

STEEPLETALK

U N I T A R I A N

Volume 7, Number 7

April 1, 2001

First Unitarian Church • 809 S. Fourth Street • Louisville, KY 40203 • (502)585-5110 or 589-6028 • Fax (502) 587-8446

Richard Beal, Minister, (502)584-2332 • Lisa Willner, Interim R.E. Coordinator (502)634--0249 • Doug Taylor, Board President, (812)949-0411

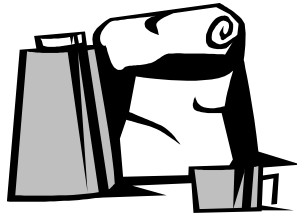
Sheryl Soderberg, Interim Music Director • Robert Reed, Minister Emeritus • Anne Miller, D.R.E. Emeritus • Laura Jennings, Shared Ministry Coordinator

Alice Taveirne, Office Manager • Office Hours: 9:00a.m. - 3:00p.m. • Celebration of Life 10:55am • www.firstlou.org • richard_beal@bellsouth.net

Brownbaggers to Visit IMAX

Brownbaggers will meet on **Friday, April 6, at 11:00 am**, in the church library. Bring your brownbag lunch, and we will have time for discussion and conversation about some of the problems facing our church at this time.

After lunch, those who are interested will go to the IMAX Theater for a special film called "Michael Jordan-IMAX." Admission is \$5.95 if we have as many as 10 participants. Transportation will be furnished.



Find Your Place at Tingley House

by **Janet Rink**

At Tingley House, it is a rare luxury for a child to have the undivided attention of a nurturing adult. In this emergency shelter for homeless families, many single parents are crowded into a single room with four or five children.

But on Thursday evenings when volunteers from our church come for 1 1/2 hours, we can often focus on one-on-one time with a child.

Last evening, three shy brothers from a family who had moved in that day came to the playroom. One worked wooden puzzles with amazing skills with **Claudia Runge**, while **Joan Beal** cooked a feast with a second child in the housekeeping corner. **Janet Rink** read stories in the book nook with a third brother.

Whether you are most comfortable with children ages 3, 4, and 5 in the playroom or school-age children in the Study Buddy classroom, your presence at Tingley House is a significant contribution to a child's difficult life.



Other volunteers from February 1 through March 15 included **Chris Schmitt, Roger Ohlman, Peggy Kannapel, Vickie Patterson, Peg Kesler, Fran Fargen, Kathy Kremer, Lynn Slaughter-Lommasson, Tim and Jane Martin Buckley** with xxxxxxx, **Beverly Moore, Jessica Anderson, Cathy Bohler**, and **Rose Stevens**.

For more information, call **Janet Rink (xxx-xxxx)**.

Plan to Attend an Important Congregational Meeting

Sunday, April 8th

immediately following the Celebration of Life

To meet requirements in our constitution, the congregation will vote on whether or not to officially sanction these Board actions:

- The search and hiring of an Interim Minister
- The active support of the Members of First Unitarian Church and the Unitarian Universalist Association in establishing the search for a new settled Minister.

"To dwell together in peace, to seek the truth in love, and to help one another."

WAYWARD PULPIT

Grateful for the religious pluralism which enriches and ennobles our faith, we are inspired to deepen our understanding and expand our vision. As free congregations we enter into this covenant, promising to one another our mutual trust and support.

(Final lines of our Purposes and Principles)

COMMENTARY

For both seasoned and new UUs two events are approaching which give body to the spirit of the “mutual trust and support” which we promise to our fellow congregations. One event is the **district annual meeting on April 6 and 7 in Ann Arbor, MI**, and the other is the annual **General Assembly in Cleveland, June 21-25**.

Attending denominational events often awes me. Yes, I find spiritual, intellectual, and emotional sustenance in the congregation and within special programs in the congregation, but seeing an institution acting on our principles and purposes, democratically, in the framework of a very large group, takes me to another depth in this peculiar religion of ours.

The District annual meetings are, of course, a little cozier than GA. If you feel you have found a religious haven in our church, a place to develop and freely express your own views among people who will not be either aghast or against you, then imagine a similar experience among kindred spirits from the whole Heartland District. If you are weary of the problems and solutions of our church, then find out what others are doing. It always comes as a pleasant surprise to find in discussions among other del-

egates that First U is often in the forefront of many issues and programs. Share our experience with others.

