



Building Community with Compassion, Service, Diversity, and Spirit

We express compassion through caring, love and support for others.

We serve by promoting our principles and purposes through leadership, giving and action.

We are inspired by diversity to accept, respect and celebrate differences and interdependence.

We grow in spirit through our religious experiences, inquiry, education, reflection and transformation.

Welcome Rev. Holly Baylies!

Rev. Holly Baylies comes to us from the UU Church of Wakefield, MA. A 5th-generation UU, she received her theological degree from Manchester College in Oxford, England and was ordained in 1991. Holly (whose given name is Helen) previously directed Our Place, a non-profit support program for chronically mentally ill adults and as a bereavement counselor (both in Massachusetts) but decided she needed to spend more time dealing with the living! Besides being a teacher prior to ministry, she has a wealth of other life experiences, from working on a tugboat on Boston Harbor to teaching tennis, to working at a hardware store. The experiences help her understand people and minister to them, she says. During her personal time she enjoys woodworking, kayaking, snowshoeing and singing.



Minister's Musings

The Moving Sale was only a week away. The newspaper ads were done, signs posted- rain or shine, sleet, hail, monsoon or sandstorm, it was a "go" and there was no turning back... not this time. The endless collections of meaningful "stuff" accumulated over many years of events and memories surfaced from boxes and places I had long forgotten existed. My irreplaceable, treasured "stuff" had to be dealt with, not peered at and re-shelved for another day. Some keepsakes met the trash bin with ease, like the graying, ratty cotton puffs saved from the fields of South Carolina and the amazing giant screw that flattened my tire 10 years ago, or the myriad of raggedy T-shirts each with a story of times gone by. Others needed a day or so pondering before I could give them away or box it all up for sale.

D-day was the hottest of the year teetering in the upper 90's. The ache in the pit of my stomach returned as I scanned 60 years of memories so carefully laid out in the yard, soon to be gone forever. The word had gotten out and the sale was on in full force. Squeals of delight came from two ladies, close to tears, whose discovery of .25 cent sunglasses fitted over their glasses 'made their whole day.' A child cradled his "new" wheel worn matchbox car with gentle delight and an elderly neighbor overjoyed with his purchase, wheeled away his prize, the electric snow blower, as he couldn't shovel anymore. There was much unexpected joy in my yard that day.

As the day came to a close and little was left to pack up, something else besides the loss of my treasures came clearly into focus. Not the reconciliation of lost memories, or items I hesitated to sell, but my three friends, whose legacy lasted a lot longer than my toys and possessions. Friends who moved quietly among the shoppers, lifted furniture, made change, ran for drinks, priced and boxed, encouraged and listened.

When the last item was packed up to give away, I looked at my friends, sweating and exhausted, I knew exactly how little I had lost and very much I had gained.

Change is always difficult, be it in our own lives or in the life of a church but in end it is always about the people, those we know and love and those we have yet to meet... and the rewards are priceless. I am so looking forward to meeting you all.

Sincerely, Holly

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 Church Office Hours: 9:00-3:30, Tues.- Fri.

Interim Minister:

Rev. Holly Baylies

Secretary:

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Music Director:

Jonathan English

Director of Religious Education:

Sonja Lamicela

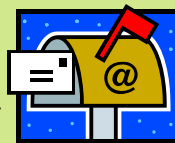
RE Assistant: Glenn Gesek

President: Joe Cavallaro

Vice President: Peg Flanders

THE OFFICE NEEDS YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS

- ▶ **Would you like to receive the Newsletter in FULL COLOR electronically as a PDF?**



- ▶ If you are an Active Member and received our email about the proposed budget for 2008-2009, we have your current email address. If not, please email the office to begin receiving the Newsletter electronically - in color!

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INGATHERING SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 7th WATER COMMUNION SERVICE



It has been a tradition in my ministry to begin each new church year with a Water Communion Service. Each parishioner is asked to bring a small vial of water (film canisters work very well) from a place of meaning to you, or even tap water symbolic of that special place. During the service each member or friend will come forward and say a few words about why the water is meaningful and pour it into a common bowl which will be blessed by our community and used in Child Dedications to welcome a new life into our church as a gift from the congregation.

I am excited about our year together and hope you will all be able to attend our Ingathering Sunday.

