



# First Unitarian News

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

## Both Sides

**Rev. Dr. Nina Grey, Senior Minister**



The seeds are silently waiting beneath the snow or frozen ground. I can't see them, hear them, taste them, smell them, touch them, but I know that they are there. This gives me hope that winter will end, the snow or ice will melt, the sun will warm the earth. We will witness the blessing of new buds and then blossoms. We will be able to remove some of the layers that both warm our bodies and constrain them. We will feel the free, warm sun on our skin once again. I am convinced of some things unseen. Some say that is the essence of faith. But I know also that I am convinced because for year after year and decade after decade this is what has happened. I am convinced because I know a tiny bit about the realities that create climates and seasons. My faith is deepened by experience and knowledge. So when I look outside today at the frozen lake with its amazing ridges, waves caught and encased in mid-flight, this lake with its own frozen beauty even now, I can also see its flowing self and remember the colors of green and blue yet to come.

March is the season of unfreezing, of mud, of possibility, of hope. So we will celebrate the promises of spring's holy days on March 23, this year's Easter date, even if we have a major snow storm on March 22 (no, I am not predicting that), even if the promise of spring is still only a glimmer on the horizon. Bring a flower for our flowering of the chalice, and rest assured we will provide some flowers for you if you can't find any!

The seeds are silently waiting. In these March days we remember the blessings of nature and its renewing cycles and our necessary partnership with nature; we reassert the power of love to change hearts and transform the world; we allow freedom's struggles in ancient and modern times to inspire our own continuing allegiance to freedom. We find hope within both nature's revelations and the revealed truth in human journeys. We reclaim the faith of Unitarian Universalism that our principles and our lives and choices make a difference, even if sometimes we can't see the differences they make.

In faith, with love,

*Nina*

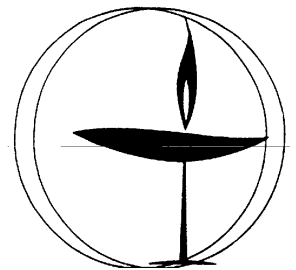
**March 2008**

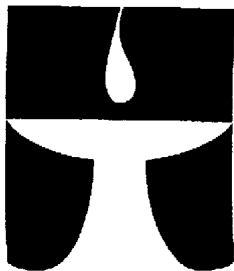
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### Church Office Hours

**Monday - Friday 10:00 am - 6:00 pm**  
**Saturday 9:30 am - 3:30 pm**

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

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Erica Ward  
 Director of Religious Education

Mondays by appointment  
 Tues - Thurs 10 am - 4 pm

### Committee Meetings this Month

CLARC - Sunday, March 23 at 1:00 pm  
 Communications - Thurs. March 27 at 7:00 pm  
 Executive Comm. - Wed March 5 at 5:30 pm  
 Membership - Tues. March 25 at 7:00 pm  
 Mgmt. Consulting TF - Tues. March 11 at 6:30 pm  
 9/11 Discuss. Grp. - Sunday, March 2 at 6:30 pm  
 Peace Action TF - Wed. March 12 at 6:00 pm  
 Program Council - Tues. March 4 at 7:00 pm  
 Racial Justice TF - Thurs. March 27 at 7:15 pm  
 RE Council - Wed. March 19 at 6:30 pm  
 Social Justice - Thurs. March 13 at 7:15 pm  
 Trustees - Thurs. March 20 at 7:00 pm  
 Worship & Music - Thurs. March 6 at 7:00 pm

### First Unitarian News

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[www.firstuchicago.org](http://www.firstuchicago.org)

## Board Talk

By **Cindy Pardo**

**Congregation President**

What a wonderful turnout we had for the “What If?” Growth conference! At least 45 adults, 6 children, several observers, and one terrific facilitator gathered on a Saturday in February and spent most of the day talking about why we want to grow, what might keep us from growing, how we want to grow, and what challenges we might face if we continue to grow. We were well fed (thanks **Ellen LaRue, Irene Vitullo, Lara Tushla and Bette Sikes!**), learned some important information about growth from **Dori Davenport**, our facilitator, and



listened to each other as we talked about what we feared about growing and what we hoped to accomplish as we grow. It was an inspiring day for us all, and I hope all who attended felt it was time well spent.

