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First Unitarian-Universalist Church of Detroit Newsletter

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

January Edition

Upcoming Sermon Schedule

January 6

Rev. Roger Mohr

“Change: The Only Constant.”

Change is both a necessity and an opportunity. The challenge is to get good at change.

January 13

Rev. Roger Mohr

“The Heart of Love.”

It is easy to lose track of love. We must intentionally cultivate love in our selves.

January 20

Rev. Roger Mohr

“The New American Dream.”

Martin Luther King talked about his dream of America’s future. America was founded as the CITY on a hill. How can we make our cities work better?



January 27

Kathleen Jacobs Johnson

Sermon Information TBA

Message 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.

FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH ORGANIZATIONAL CHART 2012-2013

Officers

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Sally Borden

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**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

I hope this season finds you and your family doing and feeling well. This is a season of holidays for many religions and we UU's celebrate the holiday season in the spirit of relishing the birth of all children with the hope for each of them to lead a healthy, happy and productive life.

That's why the recent massacre of children and their teachers strikes us as so senseless and horrendous. I think it is way past time for this country to look at issues of availability of assault weapons and lack of adequate mental health care and find better solutions.

As a person who has worked in the field of mental health for the last 45 years, I have seen the mental health system in Michigan crumble and fragment to the point of not really being a system at all. So I do hope that this moment of crisis will result in providing better care and treatment of the mentally ill and also protect the general public from those who might be dangerous.

That is why it is so important that we as a church build a community of acceptance and caring where we help each other in appropriate ways that lead to healthier, happier and functioning adults. If we disagree with each other, let's do so with polite respect. Let's talk directly to each other if we have a concern, rather than tell a third or fourth party.

I think First UU is building a culture of respectful caring and trying to lessen the tendency of any group of people to form cliques. I'm proud that during social hour many of us talk to most of us. We are welcoming to newcomers (and hopefully not overbearing) and seem genuinely glad to see each other.

For the new year, I wish our church to continue to experience positive growth while continuing to meet some of the needs of our current members. Remember we are all in this together.

I want to thank Rev. Mohr for his enthusiasm, hard work and thoughtful sermons that provide a foundation for us to move forward. And the Church Board has worked faithfully and honestly to make decisions that are in the best interest of us all. Remember we are all in this together!

Merry Christmas

Sally Borden, President

The Rev's Room

My theme for this month is "Change Management." As I am learning more about what people really need from ministry, the function of "religion" in our lives, one of the major themes is that religion acts as a means for interpreting and managing the changes that we all go through. Religion offers rituals during mile stones and major events, as well as offering explanations or at least comfort during times of distress and disruption. At one level, religion is really a stress management technique.

But different religions understand and interpret change very differently. Some religions understand change negatively, yearning for eternal peace and stillness, or seeing in permanence a sense of cosmic order. Change is Bad, immutability is Good. Which, by the way, is why religions tend to be tradition centered and conventional in orientation: Things should stay the same, for many religious minds, not matter whether improvement is possible. Change is undesirable. And many people feel like that, as well. Many people really prefer things to stay the same, no matter what. Many of us fear the unknown, and cling to whatever we know, resisting change as much as we can.

However it does not take a particularly keen observer to notice that no matter how much we resist change, it will happen in any case. As it says in that old Sam Cooke song, "A change gonna come." (http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gbO2_077ixs). And really, as I have said many times, change is the prerequisite of progress. In general, change is positive, not negative. And the more we embrace change pro-actively, the more we are able to make it our friend and ally, rather than our enemy and conqueror. Change is on our side!

And that is one of the true blessings of our tradition. We are very much a pro-change, progressive religion. The challenge is for us to live up to the potential for positive change implicit in our values and principles. Let's be the change we wish to see.

Namaste! Rev. Mohr

PS: Please remember that I will be traveling for training and study from January 25th through February 15th. I will be back in the pulpit on February 17th. President Sally will have a clergy contact in case of emergency. I will miss you all!

