

FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH

A Member Congregation of the Unitarian Universalist Association

Volume 14 Number 4

April 2008

www.firstulou.org

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Know More Literacy Festival and Book Sale

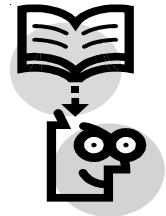
Who: Renowned local authors, actors, playwrights, musicians

What: Book Sale and Literacy Event

When: April 19 from 10 until 4 pm

Where: First Unitarian Church Sanctuary, Social Hall, Courtyard

How: Storytelling, musical performances, short plays, poetry reading, children's events, author performances, book signings.



This is the Spring fundraising event that we have always wanted to do. Help us set-up, stock, sell, and perform. We will have refreshments, mixed media, and lots of books. Invite all your external friends and neighbors.

WE NEED SELLABLE BOOKS & MEDIA – clean out the attic, garage, bookshelves, basement. We will begin collections soon. Watch for the announcements. Let **Kathy Rogers** know what you can bring!

The Giving Church: Generous Hearts, Committed Lives

At press time for this newsletter, people with generous hearts and living committed lives at First U had pledged a total of \$67,860 for 2008-09. That total comes from 38 pledges that had been reported to Rose Stevens, the “Captain of Captains” for this year’s all church canvass. Of course, many more pledges are yet to be turned in and added to the total. **If you have not been contacted by a canvasser**, please call **Rose Stevens** (xxx-xxxx) or **Claudia Runge** (xxx-xxxx) so we can make sure that your generosity is included and acknowledged in this year’s total.

You can stay current with the pledge total, as well as with each individual pledge turned in, by checking out the green “giving tree” that **Holly Hogue** has constructed and will place in a visible spot each Sunday.

Love is the spirit of this church...

STEEPLETALK



From Your Interim Minister

For whatever reason, my thoughts are scattered as I sit down to write this column. I offer you a hadith that has floated into memory:

A grieving son came to the Prophet Mohammed and said, “My mother has died.

What shall I do for the good of her soul?”

The Prophet thought of the panting heat of the desert, and replied, “Dig a well, so that others may drink.”

The man dug a well and said, “This have I done for my mother.”

And that hadith stirs the memory of a proverb: “We drink from wells we did not dig.” Make of these, what you will.

In honor of National Poetry Month—a holy time, on my personal liturgical calendar—and the Buddha’s Birthday, which in parts of the world is celebrated this month, I offer you this poem, titled “The Buddha,” by Rick Fields.

The Buddha got enlightened
Under a tree
Saw the morning star
And touched the earth
As witness
In the next millennium
Which is right now
All of us
Will recognize
We too
Are Buddhas
And will
Plant more trees
Deep in the earth
Under which more Buddhas
Will sit
And plant more trees
Under which
Forever and ever
More.

Earth Day also comes this month, and that great festival of liberation, Passover. May we cherish the gifts we have received from past generations; may we act so as to bequeath gifts to those who come after us. May we find ways to dig wells, to plant trees, and to recognize the Buddha in the mirror and on the street.

Blessings as always,

Betsy

Board BIZ

by **Brian Daly**, President, Board of Trustees

Your Board has been active. We are exploring a variety of issues concerning reorganization including some minor Constitutional changes to help us work smarter. Specifically, the Board dealt with the following issues:

- All members will be asked to help with at least one of the Ministries. A signup list will be posted on the Board kiosk..
- Minor Constitutional changes were discussed:

- ✓ raise the quorum and meeting call requirements to 20% of the Congregation versus the current 10 and 5 percent.

- ✓ change an “or” in the membership section to “and” so that members are expected to both participate in church activities and attend services during the year.

- The Church needs to establish a separate 501-c-3 designation to apply for external grants. The Board is organizing an application.
- The budget will be discussed with the congregation through budget information sessions.

- The Church Manual (By-Laws) are being revised for review.
- We are collecting the names of Leadership school graduates and Board Presidents. A list on the Board kiosk will be available for review and additions.
- A Proposed Vision Statement was discussed: We are a liberal religious church seeking to transform ourselves, our community, and our world.

The next Board meeting is April 8 at 6 pm.



