

First Unitarian Universalist Church of Detroit

4605 Cass Avenue

313-833-9107 - Office

Detroit, MI 48201

313-833-0127 – Fax

July 31, 2009

office@1stuu.org

First Unitarian
Universalist Church
Organizational Chart
2008 – 2009

Officers

President

Dan Wiest

Vice President

Bill McKnight

Immediate Past

President

Alicia Biggers

Board Secretary

Alma King

Treasurer

Sharlene Gage

Staff

Minister

Rev. Drew Johnston

Minister Emeritus

Rev. Larry Hutchison

Assistant Minister

Rev. Lynda Smith

Music Director

Todd Ballou

Cantor

Gwen Foss

Office Admin

Jen Hurtt

Building & Grounds

Joe Brimmer

Leonard Swint

(Sunday)

Trustees

David Lingholm

Dessa Cosma

Marilyn Mitchell

Dan Rebb

Newsletter Editor

Ryan King

SPIFFING UP THE CHURCH!

RSVP FOR VOLUNTEER WORK DAY ON SAT., AUGUST 15

You can join your friends at First UU to help prepare the church for a new year of fellowship and growth! Let's spiff up the church space and roll out the red carpet for our new members to come in 2009-2010!

The big summer volunteer work day is **Saturday, August 15** from 9am to 2pm. Come for one hour, or the entire time if you like. The plan is to spiff up the entire church grounds, including the Sanctuary, McColleston Hall, outdoor areas, and the soon-to-be-used (keep your fingers crossed) Pullman Hall!

Think of it as a summer reunion, catching up with each other as we work side by side to make our church a beautiful place.

Think of it as an honor to all the past members of First UU's historic congregation.

Or think of it as helping to bring the physical environment of the church to "radiate kindness" to all the new, friendly souls that we haven't yet met.

Or think of it as falling in love all over again with our beautiful church space! (It had me at hello...) Or just think of it as a chance to get a little exercise!

But more than thinking about it, just come and be a part of it! Please RSVP to Rev. Lynda Smith at (313) 617-4615. Pizza will be provided to those who RSVP.

Ryan King

A NOTE FROM REVEREND DREW

The next Sundays you will see me will be August 16th and 23rd. And September 6th will be this year's version of the "Water Service," marking the end of our summer services. The idea on that day is to mingle the water we have collected throughout the summer, to bring together our new learnings and experiences, to bring ourselves back into community as we settle in to a new church year. I invite you to think about that idea over the summer, collect small amounts of water, or collect the much more portable memories, or bring rocks if you so choose. Prepare to share in a way that builds our community, our knowing of each other.

See you in church (soon!)

-Reverend Drew

Walking a Labyrinth

Our August 9th Sunday worship service will be “Walking a Labyrinth.” Following the service at 11am, we will have a real labyrinth in McColleston Hall that you can travel through! Walking meditation through a labyrinth is a great way to find clarity of mind and make decisions. Mary Lou Malone, Alma King, and myself will lead.

Rev. Lynda Smith

Diamond Jack Boat Trip

This year’s trip will be Sunday, August 30, 1:00-3:00 p.m. Some things have changed from last summer; some have remained the same. We need to be in line at 12:30; no food or drinks brought on board; there is a snack bar; and we can carpool from the church right after the service. (The service last year ended at 10:00 so we had plenty of time. This year we’ll have to move a little faster to get to the dock by 12:30.)

This cost is \$11.00 and again we pay as we board. Docking is at the Rivard Plaza instead of Hart Plaza; free parking is available at plaza. The boat goes along the U.S. side as far as Belle Isle, and returns along the Canadian side to the Ambassador Bridge and then back to Rivard Plaza on the U.S. side. A map with directions to the plaza and parking will be available before the trip.

We’re planning on 40 people, so let Maysel Brooks, Alma King, Nora Holt or Sally Borden know as soon as you decide if you’ll be going. The same wonderful weather has been requested!

Maysel Brooks

Help Wanted: Arts and Crafts Exhibition

1st UU is seeking a few good men and women to form a sub-committee to put on an arts and crafts exhibition and sale in Pullman Hall in September on the same weekend as Dally in the Alley. This is a fund-raiser for the church. All ideas are welcome. Please contact Marilyn Mitchell at mmitchell@evansluptak.com to indicate your preferred meeting dates and times.

Marilyn Mitchell



“About Us”

Rhonda Rodgers

A native Detroit, Rhonda Rodgers grew up near the Fox Theater. Her parents were professional ballroom dancers in the 1930s and 1940s. Rhonda’s three older brothers traveled with their parents and they were trained in dance. Then Rhonda’s parents became theatrical agents about the time Rhonda was born. Her mother, Lajune started Rapa House, a performing arts school which became a restaurant and entertainment center. It was on the Fisher freeway service drive.

Rhonda attended Leland School through the 9th grade. This was a school for handicapped children and had a physical therapy program. The school building is located near Lafayette Park, adjacent to Stroh’s Brewery Company, who donated the property to Detroit Public Schools. The school building now houses Leland Lofts.

After Leland School, Rhonda attended and graduated from east-side Osborn High School because it had an elevator.

After high school, Rhonda became a cook at Rapa House for a few years. Then she entered Monteith College at Wayne State University, specialized in Liberal Arts, and graduated with a Bachelor’s Degree in Social Work. Hired at the United Way, Rhonda has worked there for 30 years. Her special interests are reading and music.

Rhonda’s parents had different religious backgrounds. Her father was United Methodist

and her mother, Catholic. Mother was a religious seeker and visited many various churches. She loved exploring and teaching religion, and self-published a little magazine, "Mystic" which informed about many local churches and their activities. Also, she had a rooming house for performers who shared with Rhonda many stories about the wider world.

This August, Rhonda plans to visit former church members Irene and Jon Schultz, who now live in New Mexico.

"I have been involved with First Church for many years, and came for movies, political and social events long before I joined. I have fallen out with the Church on occasion, but it is an accepting and

caring community. You can disagree with the pastor and he doesn't seem to mind."

Mary Neale

Correction

Many of us enjoyed the profile on Mark Schwing in last month's newsletter. Mark requested one minor correction : Mark showed in the 2007 Windsor Biennial, a bi-national exhibition hosted by the Art Gallery of Windsor; Windsor, Ontario, Canada.

Ryan King

JULY BIRTHDAYS:

August 2- Rev. Lynda Smith

August 15- Rhonda Rodgers, Maysel Brooks

August 26- Pat Pilafian

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The deadline for all newsletter submissions, both printed and electronically submitted material, is Wednesday, August 26 no later than 9:00pm. Please send articles to the Newsletter Editor at newslettereditor@1stuu.org. Your feedback is welcomed and appreciated in the spirit of liberating truth, radiating kindness and loving courageously.