



FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH

A Member Congregation of the Unitarian Universalist Association

Volume 11 Number 8

24 April 2005

809 S. Fourth Street • Louisville KY 40203 • (502)585-5110 or 589-6028 • Fax (502)587-8446
www.firstulou.org • Office Hours: 9:00am - 3:00pm M-F • Celebration of Life 10:55am Sundays
Johanna Mehring, Board President • Norm Stewart, Minister (502)561-8326 • Lisa Willner, Director of Religious Education • Vince Coombs, Office Manager • James Dersch, Instrumentalist • Rebecca Johnson, Music Director
Linda Givens, Shared Ministry Coordinator • Anne Miller, DRE Emeritus • Robert Reed, Minister Emeritus

Reinventing the First Unitarian Church Food Fair



For several years, the whole church worked together to make holiday goodies, then held a festive Food Fair that drew customers from around the region. A number of people are interested in resurrecting and reinventing that spirit of fun and fund-raising. **Come talk about it on May 4!** Bring your memories of past Food Fairs or similar events you've attended, and your ideas for what this event can become. If you're interested but can't attend on May 4, please contact **Tiffany Taylor**, txxxx.txxxxr@ixxxxxx, xxx-xxxx.

Special Congregational Meeting Sunday, April 24, at 12:30pm or shortly after the Celebration of Life Church sanctuary

A petition signed by 25 members calling for a Congregational Meeting to vote on the status of UUPA was presented to the Board of Trustees April 15. Pursuant to requirements in the church Constitution, the Board set the date of the meeting for **Sunday, April 24, at 12:30pm**. Voting at this Congregational Meetings is open to active members who signed the Membership Book before February 24.

"Love is the spirit of this church..."

Notes from Norm

First, a quick reminder that our **April 24 Outreach Offering** will be to help with legal expenses of the **Rev. Todd Eklof**. His regular full-time job was terminated because of his public stance on marriage equality. All non-pledge designated money (cash or checks) will go to Rev. Eklof to pay legal expenses for what appears to be an extremely unfair termination. If an employer can do this to a minister, they can certainly do it to you. Please give generously.

As a ministerial intern in Monterey, California I became acquainted with the Industrial Areas Foundation (IAF) approach to broad based community organizing. The IAF is the grandchild of Saul Alinsky, the radical, often in-your-face, political organizer from the 60's. Alinsky might not recognize his grandchild. It has grown dramatically and changed its style since the 60's. These days, the radical organizers of IAF dress like business people and men are not required to have a beard and long hair.

When I arrived in the Monterey area, the local organizer had already been working there for about two years. He had met one-on-one and in small groups with about 500 community, government, business, and religious leaders. They had spent hundreds of hours discussing whether there were issues in the Monterey Bay area upon which a broad-based coalition could work together for the common good.

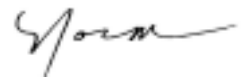
The religious segment of this effort ran the gamut from fundamental Christians to Unitarian Universalists and everything in between--as well as Jews and Muslims. As you might imagine, there were some issues that the parties in this conversation could not agree upon. But after a while issues that most could agree on began to emerge. There were some people whose understandings and commitments to their version of truth and justice prohibited them from enter-

ing into any kind of coalition with others who did not see truth and justice their way on every issue. Their particular version of the truth and justice precluded the possibility of them working with such a broad based community coalition.

However, the overwhelming majority of people agreed that they could disagree on certain hot button issues, e.g., abortion and gay rights, yet still work to help the homeless, improve education, provide more affordable housing, teach people new job skills, etc. In fact those in this diverse group that didn't walk away on principle found they really agreed on a whole lot more than they disagreed.

The First Unitarian Church of Louisville has another vote coming up Sunday, April 24, about the relationship of our congregation to the UUPA group (UUs for Polyamory Awareness). It is important that every one of you who signed our Membership Book before February 24 shows up to that meeting to vote your conscience on this matter. Regardless of the outcome of this vote, I believe that it is safe to say we still won't all agree on the appropriate relationship of the group to this church. Regardless of the outcome, we can choose to continue to spend our energy on something we don't agree upon or we can choose to agree to disagree on this matter and spend our energy on things we can agree upon. The vote is yours; the choice is yours. I am sorry to say that some of you who are more confident in the divinely, or otherwise, inspired wisdom of your version of truth and justice will choose to vote with your money or your feet. My hope is that most of you will instead choose to join a broad based coalition for the common good of this congregation.

Peace,



You know you might not be a pledger if...

