

Website: www.1stuu.org

Email: office@1stuu.org

First Unitarian-Universalist Church of Detroit Newsletter

4605 Cass Avenue
Detroit, MI 48201
Office Phone: 313-833-9107

September Edition

September Sermon Schedule

September 2

Rev. Roger Mohr

"Voting Rights Martyr: Viola Liuzzo."

In the history of First Unitarian Universalist Church of Detroit, there are many of our spiritual forebears who have done great and wonderful things for the cause of social justice. But few have given their lives. One of our members, Viola Liuzzo, was shot and killed by the KKK in 1965 for helping to register voters. But why does voting really matter? And how much must we sacrifice for our faith?

September 9

Rev. Roger Mohr

"Ubuntu: African Humanism."

In my Doctor of Ministry program, the majority of the students are from other countries. One is from Argentina, another from Japan, from Congo, from Poland, Korea... a few are even from the U.S.! During conversations about our dissertation projects, a colleague from Sierra Leone talked about Ubuntu: As Leymah Gbowee expressed it, "I am what I am because of who we all are." We are created by our relationships with one another. We are leaders inasmuch as we help to build a better self to offer for the betterment of our communities. How can we make it better together?

September 16

Rev. Roger Mohr

"Continuous Enlightenment."

There are many terms to refer to achieving our potential as human beings. Some speak of "salvation." Others of "spiritual growth." Some of "satori" or "mukti." While

these are all useful terms, in the humanist tradition, the closest cognate is "Enlightenment." But for us, enlightenment is something we achieve by our own attention and efforts, over time. How can we be more enlightened tomorrow?

September 23

Rev. Tony Perrino

"The Goyim's Debt to Judaism."

"During the High Holy Days" being observed by our Jewish friends, I want to recognize the profoundly important contributions to western civilization that were made by the Hebrew tradition." The service will include a "sounding of the Shofar."

September 30

Mary Assel

"Arab Women - Religion, Taboos, and Stereotypes"

There is a triangle of challenges that Arab women face in America and in the Arab world: religion, stereotypes and taboos. The taboo of religion is the most challenging and has sparked interest throughout the country. Dr. Mary Assel, Arab-American author and retired director of the English Language Institute at Henry Ford Community College will share the history behind the Arab female oppression, the differences between culture and religion, and the dilemmas and predicaments Arab women face as they struggle to deal with stereotypes and the declaration of freedom in their newly formed liberal societies.

FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH ORGANIZATIONAL CHART 2012-2013

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Sally Borden

Vice President

Cynthia Zurschmiede

Immediate

Past President

Marilyn Mitchell

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Rev. Roger Mohr

Music Director

Todd Ballou

Cantor

Gwen Foss

Office Admin

Tamara Halliburton

**Worship Services
held every Sunday at
11:00 a.m.**

The deadline for newsletter articles is the 20th of every month! Please send any articles to office@1stuu.org or drop them off in the office.

All those who are involved in the service on Sunday (Speakers, Worship Coordinator, Trustee of the Day, Cantor, and Music Director and/or Guest Musicians) will meet in the Sanctuary at 10:30am each Sunday to review the service.

The President's Corner

Hi everyone. I hope you've been enjoying your summer and enjoying the increased energy that we're experiencing at church. Plans are afoot for more interesting activities and ways to help others in this fall.

I want to let you know about a recent meeting that your Church Board of Trustees had with Rev. Keith Kron, a ministerial representative from the Unitarian Universalist Association in Boston, MA. In the last newsletter, Rev. Mohr mentioned that he will be staying with us for at least another year as an Interim Minister and hopes to become our Developmental Minister for the next 3 to 5 years.

The meeting with Rev. Kron was to discuss if First UU Church fits the model of a church going through crisis and change, which is the basis of the Developmental Ministry model. Rev. Kron agreed that 1st UU does fit this model. We shared with Rev. Kron the goals that your leadership developed at our retreat in July and he wants us to continue to develop our goals and plans and focus our energies on working towards our goals together.

So the current plan is to apply in March, 2013 to the UUA to have a Developmental Minister with the hope that Rev. Mohr will be appointed as our Developmental Minister.

