



First Unitarian News

First Unitarian Society of Chicago 5650 S. Woodlawn Ave., Chicago IL 60637 (773) 324-4100

Both Sides

Rev. Nina Grey, Senior Minister

At first I couldn't find it mentioned anywhere. Not in our mission. There we talk about being a sustaining community, a beacon of liberal religion. Not in our vision. There we talk about deepening our personal ties. Not in the seven Unitarian Universalist principles. There we find Respect. Compassion. Acceptance. Encouragement. Nowhere could I find the word love, until I dipped into the statement of sources accompanying the principles, and there it is, the fourth of six sources drawn from our living tradition.



Jewish and Christian teachings which call us to respond to God's love by loving our neighbors as ourselves;

Nowhere in the consensus statements of who we are, does the word "love" occur. Yet every week we reaffirm its importance and centrality in our religious life when we say these words of affirmation: "Love is the spirit of our church."

The love we are talking about is not so much a feeling. It is more an act of will, a commitment to relationship, a decision to care about, care for and care with, a commitment to live out the caring both within our walls and within the larger world of which we are a part. As Mother Teresa knew, "love cannot remain by itself-it has no meaning....Love has to be put into action."

We see or hear news every day about love's weakness and failure, news of violence, war, and environmental destruction, and perhaps you, like I, realize we cannot respond to it all or every single day. And sometimes maybe you, like I, just turn it off so we can live our caring commitments with family and friends and at work. But sometimes I can't turn away. I was horrified when, yesterday, I heard a report on public radio about some U.S. doctors who collaborated and/or hid the reality of torture in military prisons, entirely ignoring the Geneva conventions. It evoked images of some of the worst examples of our human capacity for evil.

I am not implying that many doctors or many people in the armed forces would do such things. I realize that we, all of us, are capable of evil, as perpetrators, or as people who see nothing or say nothing in the face of evil. If in the face of such horror, I want to express the Spirit of Love at the center of my faith and being, I have to ask myself what am I called to say and do?

We will see love often in our church and bring it through our church into the world. Sometimes the form of love is service as it was so meaningfully during the First U visits to New Orleans this summer. Sometimes it is encouragement, as our RE teachers demonstrate it in classes for children, youth and adults. It can be praise. It can be saying no, even engaging in respectful, determined and sustained resistance. It can be saying an enthusiastic yes. There is place and need of all these to sustain caring relationship.

(Continued on page 3)

Sept. 2006

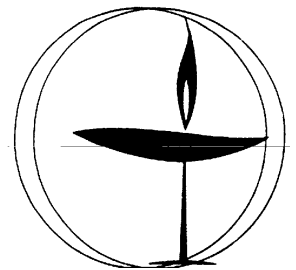
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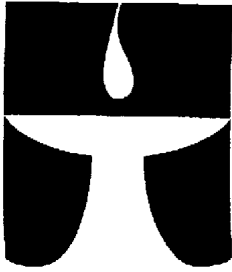
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Church Office Hours

Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 10:00 am - 9:30 pm

Wednesday - 11:00 am - 9:30 pm

Saturday 9:30 am - 6:30 pm

Contact the church office by calling (773) 324-4100
 Administrator Rick Brown's email address:
office@firsttuchicago.org

Church Administrator's Consulting Hours

Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 10:00 am to 1:00 pm

Wednesday, 11:00 am to 2:00 pm

Minister's Office Hours

Rev. Nina Grey

Mon. Day off

Tues. 1 - 5 pm

Wed. Study & sermon prep.

Thurs. 2 - 6 pm

Fri. am Study & sermon prep.

Fri. pm 1 - 5 pm

Also by appointment

Danielle Gerrior

Director of Religious Education

Office hours: Tues. - Thurs. 9 to 3

Committee Meetings this Month

CLARC - Sun. Sept. 24 at 1:00 p.m.

Communications - Tues. Sept. 12 at 7:00 p.m.

Executive Comm. - Wed. Sept. 6 at 5:30 p.m.

Mgmnt Consulting TF - Tues. Sept. 12 at 6:30 p.m.

Membership - Tues. Sept. 26 at 7:00 p.m.

9/11 Study Group - Sun. Sept. 10 at 6:30 p.m.