Reorg News

Involvement is the key to successful organizations. With the addition of our new Member Development Director, **Rebecca Dimon**, we will begin to actively recruit members to help with at least one of the Ministries. We will be:

- ✓ Contacting members to help in one of the five ministries.
- ✓ Setting up signup posters for each ministry.
- ✓ Encouraging people to be as active or inactive as they want.

- Help with a lunch
- Plan a fund-raising event
- Greet people at Church services,
- Help write grants
- Assist with updating our membership lists
- Help us monitor our finances
- Serve as an RE teacher.

Join us as we take the next step in strengthening our Church. Call or catch Rebecca at Church and signup on the charts.

STEEPLETALK

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(covers month of May)

Contact us: editor@firstulou.org

R.E. Announcements

- The **Youth Adult Committee** will meet on Sunday, April 6, 9:45 – 10:45 in the R.E. Library. The next **R.E. Ministry meetings** are March 30 and May 5, 7:15 – 9:15. Note that there are no regularly scheduled R.E. or SMART curricula team meetings in April.
- Throughout April, **Nancy MacPherson** is in charge of first hour children's activities, 9:45 – 10:45 in the Open Classroom.
- **Thanks to all** who supported the **Coming of Age fundraisers** throughout this year – breakfast sales, car wash, and trivia night. These fundraisers were a success thanks to your participation and support. At this point, the group is not planning to offer breakfast sales through the remainder of this church year.
- Youth Group Activities for April:
 - ✓ The **Middle School Youth Group** meets weekly, 1:00 – 2:30. This month's activities include opening and staffing the Volunteers of American family shelter playroom, a Nature Center field trip, guest speaker, and the possibility of awareness-raising activities through freerice.com.
 - ✓ The **Senior High Youth Group/R.E.** class meets weekly, 10:55- 12:15. On April 13 and 27, the group will stay for Youth Lunch and meet from 1:00 – 2:30. On April 13, **Bill Caylor** from the Kentucky Coal Association will give a presentation on mountain top removal coal mining from the coal industry's perspective. On April 20, several members of our group will travel to Kalamazoo, MI for a Social Justice Senior High Youth Conference.
- **Coming of Age 4th Quarterly Meeting** and Potluck: April 18, 6:30 – 9:00, Open Classroom and Choir Room.
- Congratulations to **Allison xxxx**, the newly elected Transitional Age Range Representative for our Heartland UU District's Youth Steering Committee. Alli was elected by her peers from around the Heartland at a middle school Youth Con in Dayton, OH.
- Plans are underway for next fall's 7th/8th Grade Our Whole Lives sexuality education offering. For more information on this program, or if you know of any families outside of First Unitarian who may be interested in participating, please contact Lisa Willner.
- Lisa will be out April 5 – 14. Members of the R.E. Ministry group will be available on Sunday mornings April 6 and 13 to welcome newcomers and answer questions.



Lisa Willner **Religious Education Director**

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Monday 11:00 - 2:00
Other times as arranged.

Introducing New Staff

Hello! My name is **Rebecca Dimon**, and I am your new **Member Development Director**. I am very excited to be with you. I applied for this position because I am passionate about bringing people into church families and helping them to find a welcome and inviting place where they can be involved and active. I am also passionate about community ministry and finding ways for the church to reach out to the community it is surrounded by in order to meet the expressed needs of the people. Unitarian Universalists, at least in my limited experience, have the same passion and desire for social justice issues. I look forward to exploring all of the possibilities with all of you.

Now, a bit of personal information: In December I finished my Masters of Divinity at Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary. It took me four and half years with a year-long service trip to Belfast, Northern Ireland, after the two year mark. That trip influenced my current and future ministry goals in profound ways. If you want to know more, please ask – I love to talk about Belfast. I am Presbyterian and am in the process to becoming ordained in that denomination. Currently I am taking a break from actively moving on in the process. I am originally from Nebraska and you may hear me talking about “home” every so often. I like Louisville and have proudly called it home since coming here in 2003, and I have no plans to move from here in the foreseeable future. When I’m not working at the church, you can find me in St. Matthews at Target.

I think that is enough from me for now. Please feel free to stop me and strike up a conversation when you see me. I am very excited

to be at First Unitarian and look forward to meeting as many of you as possible. Just give me a while to learn names. Faces I recognize and remember, but names take a little longer.