- *You haven't completed a 2005-6 pledge card.*
- *You have too much money left over at the end of the month.*
- *You spend more on your pets than on your Church.*
- *You only contribute in cash and only on Sundays.*

If you haven't completed your pledge, now is the time to get it done. Help the Church be a caring spiritual community that fosters social justice and religious freedom. Provide your part of the financial foundation that will allow us to build a stronger liberal religious community in the Louisville area.

You do not need to be a member to pledge your support. A monthly pledge will demonstrate your commitment to building a better future for our spiritual community.

To become a pledger, complete the following and return it to the Church office. Please include any comments or concerns you have about our spiritual community. Our Church's average weekly pledge is \$20. If you would like to discuss your pledge, please call our **Treasurer, Brian Daly**, at xxx-xxxx.

April 30 is our deadline for the budget.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

Annual Pledge: _____

Signature: _____

Successful Heartland Meeting

First Unitarian was well-represented at the Heartland District Spring Conference and Annual Meeting in Cincinnati, with 13 of our members attending, including five lay delegates plus the minister. **John Nader** carried First U's banner in the opening banner parade in the historic First Unitarian Church of Cincinnati, founded in 1830. Two First U members presented well-attended workshops--**Beverly Daly** served on a panel for "Funding Congregational Growth 101: aka Desperate Grantwriters," and **Jasmine Walston** presented "Polyamory Awareness: An Unexpected Ministry." About 20 people attended each of these workshops.

Almost 200 people attended the conference, representing 33 of the Heartland's 53 congregations. Business included bylaw revisions concerning financial reporting and delegates to the annual meeting, as well as approval of the district's budget for next year. During the business meeting, District Executive **Mary Andrus-Overley** announced her resignation. The district will soon begin a search process to find another DE.



General Assembly

Registration continues for the UUA General Assembly in Fort Worth, Texas, June 23-27. The theme of this year's GA is "Ministering to Families in Today's World." An early registration discount is available through April 30. Register online at www.uua.org/ga, or contact **Jasmine Walston** at pdr@firstulou.org or xxx-xxxx. Also, please contact Jasmine if you are interested in serving as a delegate.

R.E. Announcements

S.M.A.R.T.



➔ In addition to religious education classes for children and youth (10:55- 12:15), children's activities are also offered during the "first hour" (9:45 - 10:45) in the Open Classroom. Upcoming first hour programs are:

- 4/24 Bracelet weaving with xxxx and xxxx **Grossman**
- 5/1 Making Derby Parade "mini floats" with **Barbara Schweickart**.
- 5/8 Papier mache animal construction with **John Grossman**

➔ Planning is underway for children's **Summer R.E. classes**. Please contact Lisa Willner if you'd like to spend one hour with some great UU kids this July or August.

➔ **Congratulations** to the **Middle School YoUth Group** for their great work on the April 17 Celebration of Life.

➔ R.E. Teachers, SMART and Chalice Night presenters, Youth Advisors, OWL teachers et al.: Mark your calendars now for **May 22** when you'll be honored at the **annual R.E. Recognition Celebration of Life**.

➔ Donations are continuing to come in for the **Intermediate Class's "Read to Feed" project** for Heifer Project International. It's not too late to show your support for our 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders and this worthwhile fundraising effort. Checks may be made out to First Unitarian Church with "Read to Feed" printed in the memo line.



Sunday Morning Adult Round Table

Church Library
Sharing at 9:30am

Program - 9:40 until 10:45am

- **April 24 -- *History in the Hymnal***. The UU hymnal contains a wealth of history. **Jennifer Lavery**, speaker.
- **May 1 -- *How Can We Save Social Security?*** What are the problems and proposed solutions for fixing Social Security? What are the moral and ethical issues involved? **Frank Slesnick**, speaker.
- **May 8 -- *Americans United for Separation of Church and State***. Since 1947, Americans United (www.au.org) has defended separation of church and state, the cornerstone of religious liberty. **Jesse Woodrow**, speaker.

Next curricula meeting Tuesday, May 24, 6:15pm. For questions, comments, topic requests, or to offer a program, email the Curricula Team at smart@firstulou.org, or call Lisa Willner at 585-5110.

Lisa Willner
Religious Education Director

Telephone
(502) 585-5110 (Office)

E-mail
dre@firstulou.org

Office Hours

Monday 11 - 3

Tuesday 12 - evening

Wednesday 11 - 3

Additional times available by appointment.





New Adult Religious Education Program!