Pastoral Care Assoc. - Fri. Sept. 8 at 6:30 p.m.

Program Council - Tues. Sept. 5 at 7:00 p.m.

Racial Justice TF - Thurs. Sept. 28 at 7:30 p.m.

Social Justice - Thurs. Sept. 14 at 7:15 p.m.

Social Mission TF - Tues. Sept. 19 at 6:30 p.m.

Trustees - Thurs. Sept. 21 at 7:00 p.m.

Worship & Music - Thurs. Sept. 7 at 7:00 p.m.

First Unitarian News

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From the Crumbling Pillar

By Bette Sikes

Congregation President

We are off to a fine start for the 2006–7 church year. We have had a rich succession of Sunday morning services this summer. Many have visited our services and have



expressed interest in coming again. Our first two Social Mission Program offerings are going to support the Katrina CAREvan, as is the Third-Sunday offering in September. See **Ken Schug's** article about the Social Mission Program elsewhere in this newsletter.

The board has met twice. In July we elevated **Hank**

Henriques from First Alternate to regular Board member for the year, replacing **Neil Gerdes**, who resigned. We began work on a behavioral covenant for the Board. We authorized changes in the church budget to take care of failures to allocate appropriate amounts for pension and medical insurance costs. We worked on revising a policy made some time ago. (We will be revisiting all policies in effect for updates during the year.)

In August we learned of the engaging of a new Financial Secretary to replace **Marissa Zagone**. We began work on formalizing our Partner Church status with First Unitarian Universalist Church of New Orleans (FUUNO). We authorized Meadville Lombard student **Jim Moir** to perform a specific wedding.

Because several board members could not attend the scheduled late August Board retreat, we are postponing the retreat. More later.

In September I urge you to choose an area or areas to get involved in. To work on membership, join the Membership gathering in Saturday morning, September 2. To engage with the issue of youth in our church, plan to attend the Conversations on Saturday morning, September 16.

And, of course, we want to see you on Sundays: Labor Day Sunday, Water Communion on September 10, Religious Education program beginning September 17. The Choir will be back too. (Hey, how about joining the Choir this year?) There's much to look forward to.

If you have projects that you want to undertake, let me

know. We will keep bureaucratic resistance to a minimum. See church directory for e-mail and phone number.

I look forward to learning of your hopes, concerns, and dreams..

RE Report

By Danielle Gerrior

Director of Religious Education

The Reverend Barry Andrews wrote an essay entitled "The Soul Only Avails: Teaching as a Spiritual Act." In it he outlined seven principles for religious educators: respect the children, be true to yourself, promote community, make it (the classroom) sacred, cultivate your soul, grow in your faith, and put down roots. About the last principle, he wrote: "Thomas Jefferson once said that he was content to be a Unitarian by himself. If we all felt that way, Unitarian Universalism would be a one-generation phenomenon. If we feel grateful for the fact that this congregation was here for us when we needed it, we must take responsibility for making it a sanctuary for others."

I draw your attention to this wisdom now, at the beginning of a new church year, a new Sunday school year, because as a beginning this is an opportunity to remember why it is that we do what we do. Our children's religious education program exists to offer to our young people the tools they will need to be loving, spiritually-literate people, and to allow us to pass down our proud and brave tradition to another generation. We set a place for them at the table, and we also set a place for new families, children and adults, who want to be among us.

Let us take seriously this endeavor to educate our children, for the good of our movement, for the good of our congregation, for the good of our young people, and for the good of our souls.

Both Sides (cont.)

For love truly to be a spirit within a church, it takes individual and group intentionality, thoughtfulness, self-reflection, caring and honest communication. It takes the other words lived faithfully: respect, compassion, acceptance. As we begin a new year striving to be faithful, let us seek to embody the spirit of love, in our church and in our world. Amen.

With love, and a prayer for peace, Nina

RE announcements:

Parents - please remember to fill out a registration form for your children. These registrations allow us to know who is in our classrooms, what their needs are, as well as how to contact you about events and in the case of emergency. You can give completed forms to Danielle in person, or leave them in her mailbox in the office.

All are invited to go apple-picking on September 24 after social hour. If we are rained out, we will go on October 1. Look for more details in the order of service as the date approaches.