Thank You

Holly



SUNDAY MORNINGS AT FIRST UU

SERVICES START AT 10:30 AM

September 7 “Ingathering” Water Communion Service

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–Rev. Holly Baylies

September 14 “A Hardware Theology”

Every profession has its own theology— lessons learned from behind the tool department counter!

–Rev. Holly Baylies

September 21 “Misquoting Jesus”

... is the reason why the UU voice is so critical to the evolution of our society, now and in the years to come.

–Rev. Holly Baylies

FROM ME TO UU! REACHING IN AND REACHING OUT WITH OUR UU FAITH



YRE News

The new church year is fast approaching, and this year's theme for Youth Religious Education is "Who Are UU." We'll be focusing on UU Identity in all of our curricula. As you may know, we are a cooperative Religious Education Program, so while everyone is busy with the Transition, and Search for a new Settled minister, it continues to be important to be there for our growing children. Please remember to call Sonja at 440-1818 to sign up to teach in the program. Adults of all ages, with or without children are welcome and appreciated.

—Sonja Lamicela, DRE

Adult RE News

The Seekers will have their first meeting of the year on September 14 at noon in the Parlor. The purpose of the Seekers is to discuss and share experiences of spirituality. At our final meeting of the 2007/08 year, on May 25, we considered some possible topics for this 2008/09 year, including the following:

- Continuation of the series of DVDs on philosophy and religion in the West, led by Eric Holzwarth
- Introduction to the Network of Spiritual Progressives, tapes and/or a book, by me
- Viewing some tapes on Transcendentalism, Gracia
- Viewing some tapes of lectures by David Bumbaugh, Gracia or Jerry Clausen
- Discussing one or more books, e.g. "Stumbling on Happiness" by Daniel Gilbert, suggested by Eric.

At this meeting we will entertain ideas about which of these, or what other topics, to pursue this year. Please come and share your ideas. My hope is to begin with one of the topics as soon as possible.

Richard Levy

CREATIVE CONTEMPLATIVE MEDITATION

Orientation Sat Sept 27th at 10 AM for those interested in the practice of Creative Contemplative Meditation. Various practices will be introduced and how group might like to move forward either Individually or collectively will be discussed. Have questions contact Gracia Sears at ghsears@earthlink.net or call 445-1242.

On Being a Welcoming Congregation – by Maria Brown

The FUUSS website visitors page displays the following Welcoming Congregation Resolution:

"After a two-year process of study and reflection on the role of religious doctrine and religious institutions in perpetuating prejudice and misunderstanding toward gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered people, the members of this congregation adopted the following resolution at a Congregational Meeting on March 8, 1998. Be it resolved the First Unitarian Universalist Society of Syracuse shall henceforth be known as a Welcoming Congregation. We celebrate and support the lives, relationships, religious quests, and contributions of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered people, and their families and friends. We affirm and promote the full participation of all people at every level of our congregation and community. We pledge our society's commitment to do its part to heal centuries of religious and societal based oppression and prejudice, making our church a sanctuary of spiritual growth and welcome for all."



Recently, the Board has actively pursued a "revival" of a free-standing Welcoming Congregation committee instead of bundling it into the Membership Committee. I have agreed to serve as a co-chair of that committee.

We aspire to have representation on this committee from all affected groups, including allies to the GLBT community. Because I am a lesbian woman, we are still looking for male members, to better equip us to reach out to the gay male community, as well as anyone who identifies as bisexual or transgender, who would like to participate in reaching out to those communities in the Syracuse area.

I am also looking into establishing a local Interweave chapter. For information on Interweave, including their mission statement, you can visit their website at: http://www.interweavecontinental.org/index.php?title=Main_Page.

And for additional information about the Welcoming Congregation Program, you can visit the following UUA website:

<http://www.uua.org/leaders/leaderslibrary/welcomingcongregation/index.shtml>.

Membership in this committee is open to all members of the congregation, regardless of sexual identity, sexual orientation, or gender expression. Please contact me if you are interested in being a part of the Welcoming Congregation committee, or if you would like to participate in a local Interweave chapter.



Ingathering Potluck
September 7
Immediately Following Service



Bring a dish to share.
All are welcome to join in as we welcome
Rev. Baylies as our new Interim Minister.

St. Lawrence District News

The St Lawrence District Annual Religious Education Ingathering is in Rochester this year on Saturday, September 27, from 9:30am to 3:30pm.

All interested are WELCOME to attend!