YOGA

Deepening Spirituality through Yoga
with Iyengar Yoga Teacher Beth O'Hara

May 17 - August 2
Tuesdays, 5:45-7:15
Choir Room

The goal of yoga is to integrate the body, mind, and spirit to bring us closer to divinity. This series of classes will explore yoga as a means to deepen spiritual practice and unify the Self. In addition to learning yoga poses, this class will delve into the spiritual richness that yoga offers to our daily lives.

This class is open to all fitness levels and is offered to beginners as well as continuing students. Students should wear loose, comfortable clothing such as shorts or leggings and a T-shirt. Poses are done barefoot. Students should attend on an empty stomach. While students may begin at any time, they are encouraged to attend the entire session. For more information, email xxx_XXXX@XXXX.com or call xxx-xxxx.

**Weekly sessions begin Tuesday, May 17,
5:45 - 7:15 in the Choir Room.**

from Isabel Silverman

✓ **The Mountaintop Removal Road Show--April 27, 7:00 pm** to First U: Free--Come early for Chalice Night dinner if you choose. The Mountaintop Removal Road Show features a beautiful and thought-provoking 22 minute slide show with traditional Appalachian music and culture. Following the slide show, Kentucky native, **Dave Cooper** will explain the impacts of mountain top removal mining on the people and communities of Appalachia.

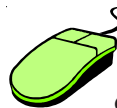
✓ Coming **April 25, 7:30 pm--Memorial Auditorium**. Free but contributions appreciated. "Exploring Global Nuclear Disarmament by 2020." Speaker: the Honorable **Tadatashi Akiba**, Mayor, the City of Hiroshima, Japan.

✓ Your social responsibility committee appreciates your purchases from Kroger using your card. Although they have reduced our "cut" from 5 % to 4%, this remains a grand source of income for our committee. We have decided to continue an inadvertent choice of last year to be purposeful this year: monies left in this fund will revert to the church general fund on June 30.

STEEPLETALK

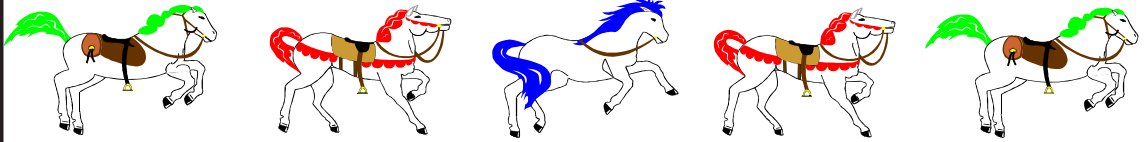
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Next deadline: **Friday, April 29, 2005**
(covers **May 8 - 21**)



Editor: Claudia Runge

Contact us: editor@firstulou.org



All-Church Derby Party

Saturday, May 7, 2005

12:00 noon until after the last race

(come for a little while or stay all day!)

Hosted by Tiffany & Doug Taylor & Anne Miller

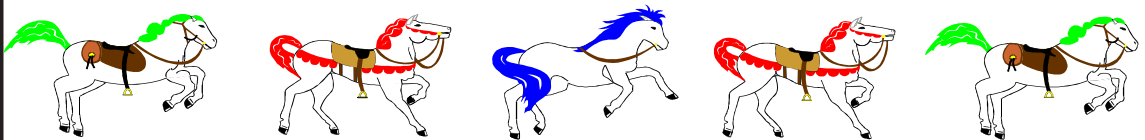
xxxx xxxxxx Drive, New Albany, Indiana

You need to bring:

- Pot-luck dish to serve at least 12
- Your own alcoholic beverages if you want them
(coffee and soft drinks provided)
- Plenty of \$1 bills
(betting on all races straight \$1 per bet;
all money split among holders of winning tickets)

Don't miss this great annual event!

Directions: Take I-64 or I-65 to the I-265 bypass around New Albany. Exit at State Street; turn left (south) onto State. At McDonald's, turn xxx onto xxx. xxx Road. When the road ends in a T, xxx xxx onto more of xxx. xxx. Take the first left, xxxxxx Drive (a steep hill). At the top of the hill, curve left and continue up. When the road starts back down, xxx will be on your left. Lost? Call xxx-xxxx!