So, what’s next? The Board has authorized the creation of a Growth Task Force to further explore the issues raised at the conference. This Task force will report to the Board of Trustees, and I will be looking for folks to help in this effort. If anyone is particularly interested in doing this work, I’d be glad to hear from you.

March will be a busy month for this beloved community. On Saturday the First we will have “A Celebration of Ministry and Music” which will honor **Rev. Dr. Grey, Rev. Dr. Arksey and Michael Thorn** for their many years of service to churches. We will also be officially celebrating Rev. Grey’s Doctorate of Ministry. We are so fortunate to have these three talented professionals in our congregation, and I hope to see everyone there to celebrate.

On March 30th, get ready for our Annual Talent Auction! This is our major fund – and fun – raising event every year, and it is a good time for all. Of course, you all are finalizing your plans for the events and services you will be offering. Participating in the Talent Auction by an offering or by bidding is a great way for newcomers to meet others in the church in a more casual setting. And the Auction itself is great fun – just how high will the bid go for that special dinner or service? What new things can you learn from our church members? You don’t want to miss this wonderful event in the life of First Unitarian. Finally, in March we will begin talking about the

Stewardship of our church. At this time committees and councils are preparing their requests for the coming year’s budget. The Finance Committee will take those requests and make up an initial budget. The Stewardship Team will begin talking about financing the work of this church, and about the commitment each of us will make to sustain us. Most of us will be asked for our pledges during various meetings in April, and the Board of Trustees will make a final budget recommendation in time for our Annual Meeting on June 1st. This may seem like a long process, but it takes time and careful thought to create a balanced budget which will help us to continue living our mission, which this year means “Committing to Growth.” I urge you to think about participating at the highest level you are able to consider.

### A Celebration of Broadway

**Saturday, March 8, 7:30 p.m.**

**The swinging First Unitarian Church Choir follows the success of last year’s Broadway Night concert, with another evening of show tunes, old and new, ensemble and solos, romantic and comic. Come join the fun. Tickets \$15, seniors and students \$10. A reception follows the concert.**

### Child Care Task Force

The new Child Care Task Force began its work just weeks before the February 16th Growth Conference. The members, **Jeff Norris, Carla Young, and Erica Ward**, meeting with **Rev. Nina Grey**, developed a creative and varied child care program for that conference. The program included drama (paper bag theater), singing, storytelling, and other activities, for children ages 3 to 11. Care was also offered for babies and toddlers. The four care providers were: **Zarinah Ali, Moira Harden, Lia McCoo, and Seth Whittier**. The Child Care Task Force will continue meeting to develop policies for child care for activities at First Unitarian Church. Those who are interested in joining the task force are invited to contact Rev. Nina Grey.

## **This Month in Religious Education for Children and Youth**

### **March 3**

Preschool – Everyone is Afraid of Something

K-3 – Mawlid an Nabi (Islam)

4-8 – Islam II with a Guest

### **March 9**

Preschool – We Can Be Angry Without Hurting Others

K-3 – Holi (Hindu)

4-8 – Visiting a Mosque

### **March 16**

Preschool – We Remember What is Important to Us

(Easter)

K-3 – Valuing the Group and the Individual (A Peace and Social Justice Program)

4-8 – Integrating Our Experiences with Islam

### **March 23**

All Grades – Intergenerational Easter Service

## Talent Auction March 30

**Come One! Come All!**  
**Join the thrill of the First U. U. Talent Auction!!!**

**Yes! Our live Annual Talent Auction is here again! There will be real paddles, an auctioneer, and an array of wonderful items, services and offerings to bid upon. Delicious boxed lunches will be available to purchase (\$6.00) and "50/50 Raffle Tickets" will be sold (1 ticket - \$2.00, 3 tickets - \$5.00, 7 tickets - \$10.00). Half of the raffle ticket earnings will be split with the church and the owner of the winning ticket. Do circle March 30th, 2008 on your calendar and PLAN to COME!**