Interweave

Interweave is an organization for bisexual, gay, lesbian, transgender persons and their allies, raising sensitivity within the congregation, reaching out to the community, and encouraging social/political action. Everyone is welcome to attend meetings, join the listserv or phone tree, or contact us for more information. Contact **Angela Klueber**, xxxxxx@xxxxxx.xxx, xxx-xxxx.

- **April 14 at 6:30:** “Polyamory and Religion. What have they to do with each other?” Diverse viewpoints are welcome. Contact **Jasmine Walston**, xxxxxxxx@xxx.xxx, to arrange childcare or request a topic. Co-sponsored meeting.
- **April 25 at 6:30:** “You are a youth or adult whose friend has announced s/he is gay/lesbian. You are the parent of a youth who has questions. You know someone who is thinking of ‘coming out.’ What is the supportive response?”



Chalice Night

from **Holly Hogue**

➡ The menu for April 2 is Mexican Pasta Bake, Confetti Salad, Biscuits, and Chocolate cake. **Geneva Fry** will lead the Centering Service. The Programs are: Those Liberal Sew and Sews; “Harry Potter - Our Own 21st Century Hero” - Moderated by **Nancy MacPherson**, the discussions are not only about the Harry Potter books and include the writings of Joseph Campbell and Carl Jung on mythologies and archetypes; “Let Your Life Speak: Listening for the Voice of Vocation,” **Rev. Betsy Scheuerman** facilitating; and “Fact or Crap?” Sorting out your email and the internet - **Geneva Fry** and **Rick Hogue** will talk about ways you can check out those strange things you get in your email and see on the web.

➡ We’re having a burrito bar, black beans and rice, and sombrero cake on April 9. The Centering Service will be facilitated by **Jane Martin Buckley**. The programs include: Telling Our Stories - Journey Toward Each Other - **Janice Molnar** is coordinating this series. “Endings and New beginnings” Check in: Sharing our own phoenix experiences. Speakers **Michael ben-Avraham** and **Claudia Runge**, Church Fire & Rebuilding; and For Mortals Only: Death, Dying, Grieving, and Making Sense of Our Mortality. Facilitated by **Jo Ann Dale**, with help from others. Topic: “What Can I Say? – How to Be a Friend in Times of Loss.”

➡ On April 16 the menu is: Lentil vegetable soup, Cheese biscuits, Green goddess salad, and Peach cobbler. The Centering Service will be led by **Jo Ann Dale**. The Localvores includes a book discussion of *The Omnivore’s Dilemma* with **Kathy Rogers**. **Rick Hogue** is bringing in a guest speaker - Greg Grate of Grate Greens - to talk about Hydroponics. For other programs

please check the web site <http://www.firstulou.org/re/chalicenight.html>.

➡ Meatloaf and veggie loaf, Scalloped cauliflower gratin, Green Beans, Sour cream pound cake with fudge sauce is the menu for April 23. Someone from the Search Committee will lead the Centering Service. There are two programs scheduled: the Search Committee will update us on their progress and CUUPs will have a class about Beltane.

Just among ourselves...

We’ve recently learned that **Vi Kritlow** sent a hello and is hoping to get in touch with old friends of 1st U. Her address is xx xxxxxx Street, xxxxxx, NH xxxxx. Her e-mail address is xxxxx@xxxxxx.xxx.

At the recent Middle School Election Conference in Dayton, OH, our very own **Allison xxxxx** was elected by her peers to serve as the Heartland District’s “Transitional Age-Range Representative” (TARR). In her new role, Alli will be an active member of the District Youth Steering Committee, and will have a primary role in next year’s youth conference planning. Congratulations, Alli!

At the Con, our group was one of the two largest in attendance. We’ve heard that their leadership, maturity, and engagement was remarked upon by youth and adult leaders from around the Heartland. Thanks to adult volunteers **Nancy Macpherson** and **Rick Rinehart** for their leadership, and to all our youth for being such great ambassadors of First Unitarian Church.

Visiting the Church?