Chalice Night

Dinner by Tiffany
(\$4 or \$2 small portion)
available from 5:30 to 6:15
Lay-led service -- 6:30 to 6:50
Programs -- 7:00 to 8:30
Nursery care -- 6:30 to 8:30

April 27

Menu -- Black bean burritos, Spanish rice, chips, salsa, white chocolate brown sugar bars

Programs --

- **12 Lessons in Personal Spirituality**--The group, led by **Jill Harmer**, explores concepts based on Edgar Cayce's work.
- **World Religions Video Series**--"Falasha: Exile of the Black Jews" Filmmaker Simcha Jacobovici explores the persecution and exodus of Ethiopia's Jewish community.
- **Mountaintop Removal Road Show**--Guest speaker **David Cooper** presents a thought-provoking slide show and an explanation of the devastating impacts of mountaintop removal mining.
- **UU Roots**--Sessions four of a four part program for "newish" UUs and prospective members. Led by **Linda Givens**, **Norm Stewart** and **Kathy Thackeray**.
- **Telling Strangers What You Believe**--In many religions, participants are told what to believe. In the UU faith, we make our own beliefs. How do you explain *your* UU faith to others? **Helen Longley** leads.
- **Witches' Brew: Basic Brewing and Mead-Making**--**Suzanne** and **Malcolm Turner** lead this ongoing series that includes information, fun, and hands-on experience.
- **Drawing for All**--**Johanna Mehring** and **Katrina Brown** lead this session for all ages and all abilities. Can you draw a circle? A box?

May 4

Menu -- Lentil vegetable soup, cheesy biscuits, green goddess salad, triple chocolate brownies

Programs --

- **Paganism 102**--"When, Why ... If: An Ethics Workbook" summary and discussion
- **World Religions Video Series**--"Native American Medicine" This film featuring John Twobirds shows how we are able to reforge the link between modern naturopathic medicine and the ritual ceremony and spiritual traditions of Native American Medicine.
- **Interweave Program**--Watch and discuss the film "Pride Divide," a humorous and frank examination of the hidden gender gap between gay and lesbian life.
- **Reinventing Food Fair**--**Tiffany Taylor** leads a discussion of participants' memories of past Food Fairs and ideas for the future.
- **Those Liberal Sew and Sews**--Bring your handwork or simply join in the conversation. Sponsored by Women's Alliance.
- **For Kids of All Ages** -- The Three Stooges



Shared Ministry

It's that time of year - the flowers are blooming, birds are singing, temperatures are rising, and church committees are being staffed for the coming year. That sentence sounds like that game "which one of these does not belong?" However, when the Shared Ministry Committee met on Monday to begin the process of committee staffing the feeling was - if not spring like - certainly optimistic. Due to expressed interest during the Committee Fair and on the Gifts Discovery form several committees were filled by the time we met, and we had no problem identifying persons who had expressed interest in work of the remaining committees.



Certainly the meeting was long (and not just because we stopped to play and laugh) but very productive, and I found that the task seemed to reflect a bit of optimism about the work at First Unitarian Louisville. So thanks to the Shared Ministry Committee for their hard work and to those of you who have expressed an interest in engaging in the life of the church through committee work. Now, please no one tell me that I'm in the Honeymoon stage of my job or that this is a case of beginner's luck.

Linda

HELP OFFICE

Since our church is a partner in support of the HELP office, we HELP supply the **most essential needs** for the minimum comfort of the **homeless and the poorest of the poor**. We urgently need deodorants, toothbrushes, toothpaste, tissues, toilet paper, and soap. **Please leave donations in the special box in the entrance hall off Library Lane.**

Linda Givens

Shared Ministry Coordinator

Office hours

Monday - 9am-2pm

Tuesday - 11:30am-2pm

Wednesday - 9am-2pm

Thursday - 9am-2pm

Friday - 9am-2pm

502-585-5110

sharedministry@firstulou.org

Time to Fly

SUUSI 2005: July 17-23

Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA

SUUSI is a UU summer camp for singles, couples and the whole family with special programs for youth and teens. The theme this summer is "Time to Fly."

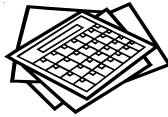
Do you feel like someday it will be your time to fly. Well that time is this July at the Southeast Unitarian Universalist Summer Institute (SUUSI) in July in Blacksburg, VA. There will be many chances to fly at SUUSI this year. You can hike steep trails, tube down the river, learn something new about yourself or the world, listen to great talent at Cabaret or show your own talent, and dance all night for six nights in a row. SUUSI is the place to be this summer to fly. Come to SUUSI for all that is restful and rewarding - a week of intentional community and the gift of friendship - new and renewed.