Much of this year’s program is focused on Social Justice and the keynote speaker is **Rev. Meg Riley**, from the UUA Faith in Action Office in Washington. She is a passionate preacher with a sense of humor and can tell us much about how to work with other faiths on social justice issues.

If you’re interested in the District Meeting, please contact me (Joan Beal) immediately. Time is short. They have extended their deadline for us. We are entitled to 5 delegates and have some money to pay for registration, depending on how many people wish to attend.

And then for the big time.... General Assembly in Cleveland. Imagine thousands of UU’s meeting to decide policy, statements of conscience, business resolutions and, this year, who will be the next president of the UUA. Imagine a session in which people speak up sadly, angrily, passionately and always from their heart, even on business resolutions. We are nothing if not self reflective and each session is preceded by a “process analysis” of the previous session. Delegates, speakers and the moderator herself, are reminded of the subtle ways that people or their views may have been disrespected. On issues of strong disagreement, our principles keep us civil and respectful. Attend workshops, worship, meals, performances, labyrinths, dances, parties, and meditations. Find what will help your own spirit and what will help our congregation’s communal spirit. And perhaps find a way to offer what we know, to others.

We need delegates for this event. Several people have spoken to me already, and we continue to look for new names and faces to represent us. Again, the church can pay at least part of the registration, and there are also volunteer positions, which provide free registration. You’ll hear more about General Assembly in the weeks to come.

Find the next level of your commitment to Unitarian Universalism...the care and maintenance of the institution, the competence of our leaders and members, and the inevitable moments of surprise and grace arising from all these people acting together from our common principles and purposes.

See you there or in church,

Joan Beal

Steepletalk

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809 South 4th Street

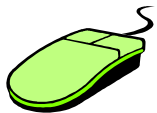
Louisville, KY 40203

Next deadline: **Friday, April 6, 2001**

Editor: Claudia Runge

(502) 454 - 7563

c_runge@bellsouth.net



Denominational and Church Affairs

Adult Group Plans to Explore *Our Chosen Faith*

The Adult Program Project group is planning a series of continuing study and discussion groups for adults. Most of the new programs will be scheduled for the next church year; however, if there is enough interest, we would like to begin this spring with a group on Wednesday nights--alternating with the Spirituality group. Since the Spirituality Group meets on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month, the **UU Discussion Group will meet on the first, third, and fifth Wednesdays at 6:00, 6:30, or 7:00**--depending on the wishes of the participants.

This series of programs will begin with a discussion and sharing of the book *Our Chosen Faith* by **UUA President John Buehrens** and **Forrester Church**. It is a thoughtful, entertaining handbook for searchers, newcomers and lifelong learners. It consists of alternating chapters from each author explaining his beliefs and why he chooses to be UU. Those who were interested in "Being Liberal in an Illiberal Age" or "Building your Own Theology" will likely find this also fits your interests.

The group will use the UUA Study Guide to conduct the sessions. **There are six sessions, so the group tentatively will meet on April 4, 18, May (3?)16, 30, June 6, 20.**

Getting a Book -- If enough people respond that they would like a book right away, **Bev Moore** can order them and people can pay her at the first meeting on April 4. The books are \$14.00 with \$1-\$1.50 shipping, but for 5-9 orders, we can get a 10% discount. For 10 or more we get 20% discount.

Please let **Beverly Moore (xxx-xxxx or beverlydm@AOL.com)** know ASAP if you would like to be part of this group and if you want her to order a book for you. The cost will be \$15 or less.