Activities Afterwords

Amnesty International--12/9/2012—after the service

Dan Secrest: I had a long and very interesting conversation with three political refugees staying at Freedom House. We didn't discuss the details regarding their stay in Freedom House, but it was interesting to hear some of their stories.

I had the longest conversation with the woman from Rwanda. She was bubbling over with enthusiasm at times, and ominously vague at other times. While she was vague about the circumstances of her exile, she was determined to tell stories to help me understand the circumstances in her country. I learned from her about the 3 ethnic groups in Rwanda--farmers, pastoralists, and hunters--and the economic realm of each. The men, from Nicaragua and Afghanistan, were older and more reserved, but friendly while dignified.

Later, I learned that my daughter Maryli had done some volunteer work at Freedom House when she was in high school.

Dan Wiest-- I spoke with the refugee couple from Uganda and their friend from Burundi. It was very humbling to be in the presence of such dignified people who were facing such hardship, not only in leaving their country because of persecution, but also in this country with the constant threat of actions from I.C.E. (U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement).

First UU and A.I. used to have more interaction with Freedom House. Work with A.I. can seem abstract as we are so often separated from those for whom we work. Interacting with them, as we did on Sunday, always lends a humanizing touch that can inspire one to do more, and it did that for me.

NOTE: Over 500 signatures were gathered for petitions and cards that were sent to 23 destinations. Our A.I. group will pass on whatever news we hear of the people for whom members signed cards, petitions, etc.

MARY LOU MALONE—Suddenly on a bus to D.C.

At 3 AM, on Dec. 4—a mere 9 hours after being asked at a meeting of MOSES (Metropolitan Organizing Strategy Enabling Strength), an interfaith group, Mary Lou found herself on their bus to Washington D. C. for the annual Gamaliel Fire of Faith International Leadership Assembly.

Gamaliel leaders emphasized faith values of Love thy Neighbor and the Common Good. The group demonstrated in the Senate Building Atrium for Jobs Not Cuts (until removed by police). Even the Wall Street Journal covered the event.

The two days consisted of training and visiting Detroit Congressmen to urge them to take action to avoid the Fiscal Cliff. Michigan Representatives Conyers and Peters had already signed the discharge petition to get a particular finance bill on the floor. Although Peters was at the airport heading home, he talked with them by phone.

Activities Afterwords (continued)

Rev. Roger's Sustainable Spirituality program

Carolyn Ludwig, Sandra Thottakath and I (Sherry) attended this with a mother and adult daughter. I didn't know what to expect but was very satisfied with the program. He presented many familiar concepts in ways new to me and thus caused new, helpful insights. I hope he finds a way to present this at our church—though it needs the peace and quiet that worked so well at the DAC. Because of the small group and his gentle encouragement, we were able to fully participate, and thus learn even more that we can use to sustain ourselves all 'round—he illustrated that spirituality is wider and deeper than I gave it credit.

MUSLIM PRAYER

Muhammed Faiz ("Faz") explained and demonstrated the Muslim prayer positions. First, there is a cleansing ritual—face, hands, feet. Women pray in a separate area and hold their arms and legs closely to their bodies. While the positions are to show submission to Allah, Muhammed pointed out that several seconds with one's head below the heart increases the oxygen to the brain—two repetitions during five daily sessions may partly explain his PhD!

Each person chooses two parts of the Koran to recite aloud to oneself. He pointed out that in one part, it says "Bless Abraham and all of his descendants." The closing is to look left and right while asking for blessings and peace to the persons next to you.

NEW ! Young Adults group

Third Sundays after the service and a bit of coffee. Matt Friedrichs is the organizer—its first meeting, in December, was well-attended and is bringing new people into our congregation.

(At least one study shows that similar age groupings is more important to people than other demographics. Do you think it would be interesting to group ourselves into, say, three age groupings on that Sunday afternoon—those Young Adults, Retired Adults, and the In-between Adults?!)