So we need to continue to communicate with each other and work together toward mutually agreed-upon goals and become the best church that we can be.

And now I want to introduce you to two of our paid staff.

Tamara Halliburton began working for the church in December, 2011 as we were preparing to change both the location and the hours that our office person worked. Tamara works for General Motors during the week and has a dog named Pepe. One of the reasons Tamara wanted to work with us was because she wanted to become more involved in social justice activities, particularly those relating to Detroit. She has found working for 1st UU to be both challenging and interesting. And she wants you to know that we now have a working phone in the church office.

And Lord Harris just started working for us several weeks ago as our coffee hour worker. He wants us to know that he is a very gentle and respectful person who likes helping others. He was referred to us from staff at Avalon Bakery where he also works. Lord is a native Detroiter and is looking forward to getting to know us all better.

Sally Borden
President

The Rev's Room

Welcome back! It is time to begin the new church year, and I am stoked! Here are my themes for this year: Spiritual Growth and Leadership Training for the Blessed Community. That's three themes, and I will be using three specific terms to talk about them. All three terms have multiple connotations, not all of them positive, so I will share them and what I mean by them.

The first term, in relation to spiritual growth, is "Enlightenment." As a humanist, I do not believe that we achieve salvation once and for all, or that one just experiences *satori* and lives happily ever after. Instead, I believe in the possibility of progressive enlightenment, over the course of our entire lives. Note that I said the "*possibility*" of enlightenment. Enlightenment is available to those who seek it, but most will not do so, and even for those who seek it, the path is not usually automatic or obvious. Enlightenment is a lifelong calling to achieve our best selves.

The second term, in relation to leadership, is "Ministry." It is my understanding that we all have a role in the world, something that we offer to those around us. Each of us has a ministry. But we often are not fulfilling our potential for that ministry, our opportunity to share our gifts with others. Part of the role of the church is to support the efforts of members to grow and develop their capacity to create and express their best selves in service to the world. "Ministry" is to offer our best selves (see "Enlightenment" above) in service to the community.

Last, but not least, in relation to community, the term is "Ubuntu." Ubuntu is an African leadership philosophy, African Humanism, organized around the idea that we are created by and through our relation to the larger community. The key idea is, as Leymah Gbowee expressed it, "I am what I am because of who we all are." Thus, when we look at our selves, we need to understand that we are created by the community of which we are a part, even as we help to shape others by our role in that community. Or, to put that another way, we are "Enlightened" in relation to our "Ministries" to one another: "Ubuntu."

Thus, my next few sermons will lay out the terms of that philosophy and what that means in terms of our work together this year. I hope you will be able to make the early sermons on foundational concepts. But if not, never fear: I will be talking about them in one way or the other, quite a bit.

With love,
Rev. Roger Mohr

News from Membership and Social Justice

Membership

Acting on suggestions from members, the Board has hired a permanent social hour/ coffee hour attendant -- Lord Harris. Please tell him his efforts are appreciated. This takes the burden off members to set up and take down the coffee, tea and refreshments. However, your donations of fruit, cookies, cheese, crackers and sundry continue to be appreciated. Thank you Danny Rebb for providing cakes nearly every Sunday during the past year. Thank you, Donna Walker, for contacting me to volunteer to "woman" a recent social hour. Thank you Tim, Dale and Roger for your thoughtful suggestions to the harried membership chair and for your contributions of labor and materials to improve our church involvement.

We anticipate hosting a prospective new member Sunday or two in September, probably the second Sunday in September following the social hour. You may have noticed quite a number of returning visitors over the summer, and we would like to encourage attendees who are not members to join us. If you see a new face, please be sure to introduce yourself and welcome the visitor. We are planning a New Member Sunday in October.

Social Justice

People interested in working on Social Justice through the church met before church on August 5th. Mary Lou Malone and Sharon Mills volunteered to draft a survey to distribute to all members and friends to discern what activities and social justice groups people are already involved with and to find out what social justice projects our congregation wants to pursue this church year. Mary Lou also suggest re-naming the former social action committee, the First UU Social Justice Team. What do you think? Be sure to fill out a survey and return it to Mary Lou or Sharon for tabulating.