**What: 1st U.U. Annual Talent Auction**  
**When: Sunday, March 30**  
**Where: Hull Chapel**  
**Time: Approximately 11:45 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., immediately following lunch.**

**This is the major annual church fundraiser. So bring a happy spirit, a giving heart and a checkbook or cash to cover your bids. Support your church. Looking forward to seeing YOU at the Auction!**

### We Are Seeking Your Help!

The Talent Auction Committee is seeking volunteers to assist with the following tasks to help make the auction a success:

- ✓Raffle ticket sales (On Sundays in March))
- ✓Lunch set up and service (Day of the auction)
- ✓Paddle preparation (week prior to the auction)
- ✓Check In Table; distributing paddles to auction bidders (March30)
- ✓Table Check Out; tallying bids and collecting payment from bidders.

If you are interested in any of the above or think you may be able to lend a helping hand, please contact: **Madeira Myreickes or Margaret Kennedy.**

Look for the Talent Auction table in Hull Chapel during Social Hour.

### Talent Auction Donations are Being Sought

Talent Auction Donations forms are available to be filled out and given to the talent Auction Committee, no later than Sunday, March 16.

If you have a skill, talent or service you would like to share with others, please fill out a form and have your donation go "up for bid" at the Talent Auction.

Past offerings have included:

- ✓Baby Sitting, Pet sitting
- ✓Dinners
- ✓Excursions, outings picnics and tours
- ✓Food Items
- ✓Hand made clothing, Jewelry, and accessories for the home
- ✓Home repair and house decorating, painting
- ✓Lessons, dancing, Music, Organizing,
- ✓Tutoring

This is just a sampling. Use your creativity. Let's see what you can come up with. Not sure? Let's talk it over. Contact **Madeira Myreickes** or **Margaret Kennedy.**

### Welcome Suppers!

New members and friends are invited to a Welcome Supper on Sunday, March 9, or Sunday, April 13, from 5-7. Families are welcome. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet others in our community and learn more about our spiritual journeys. Please call the church office to RSVP by the Friday before the supper.

### Welcome New Members!

We are delighted to have five new members of our congregation, who were officially inducted on February 17: **Michelle Collins, Jan Holt, Molly McAdow, Lauren Rich, and Tina Frundt.** Be sure to find these folks during social hour and find out more about them.

## First Forums in March

*March 2*

### **Crop Diversity - Research on a Tuber Crop in the Peruvian Andes**

**Speaker: Eve Emshwiller**

The tuber crop "oca", *Oxalis tuberosa*, was domesticated in the Andes Mountains of South America long before Inca times, along with several other unrelated tuber crops, including the potato. Oca remains important for the food security of the traditional indigenous farmers in rural communities in the Andes. The diversity found within crops like oca and their wild relatives are also important resources for potential use in future crop improvement. But we cannot conserve this biodiversity without knowing more about it. We need to know where the wild species are found and how they are related to the crop. We need to know how the genetic diversity of the crop is distributed and the factors that affect it. This forum will describe research that aims to provide this kind of information, using both DNA data and ethnobotanical interviews. By understanding factors that affect the biodiversity of oca, we can not only conserve the diversity of this crop, but also of other clonal crops, which include any that are propagated vegetatively (potatoes, bananas) or by grafting (fruit trees).

Eve Emshwiller is Associate Professor of Botany at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. She was formerly on the faculty at the Field Museum and is a member of our church. For more information about her research, consult

<http://www.botany.wisc.edu/emshwiller/bio.htm> and [http://www.fieldmuseum.org/biodiversity/scientist\\_profiles/scientist\\_emshwiller4.html](http://www.fieldmuseum.org/biodiversity/scientist_profiles/scientist_emshwiller4.html)

*March 9*

### **My 66 Years in Ministry**

**Speaker : Rev. Viola Moore**

*March 23*

### **Meanings Within the Easter Season**

**Speaker: Rev. Dr. Nina D. Grey**

Our worship service is multigenerational and weaves together themes from Easter, Passover and Spring. This forum moves from there to deeper reflection and wider sharing. Rev. Grey will offer some thoughts on possible meanings that Unitarian Universalists have and may

seek and find within the Easter season. She will invite sharing and discussion about Easter time experiences, theologies, wonderings and meanings. All are welcome.