Spirituality Group

First Unitarian's Spirituality Group helps to nurture members' spirituality by providing a centering time and opportunity for sharing. **The group meets the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month from 7-8:30 p.m. in the Parlor.** Please try to arrive on time so our opening rituals are not interrupted. All are welcome, but we encourage regular attendance so group members can build support for one another. Childcare is provided. For more information, call **Marty Horrar at xxx-xxxx.**

April 11 -- Linette Lowe Keeling will facilitate - the topic is *Philosophy & Spirituality*

Church is a place where you get to practice what it means to be human. — **James Luther Adams**, Unitarian minister and theologian who helped shape American religious ethics in the 20th century (1901-1994)

Many thanks to all those who shared their thoughts and feelings at the all-church meeting concerning the Polyamory Group. Your questions, answers, concerns, and reassurances confirmed that First Unitarian is a place where we can "practice what it means to be human." **Kyle Ellison** said it best during Joys and Concerns the next Sunday morning when he called the meeting "One of the most profound religious experiences I've ever had." A special thanks to **Greg Gapsis** for a masterful job of leading us through a potentially difficult discussion.

Adult Religious Education Sunday morning -- 9:45 to 10:45 Church Library

Upcoming Topics

April 1--Open discussion on Hinduism

April 8--UUs and Afterlife

April 15--What do Easter and Passover mean to you?

Ah, spring... signs of new life everywhere, the joy of leaving the house in shirt sleeves, the freedom of not having to keep track of mittens, scarves and hats. I think we should celebrate! Fortunately, our RE calendar for April provides us with many opportunities to do just that. Please take a few moments to look over the following announcements, and mark the RE special events on your calendar. Our Passover Seder, Easter activities, and the inaugural session of the RE Artists in Residence program give us several opportunities for intergenerational togetherness, having fun with our own families, and making meaningful connections with others in the church. Sign-up sheets to participate in or help with these events can be found on the RE bulletin board (at the top of the stairs, on your left as you enter the RE area). I'm looking forward to this month of celebrations, remembrances, feasting and dancing. I hope you are too!

Yours with love,

Lisa



Annual Family Passover Seder

Friday, April 13th at 6:30 in the Social Hall

Remember to reserve the evening of Friday, April 13th to attend our First Unitarian Annual Family Passover Seder. All are invited to this wonderful dinner and celebration of freedom. Once again, our head chef will be **Idell Rosen**. Idell will be assisted by **Jackey Dorsett, Lisa Willner** and (**your name here?**). The cost for the dinner will be \$5.00 per adult; \$2.50 per child age 6 - 12; free for children 5 and under. **Please make reservations at least one week in advance so we can prepare adequate food.** There will be a **reservation board in the Social Hall**, and you can sign up to help on the RE bulletin board, or by contacting Lisa.

New Program! Morris Dancing for All Ages

The RE Council is planning a series of *Artist-in-Residence workshops for 2001-2002*. The workshops will run for 3-4 weeks, and will be held during the **first hour (9:45 to 10:45) on Sunday mornings**. Workshops will provide opportunities for church members and friends of all ages to be exposed to a variety of arts experiences, and for meaningful integration of First U's upstairs and downstairs.

As a preview of the 2001-2002 series, a **workshop on ENGLISH MORRIS DANCING** will be held on **three consecutive Sundays after Easter**. Morris

dancing is an ancient form of ritual folk dance believed to be rooted in pagan rites of spring. It is a living tradition, and is still danced today in England, the United States, and other countries. Details on the workshop are as follows:

- The workshops will be held on **April 22, April 29, May 6, from 9:45 to 10:45 in the Social Hall.**
- As a culminating performance, workshop participants will perform morris dances (to help the crops grow!) as part of the May Day service, May 6, 10:55 a.m.
- The workshops will be led by members of the Angleterre Morris Dancers, a morris dance group based in Louisville.
- Sessions are open to children, youth, and adults ages 5 and up.
- Enrollment is limited to 24 dancers.
- An unlimited number of musicians may enroll, but must be able to read music or learn tunes fairly quickly by ear on a portable instrument that can be played while standing (such as three-hole pipe and tabor, penny whistle, recorder, flute, fiddle, concertina, accordion).
- **Sign up by April 15 on the RE bulletin board, top of stairs to RE area.**

Families, adults without children, and children or youth without adults are all encouraged to participate. **(Please note, however, that parents should not expect to use this program as childcare.)**

First Unitarian Church Groups

Affinity Groups

First U members and friends organize these groups. The affinity groups have an entirely informal connection with the church, but we are glad to have the opportunities they provide for those who share similar interests to meet. These groups include:

- * Book Discussion and Play Reading Groups
- * Brown Baggers (primarily older members and friends who meet for presentations, discussions, social events, and day trips)
- * Knitting Group
- * Partner Church Group
- * Polyamory Awareness Discussion Group
- * Quilters
- * ROMEOS (Retired Older Men Eating Out)
- * Simple Living Group

Affiliated Groups

These groups are organized separately from the church. They have their own officers and procedures, maintain their own treasuries, and apply to the Board of Trustees to be recognized as an affiliate. Our affiliated groups are:

- * CUUPS (Covenant of UU Pagans)
- * Interweave (not currently meeting)
- * The Women's Alliance

Program Groups

Program groups are organized by or through church committees. Program groups currently offered are:

- * Alternatives to the War on Drugs Discussion Group (Social Responsibility Committee)
- * Care Core (Hospitality Committee)
- * Choir (Music Committee)
- * Middle School Youth Group (RE Committee)
- * OWL (Our Whole Lives sexuality course for junior high youth; RE Committee)
- * Parenting Teens Discussion Group (RE Committee)
- * Responsible Consumption Discussion Group (Social Responsibility Committee)
- * Senior High Youth Group (RE Committee)
- * Spirituality Group (RE Committee)
- * Sunday Morning Adult Religious Education (RE Committee)

Keep for future reference.

Notices and Opportunities

Notice of Program Change

The Alternative to the War on Drugs series, scheduled for April 1, at 1:00pm, has been canceled.

*Did you
brush your teeth
this morning?*

But what if you didn't have toothpaste—
or a toothbrush?



If you're homeless, you lack basic personal hygiene items like a toothbrush or toilet paper.

That's why HELP needs help! Our church is a partner in the downtown community ministries' support of the HELP office. HELP supplies the **most essential needs** for the minimum comfort of the **homeless and the poorest of the poor** in the winter months. We urgently need:

- deodorants →toothbrushes →toothpaste
- tissues →toilet paper →soap

Please leave donations in the large box near the hall entrance to the Social Hall.

P.S.—**Kroger Bucks** are more than welcome! Pick up an envelope at the Kroger Bucks table in the Social Hall after Sunday services..

Harmony Habitat Camp Out/Work Party

Harmony Habitat will soon open a group home for adults with mental retardation on **Peg Kesler's** farm in Nelson County. However, before the opening, there's much work to be done, preparing the house and barns.

A **Camp Out/Work Party** is planned for **April 13-14**. Volunteers will gather at the farm on Friday evening and camp out in the house and barns or on the farm. On Saturday, work crews will strip old wallpaper, paint rooms and lawn furniture, clean out barns, plant flower beds and go fishing or hiking on the farm. Meals will be provided for volunteers. Bring sleeping bags and fishing gear.

If you'd like to attend, you can get more information by emailing **HABITAT321@aol.com**--or call **Peg Kesler** or **Jay Dolen** at (502)xxx-xxxx for directions.

Join Earth Day Activities

April 22 (Sunday), 12noon-7pm

Theater Square in downtown Louisville

First Unitarian Church will join many other groups on this day to show support for that interconnected-web of life we call Earth. There will be music, art and environmental education/spirituality/justice themes. First U will have a display to tell others about Unitarian Universalism, our church and our efforts to consume more responsibly. Drop by after the Celebration Of Life and show your support for the Earth and our church. For more information contact **Roger Ohlman** or **Carol Findling**.



Potluck Dinner and Movie Discussion

Our next all-church potluck dinner will be held on **Friday, April 20**. Bring a dish and join us in the Social Hall for good food and company, followed by a good movie! **Dinner will begin at 6:30 p.m.**; the **movie will begin at 7:00** and will be followed by discussion. Come for the whole evening, or for as long as you can stay. Mark your calendar and plan to join us on April 20.

RE Announcements

Easter Activities (April 15): Our Senior High Youth Group invites you to their annual **Easter breakfast on Sunday, April 15 from 9:15 to 10:45 in the Social Hall.** The cost for the breakfast will be \$4.00 per adult and \$1.00 for children 5 - 12. (free for children 4 and under). There will be a maximum cost of \$10.00 per family.