Rev. Dick Gilbert will be keynote speaker, and we'll meet with our new District Program Consultant, Karen LoBracco, at a round table in the afternoon. RE folk are FUN. Please join us!

Email me directly if you'd like me to send registration form as an attachment. –Ellyn Lentz (Ellynbl@aol.com)

2 (Tue)	7:00 p 7:00 p	Chalice Circle (P) MSC (P)	Key: B=Betts Room BR=Big Room (room at the end of the RE Wing hall) FH=Fellowship Hall K=Kitchen L=Library (RE Office) MR=Music Room N=Narthex P=Parlor S=Sanctuary TR=Teen Room
4 (Thur)	7:15 p	Choir Rehearsal (S)	
7 (Sun)	10:30 a	Worship (S) Pot Luck after service to welcome Rev. Holly Baylies	
8 (Mon)	7:00 p	Chalice Circle (P)	
9 (Tue)	7:00 p 7:30 p 7:30 p	MSC (P) WSC (BR) Membership Cte. (TR)	
10 (Wed)	1:15 p	Chalice Circle (TR)	
11 (Thur)	7:15 p	Choir Rehearsal (S)	
12 (Fri)	12:00 p	Lunch Bunch (P)	
13 (Sat)	9:00 a	Board Retreat (P)	
14 (Sun)	10:30 a 12:15 p	Worship (S) Seekers (P)	
16 (Tues)	7:00 p 7:00 p 7:00 p	Book Study (P) MSC (TR) Chalice Circle NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	
18 (Thur)	7:00 p 7:15 p	Constitution Committee meeting Choir Rehearsal (S)	
20 (Sat)	8:30 a	MSC (BR)	
21 (Sun)	10:30 a 12:00 p 12:15 p	Worship (S) MSC (BR) Chalice Circle (P)	
22 (Mon)	7:00 p	Chalice Circle (P)	
23 (Tues)	7:00 p	Board Meeting (P)	
24 (Wed)	1:15 p	Chalice Circle (TR)	
27 (Sat)	9:00 a	Labyrinth & Mandala Journey (P)	
28 (Sun)	10:30 a 12:00 p	Worship (S) MSC (BR)	
29 (Mon)	7:00 p	Green Sanctuary (P)	

News From The Ministerial Search Committee ...

Hooray! We're on our way! The Ministerial Search Committee had a very successful retreat on August 10. We developed a covenant for the committee members and agreed on rules for how we will work together. Each member has a specific role: Chair – Paul de Lima, Arranger – Marjorie Mellor, Packet Editor – Diana Bellini, Reference Checker – Dana Sovocool, Secretary – Nancy Clausen, Survey Coordinator – DeAnn Buss, and Treasurer – Randy Kalish. However, we all will be sharing in the many tasks to be completed.

The committee needs input from the congregation for information the church wishes to convey to ministerial candidates. LOOK FOR A SURVEY that will be coming out in early September. Please give it your best effort. It is important to the Search Committee, to you, the congregation, and to the new minister. It's YOUR voice we need. Thanks, from the Ministerial Search Committee.



The Church Mouse

I would like to ask for prayers and healing wishes for my mother and my family in Kentucky. I have been down there these past few weeks and will be returning from time to time throughout the Fall to be with my mother, who is suffering from metastatic lung cancer. We learned this news in July—the week of her 75th birthday.
Many thanks, Kathy Sowards



Thank you for your help!

Thank You

Special Thanks to Phil Klein, for his generous donation of two very special baby dolls for our Children's OWL curriculum. They are especially hard to find, and will benefit our program for years to come.

Sonja Lamicela, DRE

Recent Usher & Greeters:

Jim & Pam Anderegg, Ellen Lentz, Marilyn & Fred Lyman, Gracia Sears, Jerry Clausen, and Tim Rice.



On Wednesday evening, July 20th around 20 persons joined in a farewell communion service to celebrate our time with Rev Martha Munson. The theme for this service was "Tree of Life" because trees like congregations have the wonderful ability to come alive after a dormant or turbulent period. Part of the ceremony involved the presentation of a small tree that will be planted near the church. This fall my husband, Rick and I will bring it back and plant it near the church as a symbol of the strength of this congregation and inner resilience which Martha has fostered through her pastoral shepherding and wise council. Mindie Holgate drummed to begin the service. Valorie McNickol and Lynda Myers concluded the service with a beautiful rendition of "Amazing Grace". Jane Pickett assisted with the service. I thank you all and all the participants that made this such a meaningful coming together.