## Environmental Task Force

By Ellen LaRue

The Environmental Task Force met in February to discuss how to start an action plan. Here is a synopsis.

**Recycling:** The general view was that we do not know enough about the recycling program at the church or about how well it is working. Also it is almost certain that nobody else knows either. So as a first step we are going to find out what we are currently doing and then figure out how to make it work better.

**Throw-away paper cups and plates:** We discussed how we can reduce this generation of trash from social hour and church events. The main problem is dishwashing – who will do it, do they get the dishes clean, is the water hot enough for the dishwasher, who will load and unload the dishwasher, who will put clean dishes away. We decided not to take this up just yet. In the meanwhile people could bring their own cups for social hour. Coffee does taste better in a ceramic cup, and a nice looking cup can make an excellent fashion statement. The plastic fair trade coffee cups that are sold at the fair trade table have the advantage of a lid, which has saved me on more than one occasion – you can knock over the whole cup and only a few drops will spill!

**Public policy:** We want to be part of the public conversation about environmental issues. To get started on that, a couple of us plan to attend a workshop co-sponsored by Faith in Place on Sunday, March 9. The workshop, entitled Faithful Citizenship, will examine upcoming legislation and prepare the interfaith attendees for a day of lobbying in Springfield. Anyone interested in attending, please let me know – I can drive. In addition to legislation, we are looking at ways to make sure environmental issues are raised up in the national election campaign.

**Wildflower garden:** Since the current temperature was below zero, we could not even think about the garden.

Input and comments are welcome. Participation is also welcome, both on a regular and an intermittent basis.

## CLARC Book Discussion Group

The Charlotte Lackner Anti-Racism Committee (CLARC) will be sponsoring a series of discussions of the book "Soul Work: Anti-racist Theologies in Dialogue," beginning in mid-March. Everyone is invited to participate

"Soul Work" is a collection of nine essays by participants in a UUA three-day consultation on theology and racism that took place in 2001. It presents a diversity of views about the nature of racism and the fight against it. The authors include James Cone ("Theology's Great Sin"), Rosemary Bray McNatt ("The Problem of Theology in the Work of Anti-Racism"), Thandeka ("The Paradox of Racial Oppression"), and Paul Rasor ("Reclaiming Our Prophetic Voice"). Books will be for sale (\$20) during social hour on March 2 and March 9.

Meetings will be held the second Wednesday and the fourth Friday in March and April. For more information contact **Jodi Smith or Bobbi Campbell**.

## Sunday Morning Stewardship Meetings

The 2008-2009 Stewardship Campaign, "Committing to Growth," has already begun. The Finance Committee is developing a budget which we hope will encourage programs for more congregational growth.

The budget process goes public on two Sundays, March 9 and 16th from 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. in the Chris Moore Parlor. A continental breakfast will be available for all ages which will include coffee, juice and waffles. There will be separate tables for children in Aki's Place.

We hope to see many of you there for conversation and exchange of ideas.

## Be a Chalice Lighter

In the Unitarian Universalist tradition, Chalice Lighters are individuals who pledge money to support congregations in their efforts to grow. We have benefitted from this program, receiving small grants to support our Religious Education program. Each of you have an opportunity to contribute to denominational growth by pledging to contribute at least \$10 three times a year to a special fund. **Margaret Huyck** has information and forms; ask for them!