Also on August 5th, following the social hour, some of the same folks from the first social justice team meeting plus additional joined together for the kick-off of our voter registration drive. The plan is to designate streets and neighborhoods within the vicinity of the church and go door to door inquiring if people need to "update" their voter registration. We will say we are from the church on the corner of Cass and Forest and we want to make sure everyone who wants to vote in November is properly registered. Toni Tront and Donna Walker have already former a voter registration team and have designated the area of new housing on the east side of Woodward that they will canvass. Presently, there are seven who have expressed an interest in voter registration. We would like to have more canvassers. 2012 is going to be a watershed year in the history of our state and our country.

The next meeting of the First UU Social Justice Team for voter registration will be at 10 a.m. on Sunday, August 26th. This is when the assignments of canvass areas will be

News from Membership and Social Justice (con't)

made. If you cannot attend but are still willing to work, let me know, and we can schedule another meeting. Voter registration must be completed by October 6th, and we need to get the job done in September to catch those people who may wish to vote by absentee ballot.

A motivating idea behind the First UU Social Justice Team is to increase public awareness of our church by working in the larger community to promote justice and advance causes, such as protection of the environment, which conform to our Unitarian-Universalist principles. We want to do well by doing good. Personal contact with other people is far more effective in attracting visitors than print advertising. Please become part of the team!!

Marilyn Mitchell, Membership Chair

Church Announcements and Events

Important Reminder!

With the campaign season heating up, it is important to remember that whatever our political beliefs and preferences, the church cannot promote or take sides on behalf of a particular candidate or party. That means we cannot have individuals representing particular candidates campaigning in the buildings as guests of First Church.

If you have any questions as to what is appropriate, please contact Rev. Mohr or President Sally Borden.

New UU: Second Sundays at 12:30.

Are you new to the church, or just interested in learning more about our church and tradition? The New UU class is about offering introductory information about what the church is all about, and it is a first step toward becoming a member. There are two sessions, one on the UU tradition as a whole, and a second specifically on the history and traditions of the Detroit church. Please do attend: We are proud of who we are, and we want you to be proud to be with us!

Dally Time

A post Labor Day tradition continues as First UU will once again have an information table at the Dally in the Alley on Saturday, September 8 from 11:00 – 6:00. Contact Dan Wiest if you are interested in helping to staff the table.

Church Announcements and Events

Learning to Love

Third Sundays of the month at 12:30. The Learning to Love. The group is open for now (meaning that anyone can join, anytime), and will be working on helping one another to live in a more loving way during our day to day and moment to moment lives. All are welcome!

Entertainment Books for Sale!

Hi, I'm selling Entertainment Books for \$30 each with the church earning \$6 for each book sold. Entertainment books are filled with many coupons to save you money. We also get 2 free books worth \$60 after I sell 15 books. Please call Margaret Beck [313 882 7775](tel:3138827775) or email margretbeck@comcast.net if you are interested in purchasing one. They also make excellent gifts. Thank you for helping our church. -- Margaret Beck

Death of Harold Bailer

In sorrow, the friends of Harold Bailer announce his death this past winter in his home in New Jersey. Harold died peacefully in his sleep four days before his 96th birthday. He is survived by his son and daughter-in-law David and Susan Bailer, his sister-in-law Penny Bailer, and nieces and nephews.

Harold was raised in Detroit and attended the Detroit Public Schools. In 1936 he was graduated from Wayne State University with a degree in Business Administration. Later that year he enrolled in the University of Michigan to pursue an MBA. A year later he left school to accept a job with the Detroit Civil Service Commission. He was 15 credit hours shy of his MBA.