If you've visited us a few times and want to know more about First Unitarian Church, please join us at the next *Information Session*. Bring your questions and your story. We'll cover the history of First Unitarian Church, discuss the activities and groups here and how to get involved, and you'll get to know other visitors, friends and members in the process. To let us know you're planning to attend, please email memberministry@firstulou.org.

First Unitarian Church Information Session

On April 27

12:15 pm in the Church Parlor

We look forward to getting to know you!

Fellowship Dinner a Grand Success!

Many thanks to **Trish Packowski** and her band of helpers who turned a snowy, cold evening into a magical gathering of fellowship and fun. The sanctuary looked lovely, we ate excellent food, warmed up with the good wine, and sat back to enjoy a fabulous display of talent. To all of the entertainers, we are truly grateful for your willingness to share your talents with us.

Most of all, thanks to those who helped get out the word that we had postponed the dinner and to all of you who came out and filled the chairs on Sunday evening.

Sunday Morning Adult Round Table

Church Library
Gather at 9:30am
Program until 10:45am

Please join the **Sunday Morning Adult Round Table** at **9:30am** each Sunday for programs on a variety of topics. Youth are invited to participate.

- **April 6 -- *A Multiracial, Multicultural Future*. Rev. Bill Sinkford**, UUA President, talks about the continuing importance of anti-racist, anti-oppressive, multi-cultural work. DVD and discussion. **Jasmine Walston**, facilitator.
- **April 13 -- *Our Whole Lives -- Sexuality and Our Faith***. What is it? Why do we do it? OWL facilitators share what the program is all about and why this church thinks it is so important. **Carol Uebelhoer, John Grossman, Seana Golder** and **Stan Mudd**, leaders.
- **April 20 -- *Sustainable Agriculture***. Lessons from *Animal, Vegetable, Miracle* and *The Omnivore's Dilemma* in how we treat our bodies, our environment, and our legacy for future generations. **Kathy Rogers** and **Penny Nader**, leaders.

- **April 27 -- *Sustainable Agriculture***, con't. What is our role in the dilemma of ethical treatment of food resources? What can First Unitarian do to support sustainable and ethical choices? **Kathy Rogers** and **Penny Nader**, leaders.

No curricula meeting is scheduled in April. For more information or to suggest a program, contact **Lisa Willner** at 585-5110 or **Jasmine Walston** at xxx-xxxx. For information about child care, contact Lisa.



News and Notes

Notes from Your House & Grounds Committee

from Kathy Kremer

➔ Upcoming event sponsored by **First U's Friends of the Churchyard: Margaret Shea**, owner of Dropseed Nursery, will pay a visit to First Unitarian Church on **Saturday, April 5, at 10:00a.m.** Her presentation will include suggestions for our churchyard, and she will answer questions from the audience. Margaret has over 25 years of training and practical experience in natural areas management, restoration and biological inventory. Shea holds a Master's Degree in ecology from Indiana University. Dropseed Native Plant Nursery's mission is to provide high-quality, local-genetic plant material for restoration and landscape projects in Kentucky, Ohio, and Indiana. For more information about Dropseed, please go to <http://www.dropseednursery.com>.

➔ **Missing Something?** Stop by the house & grounds committee's "Lost and Found" table on Sunday, April 6, in the social hall after the service.

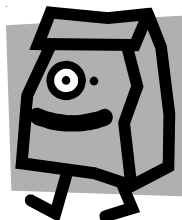
➔ **Be Prepared at First U for Hazardous Weather!** The Ohio River valley's traditional spring high-wind area is approaching. As a service to its members and friends, First Unitarian church offers the following information:

The Louisville and Jefferson County Emergency Management Agency has helpful advice on what to do in case of a tornado or other extreme weather conditions, such as: going to a pre-designated shelter room; taking an emergency-supply kit in room with you; listening to radio and television broadcasts for further instructions; remaining in the shelter area until local officials give an "ALL CLEAR." To find out more, go to www.louisvilleky.gov/EMA/IWantTo/Disasters.htm.

On Sunday, April 6, the House & Grounds committee will invite the congregation to find out where to go at church in the event of a tornado or other extreme weather. This will be repeated on Wednesday, April 9, during Chalice Night. Information for individuals with disabilities will also be available.