**YOU ARE INVITED!!!!
COME ONE AND ALL!!!**

Saturday September 16, 9:30 to 2:00
Congregational Conversation on Youth Ministry
Who: All Youth, All Adults, All Staff (i.e. Everyone!!!)

The congregational conversation is an opportunity for us to:

- ✓ Explore the strengths and weaknesses of our current youth ministry
- ✓ Strategize about how to strengthen this important ministry of our congregation and empower our youth leaders
- ✓ Have our visions and needs heard by the rest of the Unitarian Universalist Association

The Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations is embarking on a two-year process to revitalize and strengthen youth ministry. Our congregation's engagement in the process is essential to its success. It is an inclusive and transformative process, with the goal of better serving youth in our Unitarian Universalist movement. For more information on the Consultation on Ministry to and with Youth, visit <http://www.uua.org/trus/youth>.

Questions? For more information about how to become involved in this exciting opportunity for our congregation, contact **KEN SCHUG**

First Unitarian Christian Group
By Finley Campbell

The First U Christian Group met on Tuesday, August 8th in the Church Office for a semi-traditional Prayer and Bible Study activity. This event included a brief history of the prayer and Bible study programs in the black Baptist tradition touching on the revolutionary nature of prayer bands and study circles as a protest against slavery and as centers of resistance during the Reconstruction period, the connection of Bible study to the literacy movement in working class churches, and these Wednesday night activities as a participatory/lay led worship service, where often the profane and the sacred commingled.

See **Rev. Nina Grey or Pheifer Browne** if you wish to participate in the First U Christian Group, as a part of the Religious Pluralism Project.

CAREvan II: Compassion not Construction

By Ken Schug

The July Katrina CAREvan fortuitously revealed the human dimension of the 2005 Gulf coast hurricane tragedy when family members of the 96 year old woman whose home we were "gutting" *showed up to thank us. On the August trip we worked with a different relief group which placed their top priority on ministering to the emotional needs of the victims or their communities.

On Monday we helped an interracial community - based group called The Porch, whose list of Values is nearly identical to UU's "commonly shared principles" and take another step toward creating a "place where all can come to do and share their culture, take care of each other and our community"

Tuesday and Wednesday was devoted to gutting* a six-room house in St Bernard parish in which 97% of the houses suffered severe damage from wind and flooding. Katrina's eye passed directly over the center this parish, missing downtown New Orleans by about 8 miles. Flooding came from the Mississippi River overflowing due to the resulting surge of water. This family of four (parents about thirty with 9 year old daughter and 5 year old son) is now living with relatives in Lafayette about 130 miles west of New Orleans. His children have never returned to their former home and his wife visited for only the second time (briefly and emotionally) on the Tuesday we worked there. This family was selected for several reasons: the father has a rare disorder which, though not severely debilitating, makes normal employment difficult and requires expensive medication; most of the homes on their street have been gutted putting social pressure on them to do the same; and the wife had just started a nursing program which is not available where they are living now . Among our "special successes" were locating the father's high school football jacket, the daughter's three cherished American Girl dolls, and the christening gown of one of the children.

On Thursday and Friday we spent our time at our host church, the First Unitarian Universalist Church of New Orleans (FUNO), planting flowers, setting up an automatic watering system for the flower garden, hanging two gorgeous banners (made & donated by **Cindy Pardo**) on the outer front wall of the church, sanding and installing doors salvaged from the inundated church, and doing some chores at the homes of church members.

Another nice feature was that 7 of the 9 participants were from other Unitarian congregations, three from northern Illinois, one from Indiana and three from Connecticut(!); all wonderful people, so many new friendships were made.

It is the hope of many of us who participated in CAREvans I & II that our church can continue to provide support for our sister churches in New Orleans and for community projects that will contribute to rejuvenation of this desolated city.

*[Note: Gutting means cleaning out all furnishings and plasterboard down the supporting studs ready for mold treatment and restoration.]

First Forums in September

September 10

Katrina CAREvan Report

For a week in July and one in August, First U folks and their friends represented the Chicago area in New Orleans, helping to reconstruct that devastated city. Members of our Katrina CAREvan will share their experiences and reflections, as well as their photographs of these remarkable trips.