For 25 years Harold held a series of well paying accounting and finance jobs in Detroit and in New York City. In the early 1960's he moved his family into New Rochelle, New York becoming the first black family in the community. Harold worked his way up to controller for the New York City Transit Authority. After a political squabble with his boss, he quit and started his own accounting business. He closed the business in 1991 when personal computer accounting packages wooed away most of his clients and he moved back to Detroit. Several years after returning to Detroit he decided to finish the MBA he had begun in 1936. In December of 1996, at the age of 80, Harold was graduated from the University of Michigan with an MBA. He is the oldest MBA graduate in the history of the school.

Wherever Harold lived he attended services at the local Unitarian Universalist church, and was active in the congregation. He set up the accounting system for the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Detroit. Harold will be missed by his friends at First UU.

Church Announcements and Events

Chancel Flower Donations

Our custom for providing flowers for each Sunday service is to have members and friends donate them in honor or memory of a person or event. The signup sheet for donating flowers is now in the back of the church (some call it the narthex). Please take a moment to add your name and the person/event you wish to honor. Suggested donation is \$20 but is negotiable depending on your situation. Lencha Acker purchases the flowers each Saturday at the Eastern Market and delivers them to church on Sunday. The donor then takes the flowers home to enjoy and returns the vase later. If you have questions, see Lencha Acker after the service or call her at 313-393-8544. Thank You!

Pop Songs for a FUUD hymnal!

We have been using lots of “contemporary” songs in our services this year, and we want to start collecting them up so we can gather sheet music for our professional musicians, Todd and Gwenn, to use on Sundays. What songs do you love to sing that might be uplifting for our services? Pete Seeger, “Turn Turn Turn”? How about Desiree, “You Gotta Be”? Beatles, “All You Need Is Love”? Marvin Gaye, “What’s Going On”? Louis Armstrong, “What a Wonderful World”? If you think of something, Rev. Mohr is collecting them, just send your ideas with artist and title to reverendmohr@gmail.com .

Sermon Topics

Remember, Rev. Mohr is always open to new ideas for sermon topics, either in terms of texts and sources, or in terms of topics. If you have an idea for a sermon, please do feel free to share it.

Social Justice Team Survey

The 1st UU Social Justice Team invites you to complete our survey if you didn't already do it at church. You may return it by mailing it to:

1st UU Church
4605 Cass Avenue
Detroit, MI 48201

Church Announcements and Events

From Your Activities Coordinator and Crew Activities Coordinated for September

2nd 9-10:30a.m. - Choir practice -- join now! Practices are the first three Sundays each month and they appear to have lots of fun and friendship! It's a good opportunity for those who are new to this congregation and who enjoy singing to be easily involved.

11a.m. - Rev. Roger Mohr, "*Voting Rights Martyr: Viola Liuzzo.*"

12:30p.m. - Social Justice will reveal the results of the survey you filled out and plan next steps for voter registration.

5th 6:30p.m. - 1st Wednesday Vespers: Al Acker will give us words and music to cherish. Then stay for the weekly Singing Circle and new, monthly Writing Circle. Bring a short piece of your own writing (up to 6 pages, double-spaced typewritten) and we'll see what happens with this new concept. Questions? Sherry, esperantosherry@tm.net [248-543-5297](tel:248-543-5297)

9th 9-10:30a.m. - Choir practice

11a.m. - Rev. Roger Mohr, "*Ubuntu: African Humanism.*"

12:30p.m. - Rev. Roger Mohr will facilitate a New UU class. Are you new to the church, or just interested in learning more about our church and tradition? The New UU class is about offering introductory information about what the church is all about, and it is a first step toward becoming a member. There are two sessions, one on the UU tradition as a whole, and a second specifically on the history and traditions of the Detroit church. Please do attend: We are proud of who we are, and we want you to be proud to be with us!

12:30p.m. - Jerrold Foke will facilitate his last Tinkaboudit before taking leave from Detroit. We get to choose from his list the topics about language to discuss.

16th 9-10:30a.m. - Choir practice

11a.m. - Rev. Roger Mohr, "*Continuous Enlightenment.*"

12:30p.m. - The Learning to Love group is open for now—anyone can join, anytime—and will focus on helping one another to live in a more loving way during our day-to-day and moment-to-moment lives. All are welcome!

23rd 10a.m. - Tentative—Movement Choir. An example of it opened the Talent Show last month. A lovely way to ease into a Sunday.