## Racial Justice Task Force Report

By Allan Lindrup and Finley Campbell

The Nature of Racism course met on Thursday, February 7, to discuss the theme of whether or not the Obama-Clinton campaign was neo-racist or anti-racist. We had a lively discussion, with agreements and disagreements respectfully handled. We concluded, with much agreement, that the way the media was treating the Obama/Clinton campaign was definitely neo-racist and that neither Obama nor Clinton addressed explicitly the problem of racism, thereby contributing, if unintentionally, to that neo-racism. Our next meeting will be on Thursday, March 6, 2008, 7:30 pm in Von Ogden Vogt Gallery, off the main sanctuary. Please enter through the Pennington Center doorway at 5650 S. Woodlawn. Follow the signs. For more information, contact **Dr. Finley C. Campbell**,

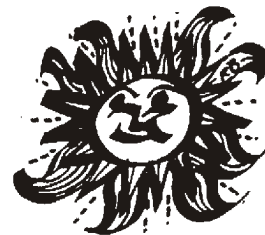
One of the things we discussed at the January 31 meeting of the Racial Justice Task Force was the Emancipation Proclamation Pageant. First of all, we agreed that it was an excellent performance with new people participating, such as **Cynthia Oakes**, a young student from Korea, the **Lisa Martin Eatinger** family, etc. In addition, veteran players, **Zarinah Ali and Moira Harden**, now college students, joined the program with their youthful antics as alienated youth, roles created for them and their peers many years ago. Later, Zarinah took her mother's role as the irate free black woman from Cass County, Michigan. Others also shifted roles: **Aneesah Ali** becoming a narrator, **Allan Harden** becoming Abner Peabody, **Richard Pardo** moving from sound engineer to the role of Jefferson Davis, and **Allan Lang** presented as Abraham Lincoln. One new scene was a slave auction of a father and child, mesquites (slaves so white skinned that they had to be specially branded). Unfortunately, we had a small turn out because of the timing. Next year, we plan to begin the performance at 12:30 instead of 1:30 pm. Our Freedom Brunch, sponsored by the Sea Scouts, under the leadership of **Richard Snow and Betty Holcomb**, was also a great success. They raised \$300 and then we raised another \$100 for them during the free will collection at the pageant. It also turns out that one of the Sea Scouts adult supporters is a Civil War enactor. We plan to invite some of them to participate in our next program. Another high point was the fact that we had a great write up in the local newspapers about our project to make the Emancipation Proclamation a statewide celebration.

In the criminal justice area, we discussed how the various candidates for Cook County States Attorney might contribute to making the system less racist, with greater attention to prosecution of corruption and abuse within the Chicago Police Department. We also endorsed a demonstration that was to occur on Valentine's Day, at noon, at the State of Illinois building, calling for Attorney General Madigan to have a heart and grant new evidentiary hearings to the dozens of men still in prison as the result of confessions brought about through police torture under Jon Burge and his associates.

Turning to culture, members and friends of the Racial Justice Task Force will, on Saturday evening, March 1, be going to see a performance of *White People*, which is being performed at The Gift Theatre, 4802 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago. In it three characters wrestle with racism – America's and theirs – in a series of confessional monologues. It was the winner of the L.A. Drama Critics Circle award and a Barrymore Award nominee for best play of the year. Then, on Friday evening, March 14, at 6:30 p.m., in Chris Moore Parlor, we will present another in our series of movies which highlight various aspects of racism. The movie for March 14 is "Paradise Road" which shows how people of color can be racist and that white people can suffer as a result. All are welcome and there is no charge for attending.

Future meetings of the Racial Justice Task Force will happen on the 4th (or 5th) Thursday of the month, starting at 7:15 p.m., in the RE Resource Room. The next two meetings, after this is written, will occur on Feb. 28 and March 27.

On Sunday, February 17, **Finley C. Campbell** delivered the Black History sermon at Blackwell Memorial AMEZion Church in the Kenwood area. In attendance were several people including First U members and friends **Jim Proctor, Pheifer Browne, and Jodi Smith**.



## UU Christian Group

By Phiefer Browne

At our February meeting, Rev. Grey visited the group to discuss with us her role working with groups creating worship. She emphasized the importance, in creating Sunday morning worship for the congregation, in paying attention to and being responsive to the spiritual and intellectual diversity of the congregation. She expressed hope that the principle of inclusivity would be reflected in the upcoming Maundy Thursday service on March 20 so that it would be inviting to any and all who might come to it. Those present at the meeting agreed to this but at the same time recognized that the specific Christian nature of the observance would be their primary concern. This service for example will entail readings from the pre-Good Friday narratives in the four gospels and a communion ceremony. The final activity at the meeting was a discussion of the symbolic significance of the near destruction of humankind in the flood in GENESIS.

