

First Unitarian Universalist Church of Detroit

4605 Cass Avenue

Detroit, MI 48201

January 7, 2007

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First Unitarian Universalist Church
Organizational Chart 2006-2007

Officers

Moderator

Linda Darga

Vice Moderator

Alicia Biggers

Immediate Past Moderator

James Harvey

Board Secretary

Donna Walker

Treasurer

Dan Wiest

Staff

Minister

Rev. Drew Johnston

Minister Emeritus

Rev. Larry Hutchison

Director of Religious Education

Athena Kolbe (Interim)

Music Director

Todd Ballou

Choir Director

Gwen Foss

Church Secretary

Wendi Winston

Building and Grounds

Joe Brimmer

Trustees

Lencha Acker

Sally Borden

Jim Brown

Charlene Evans

Earl Harvey

Mary Lou Malone

Irene Schultz

Donna Walker

Dan Wiest

Newsletter Editor

Irene Schultz

Upcoming Services

Services begin promptly at 11:00 A.M.

January 14, 2007

Rev. Drew Johnston

January 21, 2007

Pot luck Sunday

January 28, 2007

Newsletter Deadline:

The deadline for printed material is **Sunday, January 21, 2007** no later than **NOON** or the following **Monday no later than 5:30 P.M.** for electronic material. Articles may be emailed, by the deadline dates and times, to ieschultz1945@yahoo.com If you email items they **must** specify they are for the Newsletter.

Drew's Views

I've been thinking about time and space lately. Perhaps the long drive across the country to get here is my inspiration. As my travel plans were adjusted by changing circumstance, I thought about a phrase I have heard used in both golf and billiards, "There's a lot of green between here and there." Grass and felt are the green substances referred to, and neither was apparent on my drive. Rather, fallow fields and orchards, frozen earth at rest, a full moon in a bright clear, then wind and rain and snow, all served to remind me that there is a lot of something between where we are and where we want to be.

I was disappointed in myself for not being able to get to Detroit when I had hoped to, and as it became increasingly clear that I couldn't travel as fast as I'd hoped I spent time in review.

Mostly, I did everything as right as I could! It took longer to get out of town for real reasons, then the car could not climb as fast as I hoped, and wind became an invisible obstacle – just like most of our confounding obstacles, can't be seen, but sure is tiring!

The end of each day offered a new beginning, a chance to note where I had hoped to be in comparison to where I ended up – a new starting point.

I think church is a lot like that. We have hopes and expectations, we set goals and then reality comes along and makes adjustments. If we look at each day as a new starting point then we have a way to respond to disappointment. I learned a few things about myself during this move, and in the same way we learn about ourselves as we go through time in our church community. Some of the lessons are the same:

It is okay to ask for, and accept, help.

It's always better to have a friend.

Just because we got rid of some big things doesn't mean the rest will fit well. In moving that is material possessions, in the rest of life it is often a different kind of baggage. It is great to know that people want you to show up.

There are countless tangents, some of which need to be explored. All the things we miss in our travels are things we can look forward to seeing next time; we can't do everything at once.

My mission was to get to Detroit before January 7th. At first, I set this specific goal, which became impractical. The new mission was to get here safely and as soon as possible. Now I am here! I learned a few things from disappointing myself and have made notes for future reference. What more could we ask of ourselves? May we treat our time together as precious, set our expectations high, and move forward knowing that a good goal is a flexible goal, and each day we start with fresh enthusiasm.

Committees and Affiliates

Book Discussion Group

Our next discussion will be February 4th at 1:00 P.M. The book selection is *On Beauty* by Zaidie Smith. Our selection for March 4 is *Caucasia* by Dancy Sienna and on April 8th our selection is *Female Chauvinist Pig: Women and the Rise of Raunch Culture* by Ariel Levy. We ask that you read the book in preparation for the discussion and that you bring a snack to share.

Membership

The Entertainment Book Fundraiser is officially closed resulting in the church budget receiving \$198.00. Thank you to all the church members, relatives, neighbors, and friends who bought books to enjoy and give as presents.

I am planning a winter clothing sale along with Valentine thing in a few weeks during coffee hour. Also, hope to have another play fundraiser in April. Thanks to all who bought tickets to the January play.



By-laws and Constitution

First UU has a revised constitution and by-laws as of 12/17/06. Thank you to all who have worked on this for the past year and a half. Many of you gave suggestions and recommendations to improve upon the various drafts. We can, with patience and a good spirit, work together to accomplish good things for our beloved church. A copy of the revised documents will be available on the web and also for distribution at church in the near future. A special thanks for Earl Harvey, Mary Lou Malone and Glenn Maxwell for their patience and input.