11a.m. - Rev. Tony Perrino, "*The Goyim's Debt to Judaism.*"

12:30p.m. - The New Alliance tabled to September the question of whether it will continue to exist and if so, why and how. Come help decide.

30th 10a.m. - Activities Crew will set up for UU Jeopardy—no peeking !

11a.m. - Mary Assel, "*Arab Women - Religion, Taboos, and Stereotypes*"

12:30p.m. - Fifth Sunday Funday. UU Jeopardy for a half-hour midway during coffee "hour" in the Social Hall. Fun and laughs while learning about UUism. We need 3 contestants and one "Alex Trebek."

Sherry A Wells, Activities Coordinator, esperantosherry@tm.net, 248-543-5297

SEPTEMBER 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 9am - Choir Practice 11am - "Voting Rights Martyr: Viola Liuzzo" 12:30pm - Social Justice survey results! Happy Birthday Gwen Foss!	3	4 Happy Birthday Danny Rebb!	5 6:30pm - Vespers (followed by Singing Circle and Writing Circle)	6	7	8 11am - 6pm - Daily in the Alley tabling.
9 9am - Choir Practice 11am - "Ubuntu: African Humanism." 12:30pm - New UU Class 12:30pm - Tinkaboudit	10	11	12	13 Happy Birthday Toni Tront!	14	15
16 9am - Choir Practice 11am - "Continuous Enlightenment." 12:30pm - Learning to Love group Happy Birthday Arthur Gabhart!	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 10am - TENTATIVE - Movement Choir 11am - "The Goyim's Debt to Judaism." 12:30pm - The New Alliance meeting	24 Happy Birthday Stephanie Chang!	25	26	27 Happy Birthday Dessa Cosma!	28 Happy Birthday Sean Gray!	29
30 10am - UU Jeopardy set up 11am - "Arab Women-Religion, Taboos & Stereotypes" 12:30 pm - UU Jeopardy Happy Birthday Maya Thottakath!						



FIRST UNITARIAN-UNIVERSALIST
CHURCH OF DETROIT

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48201

Please visit us at www.1stuu.org,
email us at info@1stuu.org, or give
us a call at (313) 833-9107.

First Unitarian-Universalist Church of Detroit Classified Ads

We are starting a new section for classified ads. There is no charge for members and donors and only \$5.00 for everyone else! To submit an ad, please see Tamara in the church office, leave a message on the church voice mail (313-833-9107) or send an email to office@1stuu.org.

Looking for an inexpensive reliable vehicle

Lord Harris, our Coffee Hour Attendant, is looking for an inexpensive, yet reliable mode of transportation. If you have something you are willing to sell, please see him during coffee hour.

1st Unitarian-Universalist Social Justice Team

This is a survey to determine our congregation's interests and priorities regarding social justice issues.

Please indicate how important these issues are to you. (4 = most important, 3 = very important, 2 = somewhat important, 1 = not important)

_____ Reproductive Rights	_____ Assault Rifle Ban/Conceal and Carry Laws
_____ Racism	_____ GLBT Rights
_____ Prison Reform	_____ Decriminalization of Marijuana
_____ Urban Sustainable Development	_____ Voter Rights
_____ Water Issues (control of water in Detroit, pollution, etc.)	

OR what is YOUR "hot button" issue?

Do you support or are you an active participant in any of these organizations?

	Supporter	Active Participant	Neither
MUUSJN	_____	_____	_____
UUSC	_____	_____	_____
Occupy Detroit	_____	_____	_____
ACLU	_____	_____	_____
Zero Waste Detroit	_____	_____	_____
Amnesty International	_____	_____	_____
Sierra Club	_____	_____	_____
EMEAC	_____	_____	_____
NAACP	_____	_____	_____
MOSES	_____	_____	_____
Other (please list)	_____	_____	_____

Would you like to join 1st U-U's Social Justice Team? _____

If yes, Name _____ Phone _____

email _____

Please return by mailing it to:
1st UU Church
4605 Cass Avenue
Detroit, MI 48201