Gracia Sears

Tree of Life

MOURNING AND MOVING FORWARD

The recent First Harvest service on August 3rd, run by Alan Stillman, came the week after we heard of the tragedy in Knoxville. Our thoughts were with both congregations as they met with the UUA for healing. Several stations where people could express grief and regrets, as well as the typical harvest of preserves and sustenance, helped us remember the courage of both congregations as they dealt with their losses and moved forward in faith. Taking a flower from this station symbolized regret. Leaving the cut flower behind in the dish allowed us to move forward toward healing. After the service, letters were sent to the congregations and to our former member, Cynthia Crosby, who was present on that painful day. Information on how to help is available at <http://www.uua.org/news/>



HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBILITY DONATION

Lynda Myers has donated the wheelchair that helped her get through her knee replacement surgery for use in the church. For now it is located under the coat rack in the lower entry until it finds a permanent home Please consider using it for folk who might have trouble walking the long way to the elevator or might be more comfortable in social settings in the Fellowship Hall. One more step toward full accessibility!



Getting to Know You

Sonja Lamicela - Director of Religious Education

Our DRE Sonja Lamicela is starting her second full year with us. Before becoming our RE Director, Sonja spent 10 years teaching in UU Religious Education programs and volunteering in many other church roles including Treasurer at her former congregation, Worship Services Committee Chair and ad hoc Music Coordinator. She is currently working to attain status as a Credentialed Religious Educator.

She and her husband Jeff have three boys in the RE program: Nick, 15 in the teen group; Vincent, 12 in Coming of Age; and Carl, who is a 4th grader. Sonja was raised by non-practicing Christians and began her own spiritual search in her junior high school years. Her spiritual path has taken her through Evangelical, mainstream Protestant, Catholic, Pagan, and Eclectic Mysticism to a Spiritual Humanism that blends comfortably into Unitarian Universalism. She was a La Leche League leader and disability rights activist, and embraces a philosophy of inclusion of people with all abilities from diverse backgrounds.



Feel free to stop by the RE office and say hi if you haven't already met her!

Names that I Use Besides Youth Advisor

by

Glenn Gesek, Youth Advisor for the past 4 years

1. "Dada". Many of you know Kai, my 6-year-old son. He enjoys the challenge of trying to sneak a cookie from the kitchen before the Service begins. 2. Husband. I have been hearing that name from Tanya for 9 years now. 3. Teacher. I teach elementary school-aged students with special needs. I have been teaching in Baldwinsville for 7 years, but I began my teaching career in Pasadena, Texas. 4. Coach. This year, I am coaching boys' volleyball in Baldwinsville. 5. Middle Blocker. This is the name that I use when I play volleyball, something I do whenever I get the chance. During the past summer, I played in the Empire State Games and actually came home with a bronze medal. And, the list can go on: brother, uncle, reader, writer, runner, music-lover, dog-owner, cook.... Whew! Who knew that I was called so many names?

A Word from FUUSS's Music Director

What an exciting year this is going to be! John Spradling is coming on board as our keyboard partner and Holly will be leading us in word and thought. And we're going to make great, GREAT music.

Without question one of the most exciting things about being the Music Director here at First UU is the opportunity to share music of all kinds - from all faiths, countries and centuries. Below you will see the schedule for the fall, full of a wide variety of music spanning from 1630-2008! Highlights include music with Cello, Guitars, Drums and a Winter Solstice Celebration with our kids, dance and instruments. Next Spring our Music Sunday will feature one of the most beautiful pieces ever written - Dixit Dominus by G. F. Handel, and will spotlight our Choir, two Soprano, Alto, Tenor and Bass soloists, strings and continuo. If you don't know this piece you're in for a rare and wonderful experience.

All members and friends if you were waiting for the right time to join the music program THIS IS IT!

We rehearse every Thursday from 7:15-8:45, and you are ALL WELCOME - young adults this means you!

The choir is only as good as its members and we welcome any of you that would like to join. No audition or experience needed, just the desire to make friends and wonderful music.