September 17

Movie: "Fahrenheit 9-11"

(See article on page 6)

September 24

"Race and What's Real"

Presenter: Kenneth W. Warren

Kenneth W. Warren from the University of Chicago is the Fairfax Cone Distinguished Service Professor in English & Literature, and has been named Deputy Provost for Research and Minority Issues. He has authored *Black and White Strangers: Race and American Literary Realism* (Chicago, 1993) and *So Black and Blue: Ralph Ellison and the Occasion of Criticism* (Chicago, 2003).



NEW "SOCIAL MISSION" HITS THE ROAD!

By Ken Schug

At our annual meeting last spring the congregation approved a new social mission program under which the total plate offering (unless designated as pledge payments or for other specific purposes) from the third Sunday service of each month would be used to support external social causes consistent with our Unitarian Universalist principles. The board subsequently appointed a task force to formulate operating procedures for this effort. Here is the task force report

1. An Advisory Task Force, reporting to the Board, will monitor this new initiative, will propose modifications as needed during the year, and will develop a proposal for long range operation.
2. "Third Sunday" plate collections will address quarterly themes with Sept continuing the Jul/Aug Katrina-related effort*, and themes for Oct-Dec, Jan-Mar, and Apr-Jun will be decided in time to publicize in advance of the collection dates.
3. Traditional collections for specific causes or "natural disasters", including those by UU-related organizations will continue to be solicited (just not on "Third Sundays")
4. Several open forums will be scheduled, starting September 19 (see below), to obtain input from all members and friends interested in helping shape social mission policies and to suggest specific organizations for support.
5. Preference will be given to social action projects (current or newly established) in which congregation members are actively involved in ways beyond monetary support.
6. The initial Advisory Task Force will have the following members: President-elect (**Cindy Pardo**), Chair or representative of Social Justice Council (**Ken Schug**), Chair or representative of Religious Education Council (**Cathy Harth Stern**), Representative of the Lay Pastoral Care Associates (**Madeiria Myrieckes**), and two "at large" members (**Lara Tushla**, and one to be appointed), with the Senior Minister (**Rev. Nina Grey**) as consultant.

The principal items in the above summary have been accepted by the Board of Trustees. All members/friends are encouraged to attend the next meeting of the Task

Force on Tuesday September 19, at 6:30 p.m. and/or to send comments, suggestions, or questions to **Ken Schug**, the Task Force convener or to contact any other member of the task force shown in item 6 above.

*[PS. Plate collections in July and August provided \$1272 in support of our church's two recent Katrina CAREvan trips to New Orleans to supplement several generous donations made directly to the fund.]

The 9/11 Study Group's Film Series

The next film in the 9-11 Study Group's film series will be Michael Moore's *Fahrenheit 9-11*, to be shown on Sunday September 17 at 11:45 a.m. in Hull Chapel. *Fahrenheit 9/11* is Academy Award-winning filmmaker Michael Moore's searing examination of the Bush administration's actions in the wake of the tragic events of 9/11. With his characteristic humor and dogged commitment to uncovering the facts, Moore considers the presidency of George W. Bush and where it has led us.

The film series was introduced in August with a showing and discussion of the thought-provoking film *Syriana*; a second film, *The Long Walk Home*, a moving film about the beginnings of the civil rights movement, was also shown in August. Join us for the third film in the series. *Fahrenheit 9-11* is both enlightening and entertaining and is bound to spark a lively discussion afterwards.

At its meeting on Sunday, August 20th at the home of **Elvira Pellitteri**, the Nine Eleven Study Action Group discussed the movie *Syriana*, a complex, feature film dealing with the involvement of oil investment, oil company mergers, CIA operations, and human relations, in an attempt to influence oil politics in the mythical country of Syriana. Planning was also done for the showing of future films in the series. We wish to commend Pegasus Educational Services for letting us use their Cinego AudioVideo Projection system at no cost as a part of their trial period. There was also a discussion, led by **Finley C. Campbell**, of Chapter 5, entitled "Good Trade, Bad trade, and Cheap Shrimp," of the book, *Lawless World*, by Philippe Sands. There was also a discussion of an article dealing with the oil connection in the Lebanese-Israeli War

REFLECTIONS ON GENERAL ASSEMBLY

By **Bobbi Campbell**

One of the things I had on my mind when I went to General Assembly was the rumor I had heard that our Seven Principles were about to be evaluated. The Seven Principles are important to me as a statement of what Unitarian Universalism stands for; they seem to me to be a much stronger way to look our faith than just enumerating all the things we do NOT stand for. And I was not happy about the prospect of seeing them changed.