SOCIAL JUSTICE SURVEY

Sharon Mills, Mary Lou Malone, Linda Darga, Marilyn Mitchell and Sherry Wells met to review your survey results. Amnesty International had the highest support level in our congregation with ACLU and NAACP. Sierra Club, MOSES and EMEAC followed closely. Leading issues were Reproductive Rights (MUUSJN had a workshop some 1st UUs attended), Racism—starting with our own congregation and denomination, Voter Rights (which many of us worked on in October and November), Urban Sustainable Development, and the Assault Rifle Ban (more timely now if not too late for too many). Each of us chose our area of most interest to develop for the congregation so stay tuned. (You may offer to assist!)

Church Announcements and Events

Cindy Hill

Jan Thompson and Cindy were long-time (20+years) members of 1st Church and sang in the choir when Gene Perrin started it up and Cindy was treasurer of 1st church for a number of years. When Cindy Hill and Jan Thompson were in Detroit in October and when I went to Las Cruces to visit them and take Cindy to the fabulous Crane Festival, Cindy was showing very strange brain symptoms. Despite the challenge Cindy really enjoyed the festival with me. The disease has been diagnosed as Creutzfeldt Jakob Disease or Mad Cow disease. She was placed in a hospice with a short time to live and passed away a few days ago. Jan would appreciate your thoughts and energy and, perhaps, a card. Her address is:

5243 Cochise Trail
Las Cruces, NM 88012

Linda Darga

Mary Lou Malone Featured in the Siena Literacy Center Newsletter

Member Mary Lou Malone was featured in the December edition of the Siena Literacy Center newsletter as a Tutor in Action. The article is below:

Suppose you were a senior without a car living in Detroit. How would you get your groceries? No major grocery chains have stores in Detroit. You could probably go to a small, neighborhood store which would be very expensive, provide little choice, and have poor quality merchandise. As a member of MOSES (Metropolitan Organizing Strategies Enabling Strength), tutor Mary Lou Malone is helping to address the issue of food justice - ensuring fair and affordable access to quality food. This year, she was part of a delegation which met with U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack to discuss loan incentives for businesses to locate in inner-city neighborhoods. Secretary Vilsack put the group in touch with representatives from the Departments of Treasury and Health and Human Services to see how this could be accomplished. Mary Lou is committed to making a difference.

Church Announcements and Events

Thanksgiving Pot Luck Dinner

I want to express how sorry I am that this year's 43rd (at least) annual potluck dinner did not happen. This dinner has occurred for 42 years, organized by Vic and me from 1972, after taking over something Tony Perrino started in 1970 (I think). My parents, as well as Tony's and a good friend's parents, all came in the early years and would sit around the piano listening to my father play. When Vic died, I continued the tradition with help from various people depending on the year. Unfortunately, this year I was in New Mexico for the Crane Festival and visiting Jan, Cindy, Irene, Jon, all from this church, and I wouldn't return until Nov. 20. Elayne was going to take calls and bake the turkey. I checked with Kim at EMEAC two or three weeks in advance, and got the GO AHEAD. Then Elayne was told on Sun, Nov 18 about the \$150 charge and called me in NM. I was not there to negotiate and Elayne felt herself caught in the middle, so we reluctantly called it off. This was my first trip to visit old friends and Cindy and I were looking forward to the Crane Festival (it was wonderful) and I attended the thriving Las Cruces UU church. Thinking T'day was the 4th Thursday, I cut it closer to the holiday than I realized when I was making plans. Again, I am so sorry for what happened; it is a day I look forward to. I hope those planning to attend made other accommodations for the holiday.

Linda Darga

Charlotte Allen Update

Charlotte Allen, a former congregant, sent greetings from Lake Ridge detailing her family's eventful 2012. Her four page letter was full of interesting details; including a trip back to Detroit for Nadina's 50th birthday, a three week vacation to Germany (including a visit to a nude only day spa!), the purchase of a new home, an upcoming trip to Las Vegas and updates on Jawan, Honey, Leea and Buddha. If you would like to read the letter and see the pictures, stop by the office on Sunday.