The Middle School Youth Group will be hosting their **annual Easter Egg Hunt for toddlers, preschoolers and elementary school children.** Parents (and others): please bring in at least a dozen candy-filled plastic Easter eggs per child by Sunday April 8th. PLEASE, NO NUTS!!!! We appreciate extra candy-filled eggs so that we have plenty of treats for our visitors as well. There is a good supply of plastic eggs upstairs - please take some home with you, and return them filled.

Look for more details about the Easter morning schedule in the next issue of *Steepletalk*, and on the church list serve.

Red Cross Childcare Course: RE and the Church Council are jointly offering an all-day childcare course at the deeply discounted price of \$10.00 per participant thanks to the generous donation of time by First U's **Lori Riebesell.** (At other sites, this course can cost as much as \$35.00.) This all-day class is scheduled for **Saturday, April 28th, 9:00 until 5:30,** and is **open to participants between the ages of 11 and 18.** **Linda Parry** has offered to provide lunch, and scholarships may be available to those needing financial assistance. Sign up on the RE bulletin board if you are interested. The course will be limited to 12 participants, on a first-come basis.

Congratulations! Congratulations to all the children and youth who participated in our Pledge Sunday service. Many church members told me how much they enjoyed and appreciated our RE students' beautiful singing and artwork. Special thanks to **Patty Kannapel** for organizing this wonderful performance, to guitarist **Greg Byrne,** and singing coaches **Patty** and **Peggy Kannapel.** Congratulations and thanks to the Middle School Youth Group members and their advisors **Abbie Potter** and **Bob Schaad,** and to

members of the Senior High Youth Group for their help and leadership with the younger students.

AND..

We have just completed our first-ever **OWL** course. This is a major accomplishment! Participants began the class last spring (as 7th, 8th, and 9th graders) and just completed this year-long sexuality program. Many congratulations to our students for their commitment and participation, and to their teachers **Lynn Slaughter-Lommasson, Doug Taylor,** and **Carol Wallace** for their dedicated service to the youth of our church. Great work!

First Hour Schedule

Elementary school age children are invited to the following **first hour Sunday morning programs (9:45 - 10:45):**

- **April 1:** Singing with **Susie Onwood**
- **April 8:** Storytelling by **Cassandra Culin**

Preschoolers and younger may spend the first hour in playtime with **Corie Miller** and childcare apprentice **Emily Moscoe.**

Parents, please note: Children may not be left unattended in the church. We welcome and encourage them to participate in our planned activities, or they may remain with you.

Lisa Willner, RE Coordinator (Interim)

Church office
(502) 585-5110

Home
(502) 634-0249

E-mail

lis_wil@bellsouth.net (at church)

lisa@scruton.win.net (at home)

Office Hours

Monday and Wednesday mornings

Tuesdays 4:30 - 7:00

Church Members

Lois Allen

by Kathy Drehmel

I did not fully realize how many of our members and friends at First Church are from places other than Louisville until Lois told me, "I was born in Louisville, and have lived here all my life!" I thought, "Wow, I don't hear that very often in an interview." But, what did have a familiar ring to her story was her spiritual journey. Lois grew up Methodist, and raised her children in the Methodist church. "I have questioned church dogma all my life," said Lois, "and eventually I had to leave the Methodist Church. There were no answers for me there. I had always been interested in other religions and what they had to say."

Lois has a degree in Chemistry from the University of Kentucky, and a MAT from the University of Louisville. She is currently teaching chemistry at Male High School. She is the proud mother of three children; **Elizabeth**, who will earn her Ph.D. in June, **Michael**, an Engineer, and **Philip**, who is studying Music at Middle Tennessee State University.

Interests include music, (plays the piano), reading, and gardening. She has, what she says, is a small yard, but would like to turn it into a wildlife habitat. Travel is another enjoyable pastime. She had the opportunity to visit China for 6 weeks through a program at Murray State University. Other places Lois has toured are Italy, England, Scotland, and Switzerland.

Lois traveled to our doorstep at First Church in the fall of 1999. She recounts, "It was different, and it takes awhile to get adjusted. One lady went out of her way to sit by me and talk to me. It was important." (That lady was **Isabel Silverman**.) Lois joined the choir at First Church last fall and enjoys her time there. Welcome.