I went to the session sponsored by the Commission on Appraisal and learned the section of the by-laws that established the Seven Principles in 1984 also contains a charge that they be evaluated after a period of time (which is now a few years past). The Commission on Appraisal is the body in charge of the evaluation. The Commission was established in 1934 during a period of institutional decline to "completely re-evaluate the structure and goals of the [denomination]."

I also learned that the Commission on Appraisal presents reports to the denomination every few years. Their most recent report, issued in 2005, is called "Engaging Our Theological Diversity." I read this report and found it so interesting that I also read their 2001 report "Belonging: The Meaning of Membership." A major theme in both reports is the importance of the church's membership developing a better understanding of Unitarian Universalism.

At the last plenary session of GA there was a report from Meadville Lombard Theological Seminary. In this report, **Lee Barker**, president of the seminary and one of our First Unitarian Church members, said that Unitarian Universalists are viewed as "grazers." They take some of the best points of other religions but are not known for the development of their own theology. He then introduced **Michael Hogue**, a new theology professor from Meadville Lombard, who strongly argued for a greater "theological literacy." Here are some quotes from his talk, which you can read on the Meadville Lombard website (www.meadville.edu).

- ✓ "Liberal religion needs to reimagine a public theology that is historically faithful and culturally relevant."
- ✓ "Most of all we need to face our loss of theological literacy....This loss has led to a situation in which UUism means almost nothing without significant qualification."
- ✓ "Our densely religious, ideologically polarized world

needs the public presence of a mediating liberal religious third way, a way between vacuous secular consumerism on the one hand, and a militant religious conservatism on the other."

I hope that we will be able to engage with the Commission on Appraisal as they evaluate the Seven Principles, but I hope that we will be able to do so from a position of greater "theological literacy." I think one way to start developing that literacy is for us to read and discuss "Engaging Our Theological Diversity," which is out-of-print but available on the UUA website (www.uua.org).

Write Your Story Writing Workshop Tuesday September 12 at 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the VOV Gallery

Do you want to write? Do you have a story to tell? Have you ever sat in front of paper and pen and not been able to write? Do you want to write easily and at the same time write interesting material? Come to this session filled with writing activities. We will write, build comraderie, problem solve, connect with our own stories. Bring your notepad and pens, or if you wish; your computer.

Led by **Eva Liljendahl**, Inspiration for Excellence. Liljendahl has led writing workshops for 14 years with hundreds of participants in the U.S. and in Sweden. Her method is simple, inspirational and brings out the best writing in writers and prospective writers.

Join the Choir!

The Choir's first rehearsal of the new church year is on Wednesday evening, September 6, at 7:00 p.m. in the Choir Room. This is the perfect time to join this lively group and make beautiful music together.

GA Report

By Finley Campbell

As a member of the Unitarian Universalist Christian Fellowship, I had a variety of inspiriting activities: First, there was an official presence of UU Christians at the General Assembly as an affiliate group and as members of churches. In addition, we had a small tent chapel where people suffering general assembly fatigue could come for spiritual re-creation. On Saturday evening, we had a small memorial service for all the murdered dead - enemies, allies, neutrals - victimized by the racist-imperialist wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. I also attended a workshop/panel on Christian UUism, where different speakers described how their faith developed. Finally, based on discussions I had with Rev. Ron Robinson, the outgoing Executive Director of the Unitarian Universalist Christian Fellowship, I got the following clarification: the UUCF is to be directed to people outside of First Unitarian Church, while the First Unitarian Christian Group was directed to people inside of the church, especially to those with Christian roots who wanted to follow Jesus, however defined, in freedom from dogmatic or creedal constraints.

