’Angeac, a Brown graduate student who worked with Keith Brown on the production, and the committee extends its deepest appreciation to both of them.

There will be a brief Q&A after the presentation for those who would like to learn more about the history of the Meeting House or about the process of the making of video. After this showing, the video will be posted on the new church website.

The Church’s Benevolent Society

Thursday, October 26 at 7:00p

The newly forming Benevolent Society will hold its first meeting and all are invited. The purpose of the Benevolent Society is to encourage generosity through planned giving, perhaps primarily the leaving of a gift to the church in one’s Last Will and Testament.

The steering committee includes Tony Allen, Paul Brule, and Bill Twaddell, Further information is available from Ralph Mero at rmero237@verizon.net.

Name Tags — Now in the Meeting House!

We are trying something new, something that will be more welcoming and helpful to everyone in our community! The name tags have been moved into the Meeting House. This will make it easier for everyone to get their name tag before Sunday service. Seeing a name gives you a better chance of remembering it.

Wearing your name tag is a thoughtful way to help all newcomers, including our new minister, to find their way into our community. Before the worship service, please pick up your name tag from the board, now located at the front of the church on the Benefit & Benevolent St. corner.

At the end of coffee hour, return your name tag to the correct basket labeled A-F, G-M, and N-Z on the Welcome Table in the Parish House hallway. Please place your tag in the appropriate basket.

If you need a new name tag, you can request one on the sign-up sheet (on the clip board) on the Welcome Table in the Parish House hallway. Thank you for wearing your name tag!

SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

Five Questions

Six Thursdays at 7:00p

November 2, 9, 16, 30, December 7, 14

A lasting gift of grace from Rev. Charlie Ortman, Five Questions offers a guide for transformative spiritual reflection.

This is an opportunity to articulate your understanding of self, purpose, meaning, and connection, leading to a personal credo. Co-led by Steve McCloy and Mel Shelly.

To register: Mel Shelly (melshelly46@gmail.com)

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Standing on the Side of Love

Standing On the Side of Love meeting

Wednesday, October 25, 7:00p

Our new SSL tees are selling fast! Be ready for the next rally with yours. They are \$20 and available at the SSL table in the atrium. Be prepared to Stand on the Side of Love at all times!

Interfaith Forum, Rescheduled

Wednesday, November 1, 6 to 7:30p

Providence Career and Technical Academy

We have been invited by the mayors office to attend this event that will promote inter-religious dialogue, diversity education and more.

Heroes of Faith 2017, Rhodes on the Pawtuxet

November 2 at 7:30a

First Unitarian will be receiving the Congregation of the Year Award for leading the way on Sanctuary in RI. We would like to reserve a table for members of of congregation who would like to attend. Please contact Jay Glasson if you are interested, or let us know at the SSL table. This is a fundraiser for the RI State Council of Churches, tickets are \$35.

Neighborhood Social Justice

Loaves & Fishes Mission

Tuesday, November 7 from noon to 8:00p

On the first Tuesday of every month, we deliver food, clothing and respectful companionship to those in need at Emmanuel House, a homeless shelter in Providence. Please join us at the church at Noon to prepare sandwiches or at 3:00p to load food. At 6:00p you can choose to be a part of the service team at Emmanuel House or deliver sandwiches to the homeless on the streets of Providence.

For more on NSJ and the Loaves & Fishes mission, contact Joe Salvatore (joesuu@gmail.com)

Senior Agenda Coalition of RI

Crowne Plaza Hotel, Warwick, RI

Friday, October 20, 2017 - 8:00a to 3:00p

Keynote: Jaime Estades of the Latino Leadership Institute . Theme: Building Senior Power. Fees -Senior on fixed income, \$25; Senior (age 60 & older); Student, \$35; All others, \$50. For information & to register: contact Bill Flynn, at 401.351.6710 or (senioragendari@yahoo.com).