Church Announcements and Events

From Faye Colling

Seasons Greetings

It is like a vacation every 6 months, this going back and forth spending time in both Michigan and Arizona. Michigan summer ended with my having successful cataract surgery. Thankfully my dear “young Fay” and long time friend was with me through the whole procedure.

I just returned to Arizona when my brother Vic phoned inviting me to California for Thanksgiving. Vic’s grandson Doug drove us from Phoenix to Torrance California. Doug and his mom were great road-trippers and the journey went smoothly. Thanksgiving dinner at my brothers was such a special treat bringing back pleasant memories with family. Around the table were brother Vic, nieces Kathy, Beth and Jane, two great grandnephews Doug and Josh. I had a chance to enjoy a stroll along the beach and made a pilgrimage to the par three golf course directly behind my brothers home.

I am looking forward to holiday gatherings with my son Norm and his wife Lori’s side of the family. Special visitor grand daughter Jillian will be home from nursing school where she is busy with clinicals. Christmas Eve will be a congress of family members from age 18 months to my nonogenarian XCIII years.

In the new year, may your heart and home be filled with happiness and peace.

From Margaret Beck

Entertainment books were sold and made \$150 for our treasury. Last Sunday some of us saw a play at the Detroit Rep. It was wonderful and I was able to give \$80 to our treasurer. We also enjoyed going to the Traffic Jam together.

Church Announcements and Events

Coats For Detroit's Children: Operation Warm

Since coming to Detroit, I have been increasingly involved with the Detroit Rotary Club. Colleen and Trey asked me to join when I arrived, and I was honored to be asked to join. Since then, I have been very pleased to join other Rotarians in projects that range from the global efforts to end polio and to provide fresh drinking water around the world. More locally, Rotary is involved with efforts to increase Literacy, promote non-violent conflict resolution, identify and support young leaders in high schools and colleges, and more. I am privileged to be part of their good work.

Operation Warm is a Detroit Rotary project intended to help to provide disadvantaged children with new winter coats, and was featured in Rochelle Riley's column in the Free Press. The need is enormous. According to the agencies we have agreed to support, there is a need for at least 18,000 coats - 18,000 children will be without protection from the Michigan winter. In order to provide for our community's children we need your help. Twenty dollars will buy one coat. Will you help keep a child warm this winter? I am grateful for your compassion and generosity. Thank you! Rev. Mohr

To Donate to Operation Warm:

<https://donate.operationwarm.org/page/contribute/snuggle-rotary-in-detroit>

Friday, January 11: "Celebrating Change!" with Rev. Roger Mohr. New Year's is a time when we plan to make positive changes in our lives. Sometimes it seems like change is almost impossible, no matter how hard we try. But in truth, change is the only constant. The question is not whether we change, but *how we can be good at change*. The class is scheduled Friday January 11, from 7 to 9 p.m., at the Detroit Athletic Club, in Detroit. Cost: Free to church members, \$25 per person if you bring a friend or are not a church member. Dress code at the DAC is business casual (blazers and slacks for men, no denim or t-shirts). Parking is available at the club for \$8; street parking may be available. For more information or to RSVP, call 313-262-6175, email minister@1stuu.org.

Church Announcements and Events

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 .

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 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!

Charles Cotman

Charles Cotman, Ivan Cotman's brother, passed away on December 27th. Ivan has been active in our church for many years. Charles was also good friend of Margaret Beck and her ex husband, Tim Beck. In spite of the blizzard, all of his relatives from the Thumb made it down.