As an unofficial representative of the Charlotte Lackner Anti-Racism Committee (CLARC) at the UUAGA, I carried out the following activities: I met briefly but informally with James Coombs, one of the DRUUMM (Diverse Revolutionary Unitarian Universalist Multicultural Ministries) youth leaders. I also met with another DRUUMM coordinator at his booth, and he encouraged me to develop a questionnaire to submit to their group concerning the information that I needed for the CLARC Report. In addition, I participated in a debate with two youth members of DRUUMM who argued about the importance of white youth having to meet separately from youth of color in order for whites to deal with their own racism. At another workshop on racism, I gave my on-going critique of separate but equal meetings as being inherently neo-racist. Finally, I was invited to attend the Journey Toward Wholeness Appraisal Committee hearings to share my criticisms of the Committee.



UU Advocacy Conference Report

By Ken Schug

"Greetings, Ken, glad you could come; I'm Jackie Ladd." That was my greeting when I entered the headquarters of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC to its friends) to start an intensive and exciting two day conference attended by about twenty UUs from around the country to talk about the statewide "advocacy" programs they are operating, planning, or (in my case) dreaming about

The UUSC was founded in 1939, and is presently led by Charley Clements who we didn't meet because he was on a trip to Guatemala, where the UUSC has had a presence for many years. UUSC is funded and operated independently of, but cooperatively with, the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA); its Mission Statement is "UUSC advances human rights and social justice around the world, partnering with those who confront unjust power structures and mobilizing to challenge oppressive policies." It focuses on the following four program areas:

- ✓Advancing economic justice. UUSC addresses the issues of globalization and privatization, with a focus on defending workers' rights and supporting living wage campaigns.
- ✓Defending civil liberties and access to democratic processes. In a world threatened by terrorism, anti-terrorism measures, and increasing authoritarianism
- ✓Promoting environmental justice. UUSC's primary focus in this area is promoting and defending the human right to water especially in communities facing water-service privatization and resource depletion.
- ✓Protecting rights in humanitarian crises. UUSC responds strategically to disasters, whether natural or man-made, focusing especially on defending the rights of marginalized and oppressed populations.

States represented by some very impressive people at the recent conference were California, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New York, Pennsylvania, and Washington. The purpose of the meeting was information sharing, brainstorming, and planning for the future. I plan to continue my efforts to arouse interest in Illinois UU congregations and will report on my progress and what other states are doing over the coming months. In the meantime, I would like to encourage formation of an Advocacy Network Task Force as part of our church's Social Justice Council; anyone interested please contact me or a note in my mail slot or the Social justice one in the church office.)

Environmental Task Force

First Unitarian Church once had an Environmental Task Force which was actively involved in issues with an environmental base, (bicycle path to Indiana, Cook County Forest Preserve clean-ups, working with Southeast Environmental Task Force, in Hegwisch, and People for Community Recovery in Altgeld Gardens, etc.) Today, with worldwide unity needed to fight global warming being an ever more pressing reality it is perhaps time to revive our active commitment to this environment that affects us all. We are thinking to begin our new initiative with study, through films and books and discussions, in order to strengthen our understanding of the issues and to have a solid philosophical foundation for our actions which will follow. All members and friends of First Church are welcome. Please see **Jon Rice** or **Ellen LaRue** if you are interested..

The One And The Many The Spiritual Pluralism Project

The One And The Many, the Spiritual Pluralism Project, has resumed. Participants are limited to joining only one group. Dialogue among the groups is part of the project.

The UU Buddhist Group will meet twice monthly to explore ways that Buddhist teachings can inform our Unitarian Universalist faith. We practice meditation techniques to help us deepen our spiritual lives. Newcomers are welcome.

The UU Christian Group meets twice monthly to explore the various ways that Christian teachings inform our Unitarian Universalist faith. Newcomers are welcome.

The UU Centered Spirituality Group explores a spirituality rooted in our experiences of connection and interdependence with all life. There will be chances for discussion, reflection, experience, learning, creating ritual, and sharing our own stories. Questions, doubts, wonderings, affirmations and curiosity are all welcome in this group.

The UU Humanists twice each month to discuss religious humanism and its impact and future in Unitarian Universalism.

For more information contact **Rev. Nina Grey**.

Chalice Circles

Chalice Circles are continuing. The first group, which meets on Wednesdays, is led by **Lori Rosenblum** and **David Breeden**. The second group, which meets on Mondays, is led by **Diana Gray** and **Bill Pavelec**. Members are still being recruited. Members are being recruited for the third group which will meet on Thursdays and be led by **Cindy Pardo** and **Joe Cherry**.