Shared Ministry

Q: What will the Gifts Discovery workshops be like?

A: You will gather, at a time of your choosing, at church or in the home of a church friend. Groups will be small - no more than eight people. Yes, beverages and snacks will be provided! We will start on time and will finish 2-3 hours later. Sessions will be fun, informative, and geared toward giving us a better understanding of ourselves and each other. Topics we will discuss include:

- What are my needs?
- What are my motivators?
- What am I passionate about?
- Do my interests coincide with my experience?
- In which direction(s) would I like to grow?
- How can the church help me grow?

Workshops will start in April. Already two people have volunteered to host workshops in their homes (thank you, **Anne Miller** and **Lisa Willner**!). Please watch for sign-up sheets, and let me know if you too would like to host.

-- *Laura J.*



Shared Ministry Coordinator
Laura Jennings

Office: Choir room

Home phone: 288-5720

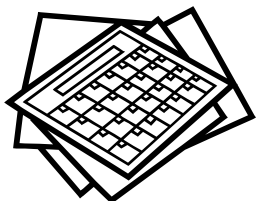
E-mail: LAURJHSM@netzero.net

Calendar: March 28 - April 13

March 2001

28 Wednesday

7:00pm Worship Committee (Library)
7:00pm Spirituality Group
(Sanctuary)



April 2001

1 Sunday

9:45 -10:50am Adult RE (Library)
9:45 -10:45am Singing for Elem. Children (RE Library)
9:45 -10:55am Parenting Teens Group (Parlor)
9:45 -10:45am Sr High Youth Group (Upstairs)

3 Tuesday

7:00-8:30pm Membership Committee (Parlor)

4 Wednesday

12:45pm ROMEOS (Piccadilly Cafeteria)
5:30 -7:00pm Social Responsibility Committee
(Library)

6 Friday

11:00 -1:00pm Brown Baggers (Library)

8 Sunday

9:45 -10:50am Adult RE (Library)
9:45 -10:45am Middle School & Sr High
Groups (Upstairs)
9:45 - 10:45 Storytelling for elementary
children (Upstairs)

12:15pm Congregational Meeting (Sanctuary)

12:30pm Music Committee (Library)

10 Tuesday

7:15pm Board of Trustees (Open Classroom)
7:30pm Activities Committee (Library)

11 Wednesday

6:00pm Finance Committee (Library)
7:00pm Spirituality Group (Sanctuary)

12 Thursday

6:30-9:00pm Growth Coordinators (Library)

13 Friday

6:30-9:00pm PASSOVER FAMILY
SEDER



Just among ourselves

Congratulations to **Audrey** and **Robert Schulz**, who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Saturday, March 24!

We extend condolences to **Joe** and **Kathy Kremer** and their family. Joe's father passed away two weeks ago. Kathy and Joe have cared for so many of us with their work on the Care Committee, and we hope that they will feel their love being returned during this difficult time.

It was good to see **Eric Tachau** in church last Sunday after his recent stay in the hospital. We're glad that he is feeling well enough to get out and about.

Greg Gapsis' mother, **Genevieve Gapsis**, died last week. We send love and sympathy to **Greg, Kathy, Helen, Claire**, and the rest of their family.

Emilie Louise Clinkenbeard celebrated her 95th birthday on March 22. Emilie has problems with arthritis in her knees, but is remarkably alert and able - most of the time, she'll say! Emilie would like to thank the children in the church school for her Valentine card - and others who have come to see her and sent cards.



Because her handwriting is not what she thinks it should be, she is unable to send written notes, but wants everyone to know she loves her church and remembers it fondly. She recalled how she and her brother took the streetcar from Crescent Hill to 4th and York to attend Sunday

School when she was thirteen. That was 1919, folks! **Happiest birthday wishes, Emilie.**

**First Unitarian Church
809 South Fourth Street
Louisville, KY 40203-2115**

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Scryings

Celebrations of Life

Sunday services begin at 10:55 a.m.

April 1 ***Spring People***--A service led by our minister.

April 15 **To Be Announced.**