For further information visit www.suusi.org or see Linda or Norm. (Adapted from First UU Richmond)

Building Use Calendar: April 21 - May 7

April

| | | |
|-----------|---|---|
| 21 | Thursday | Choir practice, choir room |
| 7:15pm | | |
| 22 | Friday | UU Christian Fellowship, library |
| 7:00pm | | |
| 23 | Saturday - Thunder Over Louisville | |
| 9:00am | | *Private event, choir room-open classrm-205 |
| 24 | Sunday - Passover | |
| 9:00am | | Learning Team, parlor |
| 10:55am | | Celebration of Life |
| 12:30pm | | Flute Choir practice, choir rm |
| 1:00pm | | SR high OWL class |
| 25 | Monday | |
| 6:30pm | | *Tai Chi, choir rm or social hall |
| 26 | Tuesday | |
| 12:30pm | | Administrative Staff meeting |
| 5:30pm | | Worship Comm., choir rm |
| 6:15pm | | SMART Curriculum planning, library |
| 6:30pm | | RE Committee, open classroom |
| 27 | Wednesday | |
| | | Chalice Night |
| 28 | Thursday | |
| 5:30pm | | Activities Comm., library |
| 7:15pm | | Choir Practice, choir room |
| 29 | Friday | |
| 12:00pm | | <i>Steepletalk</i> Deadline |



| | | |
|----------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 3 | Tuesday | |
| 9:30pm | | <i>Steepletalk</i> Folding Party |
| 12:30pm | | Administrative Staff meeting |
| 6:30pm | | PDR comm., library |
| 4 | Wednesday | |
| | | Chalice Night Coord Team, 5/6 rm |
| | | Chalice Night |
| 5 | Thursday | |
| | | Derby Parade -- NO Choir Practice |
| 6 | Friday-Oaks Day holiday | |
| 7 | Saturday - Derby Day | |
| 9:00am | | *Private event |

* Denotes outside group or activity, not affiliated with First Unitarian Church.

Theater Discount

Fences by August Wilson, onstage April 19-May 15 at **Actors Theatre**, is a powerful story of a father's struggle to hold his pride and family together in the face of unfulfilled dreams, poverty and racism. **Present this bulletin for 10% off tickets (subject to availability).** 584-1205. Downtown at Third and Main.

Flowers for a Special Occasion



If you want to celebrate a special person or occasion, consider giving a floral decoration for Sunday service. You don't have to pay the price of a store-bought florist arrangement; you can have flowers in one of our vases for as little as \$5. For an additional cost you can have flowers and a vase or basket that's yours to keep after the service. You can also bring in personal objects or pictures to add to an arrangement. To schedule a Sunday, **call Carol Tobe xxx-xxxx** or the church office.

May

| | | |
|----------|---------------|---|
| 1 | Sunday | |
| 9:00am | | Learning Team, parlor |
| 9:45am | | Youth/Adult Committee, RE library |
| 10:55am | | Celebration of Life |
| 5:00pm | | CUUPs-Beltane Celebration, sanc-sh-ctyd |
| 2 | Monday | |
| 6:00pm | | Congregational Svcs Comm, choir rm |
| 6:30pm | | *Tai Chi, choir rm or social hall |

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

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Celebrations of Life

Sunday services begin at 10:55 a.m.

April 24 *Hard Old Memories.* **Rev. Norm Stewart, Worship Associate Suzanne Meeks.** Growing up is a challenge for most of us. None of us gets to choose the home and family environment into which we are born. Some of those environments are much further from ideal than others. Some people survive, maybe even thrive, in less than optimal conditions. Others do not. Some who survive eventually become wounded healers. Today, on the first day of Passover, we lift up the survivors and acknowledge those who did not. In our Shared Ministry model at First Unitarian, I believe that many among you are, or may eventually become wounded healers.

May 1 *Are We Truly Creedless?* **Rev. Norm Stewart, Worship Associate: Linda Berry.** Let's see, for openers we, the First Unitarian Church of Louisville, frequently recite something we call a Covenant. We regularly lift up the UU's Seven Principles and Six Sources of Wisdom. And, we also have Vision & Mission Statements that are intended to remind us of who we are and what we are about. Should we consider any of these to be statements of faith which for UUs might be comparable to something like the Apostle's Creed in other traditions? Which of these do I have to agree with to really be a true liberal religionist? May 1 is the Pagan holiday known as **Belane**, and we will celebrate by dancing the May Pole.

May 8 *Creation Stories.* **Guest speaker, John McCarthy, Worship Associates Carol Edelen & Kathie Johnson.** John McCarthy is a teacher and an artist. He has done extensive research into the creation stories of many different cultures and then created artistic representations of those stories. Today he will share with us some of those stories and the insights they may offer for us in the creation story of our own life.