The purpose of the Chalice Circles, a Small Group Ministry, is to deepen participants' spiritual lives and the connections between us, as we gather in small groups with trained facilitators. Chalice Circles are open to church members and friends.

For more information contact **Phiefer Browne** or **Rev. Nina Grey**.

What Do You Say When...?

By Margaret Huyck

What can you say when you see someone in church who does not look familiar? How about a warm, welcoming smile? How about "I'm (Margaret), but I don't recall your name." (if the person looks vaguely familiar). "I'm (Tom), and I'm glad to see you here today!" From there, time to find out whether they are visiting for the first time, whether they would like to learn more about what is going on, what their interests are, etc.

I have met many wonderful folks this way! In addition, we are all part of our welcoming congregation, and including others is our spiritual practice.

Young Adults and Campus Ministry

First Unitarian Church Young Adults and Campus Ministry/ UU Campus Ministry resumes this fall with a presence at the University of Chicago orientation activities, including the Student Activities Fair, and will begin its twice monthly gatherings on the first and third Sundays of each month at 6 p.m. in Chris Moore Parlor and/or Hull Chapel. All young adults between the ages of 18 and 35 are warmly invited!



Racial Justice Task Force

By Finley Campbell

One of our cultural projects is checking out movies which have explicit or implicit racism. The movie which will be analyzed next for potential neo-racist elements is *World Trade Center*. **Pheifer Browne, Richard Jenifer, Ellen LaRue, and Kennie James** have agreed to help with this analysis. A full review will be in the October newsletter.

On Sunday, August 13th, The Cultural Group showed the movie *The Long Walk Home*, starring Whoopi Goldberg, as a commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the victory of the Montgomery Bus Boycott. The film made three key points: the importance of the role of black workers in that victory, the role of white supporters, symbolized by the Sissy Spacek character, and the specific role of black working class women who bore the brunt of "the long walk home." Special thanks to Pegasus Education Services for making its Cinego Audio-Video Projection system available to us at cost and to **Joe Harrington** and **Alex Wolf** for helping to set up the system.

First U Men's Group

By Finley Campbell

I attended our Men's group on Monday, August 14th. We had a good time, under the leadership of Brother **Joe Harrington**. We meet, usually, the first Monday of each month of the church year. According to the agenda, our raison d'etre is "To foster friendship and provide opportunities for men to become full stakeholders in the First U mission and vision." One idea which came up in the meeting was having some kind of health presentation for men, especially since I am having and Richard has had prostate cancer treatment. Another was to have a psychologist come out to discuss the mental health dimension of lower class black males in today's complex society. Finally, we agreed to have some kind of "mixer" around our favorite sport, football, to invite new members to join. For more information about the group, contact Brother Harrington.

Peace Day

A Peace Day Celebration will be held on Thursday, September 7, 2006 at 12 noon in the Daley Center Plaza. PEACE DAY has been celebrated annually in Chicago since 1978 and encourages positive ways to create peace within ourselves and within our world. The celebration will feature one minute of silence for world peace and the world peace flag ceremony/call to peace. Cultural performances by Najwa Dance Corps and Dance Group Ehecatl For information phone (773) 248-7959 www.peaceschool.org Sponsored by the PEACE SCHOOL, a non-profit educational organization and in cooperation with the CITY OF CHICAGO Mayor's Office of Special Events.

Church Growth Seminar

A day-long church growth seminar, sponsored by the Central Midwest District of the UUA, will be held Thursday, September 28 at Countryside UU Church in Palatine. The seminar will be conducted by Dr. Charles Arn, President of Church Growth, Inc., Monrovia, CA. He is a popular conference speaker on congregational health, renewal and growth. For information, call (708) 236-0831.



A Month of Sundays

Worship at 10:00 a.m.

September 3

Worker Justice

Guest Speaker: Ted Smukler,

Ted comes to us from the "Labor in the Pulpit" program of the Chicago Interfaith Committee on Worker Justice. He is Director of Public Policy for that organization, and has served on the staffs of both the SEIU and AFSCME labor unions.