Remember, any of you, young and old alike, who would like to play an instrument, sing a song, dance a dance, beat a drum, rock the house with your band - EVERYONE is welcome, and strongly encouraged to take part. I promise, this is going to be a fantastic year. Here is a sampling of the music for this fall (just a partial listing due to space!):

- ▶ The Underground Stream, by Mary Grigolia, 1991 - I Brought My Spirit to the Sea
- ▶ Mexicanos, al grito de Guerra (The Mexican National Anthem,) 1854 - in celebration of Mexico's Independence Day
- ▶ We've Come to Our Own Conclusions, by Mary Grigolia, 1991 with Guitars as Holly talks about Misquoting Jesus and the importance of the UU voice
- ▶ When Morning Breaks, by Allan Robert Parker, 1990 - Commemorating Confucius' Birthday
- ▶ Kol Nidre, by Samuel Adler, 1972 - With Cello
- ▶ Zuni Sunrise Call, Zuni Native American Tribe - with Drums



Jonathan English



Welcome John Spradling Music Accompanist at FUUSS

John Spradling, noted as a "...superb pianist..." by composer Vincent Persichetti, is active in Central New York as a teacher, pianist, accompanist, adjudicator. His appearances have seen him on the Syracuse University Faculty Series, the Hobart and William Smith College Faculty Series, the Keuka College Series, the Mohawk Valley Community College Series, the Civic Morning Musicals Live at the Everson Series, with the Society for New Music, the Syracuse Symphony Orchestra, and live on WXXI-FM, Rochester, NY.

He grew up in St. Louis, Missouri, studying under Dorothy Dring Smutz, where he made his debut as a competition winner playing the Grieg Piano Concerto and gave numerous recitals with his duo partner, Susan Huntman. He has a Master's Degree from The Juilliard School, where he studied with Abbey Simon and Sascha Gorodnitzki. He served as Barry Snyder's assistant at The Eastman School, and also spent two years of special study at the Vienna Hochschule under Hans Graf, and was a private instructor in the home of Christa Ludwig in Weidling, Austria.

John Spradling has taught piano lessons since 1971. He began teaching in Syracuse in 1997, and after brief stints at Syracuse University and Hobart and William Smith College, has one of the most successful private piano studios in Central New York. His students have been accepted on scholarship at the major conservatories and festivals of the nation, and they have won competitions across the United States. Close to home, Spradling's students have played concerti with the Syracuse Symphony Orchestra, as winners of the CMM/SSO Concerto Competition, four different years.

John Spradling is President of Civic Morning Musicals, recipient of the Tiffany Award of Civic Morning Musicals, is listed in Who's Who of American Teachers for 2005, and is past President of Central New York Association of Music Teachers in Syracuse. He is the proud father of Jessica, age 24, and Richard, age nine.



John with his friend Farley

News and Information

Did you forget something?

We have a nice collection of lost or misplaced items needing to be reclaimed. Please check the lost and found table in the Fellowship Hall on Sept. 7 or Sept. 14, 2008.

Items not claimed by Sept 15 will be donated to charity. Thank you, B & G

UU Society of Martha's Vineyard Columbus Day B&B Weekend

The Unitarian Universalist Society of Martha's Vineyard has invited members of your congregation to join us over Columbus Day Weekend, October 11-13, 2008 for our annual B&B Weekend. We still have rooms available!

Fall is the season of all on the Vineyard. Crowds are gone, the air is crisp, the water still plenty warm for a swim. So come on over. We'll put you up with a UU host family, treat you to a seafood supper and an evening of traditional whaling and seafaring songs, offer an Island tour and welcome you to Sunday

service at historic Stevens Chapel. Log on now to www.uusmv.info (B&B Weekend link), or call or email Catherine at 508 693-5372, cdevito@comcast.net

WE'D LOVE TO SEE YOU ON THE ISLAND!



The Labyrinth



The labyrinth is a tool to use in contemplative prayer and meditation. Labyrinths are often confused with mazes. But while a maze has dead ends and blind alleys, the labyrinth has only one path leading both in and out of the center. The labyrinth is flat. One can always see the center.

The destination is assured, so that the mind can be still and attentive.

Walking the labyrinth clears the mind and gives us insight into our spiritual journeys. The labyrinth does nothing on its own. It is simply a tool helpful for many people in deepening their prayer lives. Each walk into and out of the labyrinth is a unique opportunity to meet our creative, loving God through contemplative prayer.

The pattern shown here is the labyrinth pattern built into the floor of Chartres Cathedral in France more than 800 years ago. It is the best known Christian labyrinth design.

FIRST  NEWS
NEWSLETTER NEWS

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