The UU Christian Group plans to fine tune plans for the Maundy Thursday service at a special meeting and potluck on February 26th. For further information about this service, contact **Finley C. Campbell**. The next monthly meeting of the UU Christian Group will at 7 on March 11 in Chris Moore Parlor.

## Charlotte Lackner Anti-Racism Committee (CLARC)

By Finley Campbell

At our January meeting we discussed three main items of business: completing the letter to the Diverse Revolutionary Unitarian Universalist Multicultural Ministries (or Diverse, for short), which was done and unanimously confirmed that we send the letter and questionnaire off. It was a heartfelt conclusion of nearly a year and a half of slow, patient work.

Next, we heard a glowing report about the Sinfonietta concert, our annual Martin Luther King Jr. outing. Again, it was a wonderful experience with some 30 members attending, making a total of 40 people in all who took advantage of our discount rate. The Apostolic Mammoth Choir did several gospel numbers which made Orchestra Hall sound like a Baptist church. Paul Freeman led the symphony in a soulful version of Barber's Adagio for Strings, plus other modernist works. In addition, there was a piece by a black Baroque musician, offering us a rare opportunity to hear music of an Afro-European nature from a musical period dominated by Germans and Italians. The climax

was, of course, the singing of We Shall Overcome: first the Apostolic choir and the orchestra did the first version and then we did a stirring second version, with some coaching by Maestro Freeman. A good time was had by all in a celebratory spirit of multiracial unity.

Then we finally got around to our next major in church project, developing a reading group around the book SOUL WORK, dealing with a variety of UU theological views about racism, featuring Thandeka, William Jones, etc. **Bobbi Campbell** and new member **Jodi Smith** committed themselves to developing this project. See their entry. Membership rules were proposed as follows: to be a voting member, a person must attend at least six meetings of the nine scheduled ones and report in if they are going to be absent. In addition, they must accept our covenant statement.

**Finley C. Campbell** was voted to be the CLARC representative to the UUA conference on racial and cultural diversity entitled "Leading Congregations into a Multiracial, Multicultural Future: Now Is the Time." This exciting activity will be in San Jose, California with the renowned Rev. Jacqueline Lewis leading the keynote program. Finley will be bringing the CLARC vision to this event.

CLARC members **Finley C. Campbell, Kennie James, Bobbi Lammers Campbell, and Joanne Kent** continue to participate in the Building the World We Dream About sessions, led by Sister **Bette Sikes**.



## What They Were Saying at First Forum

### El Gallo Canta las Cuatro (The Rooster Crows at Four AM)

By Ken Schug

[The following is an adaptation of an account I wrote after a January trip to Nicaragua that I shared with church members at the 17 February 2008 First Forum.]

Last month I spent a week in Nicaragua accompanied by three undergraduate IIT students from the fall "IPRO 325 class" (a multidisciplinary team whose mission is to help the world's poor have healthier and more productive lives), to search for a possible site for future field work. Acculturation was gained by using home stay accommodations with a local family in the town of San Juan del Sur on the far southwest Pacific coast where we were greeted early each morning by a determined and persistent neighborhood rooster. Nicaragua is often cited as the New World country with the second highest poverty rate, second only to Haiti. Although the town of San Juan is becoming a tourist center, especially for surfers, and is attracting American and European immigrants able to purchase or build expensive homes, over half of the native rural population in the 250 square mile "county" live in thirty small villages, with populations from under a hundred to a few hundred, many of which are accessible only during the dry season (over very primitive roads) and are isolated during the two to three month rainy season (October-December) by deep rivers with no bridges. Most of this rural population live in extreme poverty, are at risk from several tropical diseases, and, when employed, get low wages and often work only part time.

The relatively recent political history of Nicaragua includes a time period (early 1980's) when the U.S. government trained local soldiers (contras) to oppose a popularly elected government (Sandinistas) which had, in 1979, replaced a long and brutal dictatorship under Anastasio Somoza and his successors. Despite this earlier intervention, the residents welcome Americans as individuals, though still harbor resentments due to our earlier intrusions, e.g., occupation by US Marines from 1909 to 1930!