September 10

Rev. Nina D. Grey
Rev. W. David Arksey
Danielle Gerrior

Water Ceremony Ingathering: We Are Not Our Own

We are not our own. We belong to the earth, sky, and the living waters. We belong to each other, to strangers we have yet to meet, to our community, and our world. On this first Sunday after Labor Day, we re-gather as a house of welcome, a community of all ages. For our Annual Ingathering Water Ceremony, we are invited to bring water from our separate life journeys, whether near or far, and to pour our water into a common bowl, symbol of our shared quest for truth and meaning, caring and justice. A community of all ages, we will contemplate and share our various summer moments: of nature's gifts, of family and friendship and community, of gratitude and generosity, of vision and hope for the future.

September 17

Rev. Nina D. Grey

Belonging

What are reasons for houses of worship, for gatherings in religious community? What does it mean to belong to a community of faith? Does belonging imply something about the ways we are with one another? What shall we give? What receive? This reflection looks to the heritage of Unitarianism and Universalism, which we inherit. It turns to the covenants of our religious ancestors, their expectations of themselves and each other, and it asks,

what are our own expectations of and visions for our faith.

September 24

Rev. Nina D. Grey

Sing of Living, Sing of Dying

The leaves are beginning to turn. Major western religions like Judaism and Islam mark this time as sacred, as a time of beginnings and blessings, of life renewing. Yet it is also a time of loss, of letting go. In the metaphor of the Rev. Thomas Mikelson, living and dying are parts of an "eternal process". Today we mark the Equinox and autumn's beginning. Our worship will reflect some of the gifts of our nature-based traditions. We will wonder about our own human part in this eternal process.

October 1

Sermon: Madeira Myrieckes
Worship Leader: Rev. Nina D. Grey

A High Holy Day Reflection on Forgiveness

In this service honoring the Jewish High Holy Days of Rosh Hashona (the New Year) and Yom Kippur (the Day of Atonement) Madeira Myrieckes will plumb the depths of that most difficult of human tasks, forgiving. This important and complex theme of the Jewish tradition emerges in many world religions and is a challenge for us in our daily lives.

Madeira Myrieckes is a long-time member of the First Unitarian Church of Chicago. She is the current chair of the Lay Pastoral Care Associates and offers many other of her gifts to the life of our church. She was the coordinator of the Sabbatical Committee in 2005, and she has attended UU Leadership School.



**First Unitarian Society
5650 S. Woodlawn Ave.
Chicago IL 60637**

September 2006

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 9:00 a.m. Membership Comm. Retreat
3 10 a.m. Worship. Worker Justice	4 Labor Day	5 4:00 p.m. UU Buddhists 7:00 Program Council	6 5:30 Exec. Comm. 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	7 7:00 Worship & Music Comm.	8 6:30 Pastoral Care Assoc.	9
10 10 a.m. Worship. Ingathering 11:30 First Forum 11:45 Great Books 6:30 9/11 Study Group	11	12 6:30 Management Consulting TF 7:00 Communications Comm. 7:00 UU Christians	13	14 7:15 Social Justice Council	15	16 8:00 a.m. Conversations with Youth
17 10 a.m. Worship. Belonging 11:30 First Forum	18 7:00 UU Humanists	19 4:00 UU Buddhists 6:30 Social Mission TF	20	21 7:00 Bd. Of Trustees	22	23
24 10 a.m. Worship. Sing of Living 11:30 First Forum 1:00 CLARC	25	26 7:00 Membership Comm.	27	28 7:30 Racial Justice TF	29	30

EVERY SUNDAY

9:00 Choir
9:30 Nursery
10:00 Worship
10:15 RE Classes
11:15 Social Hour

EVERY MONDAY

8:45 am Aerobics
3:15 Ballet School

EVERY TUESDAY

8:45 Aerobics
4:00 Ballet School
4:00 Chi. Childrens
Choir
7:00 Yoga

WEDNESDAY

8:45 Aerobics
3:45 Ballet School
5:15 Meadville-
Lombard Vespers
7:15 Alateen
7:30 Choir
7:30 Tai Chi
8:00 Alanon

THURSDAY

8:45 Aerobics
3:15 Ballet School
4:00 Chi Childrens Choir
5:45 Overeaters Anon.
6:00 Affinity
6:30 Sea Scouts

EVERY FRIDAY

8:45 Aerobics

SATURDAY

9:00 Ballet School