We still have the unfinished business of preparing a Policy and Procedures Manual to help clarify and streamline the work of the church. I am again asking for suggestions and information on what is currently in place on committee structures and policies and guidelines. The plan is to compile what currently exists and to highlight what areas we need to complete. This work needs to be done by every committee, officer, paid and unpaid staff and everyone in between. Please give me what information you have so it can be put together in a written manual for distribution to anyone who needs it.

Happy New Year to everyone at First Church and let's keep the positive progress and good ideas rolling. Sally Borden, Board Member in charge of Membership

Women's Alliance

Calling all writers! If you have poems, short stories or other original **short** written works that you would like to share, you are invited to participate in the program for Women's Alliance on January 17, 2007. Lunch is at noon. The program will begin at 1:00PM. Please contact Alma King to be included in the program. To make reservations for the luncheon call the church office at 313-833-9107 or Eiko Takemoto. The deadline for reservations is January 15th. The cost of the luncheon is \$6.00 while the membership fee for the Women's Alliance is \$25.00.

Interfaith Dialogue

Interfaith Dialogs will take place on Sunday, January 21 at 2:00 pm. At the December Dialogs, we talked about Paganism and Patriarchy. To the question "Is there ecumenicalism in Islam?" The short answer is yes.

New topics for consideration are:

- Why do Muslims pray 5 times a day?
- Belief in God and the hereafter.
- Jihad as solving difficult problems and Haj
- Ramadan, rituals.
- "Excessive secularism" -debate between intelligent design and evolution.

Margaret will find statistics on numbers practicing religions in different countries.

Why is that spiritual? This was in reference to knowledge of the complexity of the ecosystem and the world.

Hurricane on the Bayou

Donna Walker recommends church members see *Hurricane on the Bayou* playing at the Imax Theaters at the Detroit Science Center and the Henry Ford Museum. This enchanting movie is more about the wetlands than it is about hurricanes. Show times are listed in local newspapers.

We Get Mail

Helga Herz sends best regards to all and wishes everyone a wonderful New Year.

Edna and Aid Koss send best wishes and thanks to all who have sent cards.

Both cards will be on the bulletin board in McColleston Hall.

2007 Spring Conference and Annual Meeting of the Heartland District

Mark your calendars for March 30-31 for the annual conference to be held in Grand Rapids. The keynote speaker will be Gini Courter, UUA Moderator. Registration brochures and forms will be mailed to the congregations in January.

Experience tropical Paradise

Tired of winter already? Pack your bags and enjoy a bed and breakfast in sunny southwest Florida staying with a UU host family. The dates are January 15 – April 15, 2007. Call 239-561-2700 for an information packet

Items From the Internet

"A Quiz For People Who Know Everything"

- 1) What famous North American landmark is constantly moving backward?
- 2) Of all vegetables, only two can live to produce on their own for several growing seasons. All other vegetables must be replanted every year. What are the only two perennial vegetables?
- 3) What fruit has its seeds on the outside?
- 4) In many liquor stores, you can buy pear brandy, with a real pear inside the bottle. The pear is whole and ripe, and the bottle is genuine; it hasn't been cut in any way. How did the pear get inside the bottle?
- 5) Only three words in standard English begin with the letters "dw." They are all common. Name two of them.
- 6) There are fourteen punctuation marks in English grammar. Can you name half of them?
- 7) Where are the lakes that are referred to in the "Los Angeles Lakers?"
- 8) It's the only vegetable or fruit that is never sold frozen, canned, processed, cooked, or in any other form but fresh. What is it?
- 9) Name six or more things that you can wear on your feet that begin with the letter "S."

"Answers To Quiz"

- 1) Niagara Falls. The rim is worn down about two and a half feet each year because of the millions of gallons of water that rush over it every minute.
- 2) Asparagus and rhubarb.
- 3) Strawberry.
- 4) The pear grew inside the bottle. The bottles are placed over pear buds when they are small, and are wired in place on the tree. The bottle is left in place for the whole growing season. When the pears are ripe, they are snipped off at the stems.
- 5) Dwarf, dwell, and dwindle.
- 6) Period, comma, colon, semicolon, dash, hyphen, apostrophe, question mark, exclamation point, quotation marks, brackets, parenthesis, braces, and ellipses.
- 7) In Minnesota. The team was originally known as the Minneapolis Lakers and kept the name when they moved west.
- 8) Lettuce.
- 9) Shoes, socks, sandals, sneakers, slippers, skis, snowshoes, stockings.
..Well, now you know! Feel any smarter?