Church Announcements and Events

1st UU Board Meetings

Meetings are held the second Wednesday of each month.

| | | |
|-------------|---------------|----------------|
| January 9 | Memorial Hall | 7:00 - 9:00 pm |
| February 13 | Memorial Hall | 7:00 - 9:00 pm |
| March 13 | Memorial Hall | 7:00 - 9:00 pm |

All are welcome at board meetings. If you have an item you wish to have included on the agenda for discussion at the meeting, please contact Kathe Stevens, Board Secretary at kathestevens@gmail.com

Vespers Wednesday

Wednesday evening Vespers runs from 6:00 - 7:00pm on the **2nd** Wednesday each month.

FIRST Sundays at 12:30. Intro to FUUD

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 an important step toward becoming a member. There are two objectives: one is to share information on the UU tradition as a whole, and a second goal is to focus 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!

SECOND Sunday Potluck

Time to break out your best recipe and bring it to church – share your food with FUUD! As we begin to add new members, it is a good time to share fellowship and nourishment with the people who nourish us, in return. Remember that everything must come and go the day of the event – we have no refrigerator space to keep things beyond the immediate need. If you have dietary concerns (peanut allergies, and such), please do let us know, so that food can be labeled.

Monthly Young Adults Meeting - NEW!

Join young adults from the congregation and beyond to discuss the development of this new social and community group within First UU. They meet on the third Sunday of the month at 12:30 in Memorial Hall.

Community Event

The 2013 Fourteenth Annual World Sabbath

Sunday, January 27, 2013 from 4:00 – 5:30 pm with an after-glow from 5:30 - 6:30 pm including an opportunity to participate in an interfaith mosaic tile project.

Bharatiya (Hindu) Temple
6850 North Adams Rd
Troy, MI 48098

This free event is open to all.

Visit www.worldsabbath.org for more information!

National Events

2013 Heartland District Assembly

April 12-13, 2013

Horizon Convention Center

Muncie, IN

"Claiming the Future in Two Parts"

This year's District Assembly will have two main components: conversations and decisions on the future of Heartland District, and conversations and reflection on the changing world of religion.

http://www.heartlanduu.org/District_Assembly_Pages/assembly_home.html

Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations

General Assembly, A Meeting of Congregations

June 19 - 23, 2012

Louisville, KY

www.uua.org/ga

Mark your calendars now!

JANUARY 2013

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|-----|-----|--|---|---|-----|
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 6:00am - Choir Practice 11:00am - "Change: The Only Constant." 12:30pm - Intro to FUUD | 7 | 8 | 9:00pm - Vespers 7:00pm - Board Meeting | 10 Happy Birthday Tamara Halliburton! | 11:00pm - "Celebrating Change!" with Rev. Mohr at the Detroit Athletic Club | 12 |
| 13 New Member Sunday 9:00am - Choir Practice 11am - "The Heart of Love." 12:30pm - Potluck | 14 | 15 | 16 Happy Birthday George Waterman! | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 20 11:00am - "The New American Dream." 12:30pm - Young Adults Meeting Happy Birthday Colleen Dolan-Greene! | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 Happy Birthday Faye Colling! | 25 Happy Birthday Elayne Sikelianos! | 26 |
| 27 11:00am - Sermon 4:00pm - 14th Annual World Sabbath at the Bharatiya (Hindu) Temple | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | |



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us a call at (313) 833-9107.

First Unitarian-Universalist Church of Detroit Classified Ads

Dear UU Friends,

Needing to raise income for my extravagant lifestyle; I turn to you for assistance. I offer two possible ways we may benefit each other. First, many know I make original hand beaded jewelry. I offer the chance to host a jewelry get together. I benefit from sales; you benefit from hostess gift. Jewelry repair is also available. Secondly, I have been a rep for a distinguished natural food supplement company for over 30 years. I know how such products are different from each other and I can help you understand this also. This company has a 50 year history of making environmentally friendly household products and naturally sourced food supplements.

I hope you will feel free to talk to me about any of this.

Sincerely and thankfully,
Yvanne
248-703-3971 or yvanne1@comcast.net

Used books from honest book dealers.

TomFolio.com (Thanks from Gwen Foss!)

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.