Brownbaggers

Our next meeting will be in the church library at 12 noon on April 21. After eating our brownbag lunch we will listen to **Sam Avery** give us a talk on "Human Survival on This Planet." If that's a subject more important to you than the comparatively petty stuff we've been listening to on TV these days, please attend. You may remember that Sam gave us an educated talk on Iraq about six years ago, advising against any military intervention there.



Stay in Touch via the List Server

Do you subscribe to the church list server? It's an email announcement list for members and friends of First U to share announcements of church activities, church-related business, and church news. It's different from the "chat" list, which is more informal, free flowing, and can cover a variety of topics. If you haven't joined the list server, go to our church web site, www.firstulou.org, and click on "Contacts" at the top of the page; then click on "Listserv." You'll find easy instructions there.

Building Use Calendar for April

Tues. April 1
Wed. April 2
 5:30pm Chalice Night
Thurs. April 3
 5:45pm Worship Cmte
 7:15pm Choir
Fri. April 4
Heartland District Mtg.
 7pm Drum Circle
Sat. April 5
Heartland District Mtg.
 10am Friends of Churchyard
 8pm Private Evt*
Sun. April 6
 9am Search Cmte
 9:30am SMART
 9:45am YAC
 10:55am RE
 10:55am Celebration of Life
 1pm Youth
Mon. April 7
 7:15pm RE Ministry
Tues. April 8
 6pm Board of Trustees
Wed. April 9
 5:30pm Chalice Night
Thurs. April 10
 4:30pm Natl Council on
 Public History*
 5:30pm Personnel Cmte
 7pm Outreach Ministry
 7:15pm Choir
Fri. April 11
 6pm UUCF
Women's Alliance Retreat
(Hopscotch House)
Sat. April 12
 9am House & Grounds Cmte
Women's Alliance Retreat
(Hopscotch House)
Sun. April 13
Women's Alliance Retreat
(Hopscotch House)
 9am Search Cmte
 9:30am SMART
 10:55am RE
 10:55am Celebration of Life
 1pm Youth

Mon. April 14
 6pm Book Club
 6:30pm Interweave
Tues. April 15
 6:15pm Ministry Council
Wed. April 16
 5:30pm Chalice Night
Thurs. April 17
 6pm Member Ministry
 7:15pm Choir
Fri. April 18
 6:30pm Interweave
 6:30pm Coming of Age mtg
Sat. April 19
 10am Know Literacy Festival
 & Book Sale
Sun. April 20
 9am Search Cmte
 9:30am SMART
 10:55am RE
 10:55am Celebration of Life
 1pm Youth



Mon. April 21
 12noon Brownbaggers
Tues. April 22
 7pm Finance Cmte.
Wed. April 23
 5:30pm Chalice Night
Thurs. April 24
 7:15pm Choir
Fri. April 25
 6:30pm Interweave
Sat. April 26
 9am Plant Sale
Sun. April 27
 9am Search Cmte
 9:30am SMART
 10:55am RE
 10:55am Celebration of Life
 12:15pm Visitor Information
 1pm Youth
 5:30pm CUUPs--Beltane
Wed. April 30
 5:30pm Chalice Night



Endowment Reminder

“Either they go, or I do.”-- Oscar Wilde, speaking from his death bed about his new bedroom curtains.

Did you know you can designate your tax deductible gift to the First U Endowment be spent on new curtains? Or a new refrigerator---how about a solar array?

Joe Kremer, Chair Endowment Committee

XXX-XXX-XXXX

First Unitarian Church
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Celebrations of Life

Sunday services begin at 10:55 a.m.

April 6 *Where there is Blessing.* Orthodox Christian theology asserts that we are born into a state of original sin. And one strand of Christianity suggests that the world is essentially depraved, and the path to God is best followed by removing oneself from it. But there are theologians-- including Matthew Fox, and The Rev. Dr. Rebecca Parker, President of Starr King Theological School--who are countering by elaborating on the ancient concept of blessing. **The Rev. Betsy Scheuerman**

April 13 *The Poetry of Mary Oliver.* In honor of National Poetry Month, I'll explore the work of the only poet honored as the Ware Lecturer, at General Assembly. **The Rev. Betsy Scheuerman**

April 20 To be announced. The Search Committee

April 27 To be announced. The Search Committee