We were fortunate to hook up with **Professor David Gullette**, a semi-retired English professor at Simmons College in Boston (where our church member **Susan Scrimshaw** is now president), who has been active for almost 30 years in many local initiatives which increase the quality of life of both rural and urban residents. He is a fluent Spanish speaker and has built strong

friendships and active collaborations with many local officials, including the town's mayor and the superintendent of schools. He arranged housing for us with a local family and spent many hours telling us about the history, economics, social structure, etc., of the region and taking us to visit several of the villages.

A partial list of existing or earlier programs in this county includes: Nicaragua's first free public lending library (with bookmobile service to all of outlying villages); construction of several rural schoolhouses; construction and distribution of biosand filter water purification units, eco-stoves that burn less wood and are much less polluting to house interiors than those in common use, and composting toilets that do not contaminate ground water and create fertilizer as a byproduct; an annual optometry clinic to provide free eyeglasses to children and youth (3,000 were distributed the week we were there); and scholarships to enable qualified youth to attend college.

Last fall semester, IPRO 325 had three sub-teams working on water purification, evaporative cooling for food preservation, and solar ovens for economical and healthier cooking. The director of a local "eco-workshop" where the devices listed above are built was very interested in the latter two and plans to use our preliminary IPRO results to carry out some experiments using local construction materials in anticipation of a possible summer "implementation" visit by a IPRO 325 students to assist in the construction, distribution, and evaluation of both existing and new technologies

### First Forum: The Roberts Court

By Ken Schug

This is a brief report on First Forum of 10 February 2008: Professor Geoffrey Stone, U. of C Law School on "THE ROBERTS COURT: WHERE ARE WE HEADED?" Professor Stone gave a fascinating (and to me, chilling) account of trends in the U.S. Supreme Court over the past seventy years and predictions for the future. He included many specific examples of recent Supreme Court cases, using terms like the following to describe majority decisions "intellectually dishonest in the extreme," "most conservative court in living memory," "driven by personal beliefs," "direct abandonment of the role of the court", and "overriding legislation which tries to help the disadvantaged."

Another insight I found very powerful was the serious  
(Continued on following page)

**Roberts Court (cont.)**

consequences of the process by which cases come before the supreme court, namely by vote of the sitting justices. This enables a conservative majority, if they so choose, to select only those cases in which they can most effectively promote their individual personal agendas and ignore many cases which may address important societal concerns.

He pointed out that, except for Justice Ginsberg, the court has been shifting to the right for the past 40 years. He was not optimistic about the future composition of the court because the four oldest justices, and thus most likely to retire over the next eight years (Ginsberg, Kennedy, Souter, Stevens) are not part of the “conservative activist” group of judges dominating current decisions. He ended by pointing out that the court could become even more conservative over a very long time period if we elect a President likely to make appointments of judges similar to the most recent.

**Central Midwest District Assembly**

The annual UU Central Midwest District Assembly will be held April 25-27 at the Hilton St. Louis Frontenac Hotel, St. Louis, MO. Theme of the assembly is “Church for the 21st Century: Shaping Our Religious Future.” Registration is available online at [www.regonline.com/131778](http://www.regonline.com/131778). The keynote speaker will be Diana Butler Bass, an author and expert on religious trends in America. The title of her talk is, “The Practicing Congregation: Imagining a New Old Church.” This will be followed by an “experiential presentation on ‘When the Spirit Says Do: Make Your Worship Come to Life,’ led by Rev. Dr. Michael Tino, Minister of the UU Fellowship of Northern Westchester in Mt. Kisco, NY. There will also be workshops, meetings, entertainment and social events.



# A Month of Sundays

Worship at 10:00 a.m.

## March 2

Rev. Dr. Nina D. Grey

### Who We Are, Who We May Become

This morning we will reflect on a Unitarian Universalism for the 21st Century. We will think about our own church mission and vision. We will ask in what ways we are already contributing to the future of Unitarian Universalism and how we may yet help to shape the identity and vision of our larger faith.

## March 9

Rev. Dr. Nina D. Grey

### Amma: A Peacemaker for our World

In celebration of Women's History month, we honor Amma, a spiritual Hindu leader who demonstrates peacemaking through her ideas, her spirituality, the way she lives values in the world, and how she inspires others. We ask what lessons we may learn from her teaching and example.

## March 16

Rev. Martin Wolfe

### Why I Haven't Read Harry Potter

The tale of Harry Potter is a contemporary bestselling version of what Joseph Campbell described as the hero's journey, a tale that has been related in a thousand forms. Well known variations include the life of Buddha and Jesus - but also often includes the lives of many less conspicuous people. Several people have expressed surprise to hear that I have not read any of the Harry Potter books - nor do I have any burning desire to read them. In this service, I will discuss my reasons, which very much differ from those offered by some conservative critics of the series.

The RE Council will be hosting the Social Hour today in Hull Chapel. Please join us for good company and good food and take a few minutes to look at our displays about what the RE Council, teachers, children, youth and families have been up to this year.

See the bio of Rev. Martin Wolfe on page 11.

## March 23

Rev. Dr. Nina D. Grey

Erica Ward

### Revelations of Hope:

### A Multigenerational Celebration of Easter, Passover and Spring.

Bring a flower for the Flowering of the Chalice!

We join in joyful multigenerational community to celebrate and breathe in together the holy days of the spring season and their meanings for us. We will flower our chalice and mark Easter, Passover and the coming of Spring with reading, song and story. Join us as we express gratitude for the renewal of life and hope.

Our young people will enjoy our annual Easter Egg Hunt after today's service. Rev. Nina Grey will lead a First Forum on Possible Meanings of Easter for Unitarian Universalists after this service.

## March 30

Rev. Dr. Qiyamah A. Rahman

### Standing on the Side of Love: Justice Sunday 2008

More and more the world is closing in and shrinking. The global village is here at hand and the consciousness of the world is expanding tremendously. Religious institutions such as ours must be ready in these fragile and vulnerable times to assume a leadership role as spiritual guides on this journey toward a just and equitable world. We must be engaged with public issues as well as interfaith dialogue and modeling to the world what the best in humanity looks like as we contribute to the critical thinking of the times. Anything less will simply not do. On this UUSC Justice Sunday, come out and let us stand together on the side of love.

Today we will acknowledge the work of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee and invite our congregants to support the UUSC with contributions and memberships.

Our Annual Talent Auction will follow this service.

See the bio of Rev. Dr. Qiyama Rahman on page 11.

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

**March 2008**

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Saturday</b>
2 10 a.m. Worship. Who We Are 11:30 First Forum 6:00 pm Soulful Sundown 6:30 pm 9/11 Discussion Group	3	4 7:00 Program Council	5 5:30 Executive Committee 5:15 UU Buddhists	6 7:00 Worship & Music Comm.	7	8 7:30 Concert: Celebration of Broadway
9 10 a.m. Worship. Peacemaker 11:30 am First Forum	10 7:00 pm Men's Group 7:00 pm UU Humanists	11 6:30 pm Mgmt Consulting TF 7:00 UU Christians	12 6:00 Peace Action TF	13 7:15 Social Justice Council.	14	15
16 10 a.m. Worship. Harry Potter	17	18	19 6:30 pm RE Council 6:30 UU Buddhists	20 7:00 Trustees	21	22
23 10 a.m. Worship. Easter 11:30 am First Forum 1:00 pm CLARC 7:00 UU Earth Based Spirit. Grp	24 7:00 UU Humanists	25 7:30 pm Membership Comm.	26	27 7:00 Communications 7:15 Racial Justice TF	28	29
30 10 a.m. Worship. Love, Justice 11:30 <b>TALENT AUCTION</b>	31					

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 Childens Choir  
 5:45 Overeaters Anon.  
 6:00 Affinity  
 6:30 Sea Scouts

EVERY FRIDAY

8:45 Aerobics

SATURDAY

9:00 Ballet School