

First Unitarian Universalist Church of Detroit

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August 29, 2009

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First Unitarian
Universalist Church
Organizational Chart
2009 – 2010

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

Jenn Hurt

Building & Grounds

Joe Brimmer

Leonard Swint

(Sunday)

Trustees

Dessa Cosma

Marilyn Mitchell

Dan Rebb

Newsletter Editor

Ryan King

CHANGES AT 1ST UU WOMEN'S ALLIANCE!

Women's Alliance has always been part of the fabric of 1st UU. Its historical roots are from a time when women's roles were very different in the life of the church. But the current model for our Women's Alliance is still largely based on what *those* roles were. The function of Women's Alliance was one of supporting women in their endeavors in their homes, communities and the world. Social, musical, intellectual, community service events were sponsored and planned. All of these were done to support 1st UU, the UU Women's Federation, and the Unitarian Universalist Association.

So now we are nine years into a new century. Frankly, the role of Women's Alliance needs to change because it can't sustain itself on the old model here at 1st UU. Long time members are not able to contribute as much. Younger women are in the work force full time. Also, women have many more choices for fulfilling activities in their free time.

So what to do? The Alliance members who meet in June to plan for the next church year suggested that we use our first meeting on Sept 16 to seriously discuss the future of Women's Alliance.

So I'm calling on all members, current, past, hopefully future to attend and share thoughts. Do we try to keep the same model of 10 luncheon meetings for a church year? How do we attract new members? What should be our mission? There are lots of questions and possibilities, of course. And, we need to be practical and honest because if we come up with plans we need people to step up and follow through to carry out them out! In addition, we need members willing to take leadership roles.

So this is an invitation to be part of the future! Attend our luncheon meeting on Wednesday, September 16. Rev. Drew will be our guest and has offered to guide us through some suggestions based on his experience and perspective. If you think it is important for Women's Alliance to be part of the future at 1st UU, please attend and let us know what you think and what you can do!

If you have questions or thoughts to share about this, contact Alma King or Ruth Seifert.

Alma King

Women's Alliance October Event: Come and learn about term limits at the Women's Alliance luncheon, Wednesday, Oct. 21st, 12-2 pm. Marjorie Sarbaugh-Thompson, an associate professor at Wayne State University in the Political Science department, is a nationally known speaker on term limits. Everyone is invited!

Membership Musings

Hope you all enjoyed the Sundae Sundays this summer. The Membership Committee earned a little money for the church (\$60). So as a reward, we will have free ice cream/sherbet at a Coffee Hour in September.

And as a special event, we are trying something new. At Coffee Hour on Sunday, September 13th, we will have our first Hometown Homecoming. Think about something that represents your hometown and bring it to Coffee Hour on that date and share your stories/memories with others. It should be a great way to get to know each other better. We already know someone is bringing several old maps of Detroit as it was 100 years ago. We can do this again if we find it fun.

Feel free to give your ideas of fun things to do to the Membership Committee and we can help you make it happen.

We already have plans for a costumed Halloween Party on the Wednesday before Halloween which will be the brain child of Kathleen and Robert Johnson. Please contact Robert or Kathleen if you would like to be involved (see separate article in this newsletter).

Sally Borden

Help Michigan Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Network Push for Health Care Reform

A historic battle for national health care reform is being waged this August. Health activists from 14 Michigan UU congregations, as well as a union of 40,000 child care providers and people from other faiths, have agreed to work with the Michigan Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Network (MUUSJN) to advocate for national health care reform in 2009.

MUUSJN, a statewide network of over 600 UU justice advocates and their allies, e-mails information and action alerts to rapid response leaders who forward it to others in their congregations or their communities. The Network, which partners with the Michigan Universal Healthcare Access Network, is encouraging congregations to preach, teach and bear public witness during August that access to health care is a moral imperative.

The U.S. health insurance system is dysfunctional. Profits of the top 10 publicly traded health insurance companies have skyrocketed 428% from \$2.4 to \$12.9 billion between years 2000 and 2007. However, as premiums for health insurance soar, 47 million Americans are uninsured and 25 million more are underinsured.

MUUSJN invites citizens to call their members of Congress toll free: 1-877-264-4226. Urge Congress to support health system reform that assures consumers choices of quality, affordable, comprehensive coverage, that includes a public option to keep private insurance companies competitive. For more information about health care reform or how to get involved, contact Randy Block at 248-549-5170 or randyblock@yahoo.com. For more information about action opportunities, visit MUUSJN's website: www.uujustice.org/UniversalHealthCare.html.

Michigan Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Network, Lucille McNaughton & Sarah Redmond, Co-Chairs

1st UU at Dally in the Alley

First UU will have a table at Dally in the Alley, September 12, 2009 (rain date September 13.) If you are interested in tabling, please contact Dessa Cosma at (231) 631-4469 or dessacosma@gmail.com

Sale of 2010 Entertainment Books To Benefit Women's Alliance

The new 2010 edition of Entertainment books are now for sale. This year, the sale of the books will benefit the Women 's Alliance of 1st UU! The Entertainment books include all kinds of coupons to save money on local businesses. The books are \$20 and last year the church made \$200 from the sales. If you would like to purchase a book, please see me at church, call (313) 882-7775 or email margretbeck@comcast.net. I will also have the books for sale at the Women's Alliance meetings on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at noon.

Margaret Beck

Halloween is coming to 1st UU!

All who are interested in planning and hosting a Halloween party on Wednesday October 28th after Vespers, please contact Robert and Kathleen Johnson at (313)343-8871 or email lilbunniest@gmail.com.

"About Us"

This is part of an ongoing series of profiles of members of 1st UU Church of Detroit.
Elayne Sikelianos

Elayne loves Detroit, the Blues scene, and Blues musicians. She was born here. As a child, she traveled with her mother, the showgirl sometimes known as Cat Girl. The family eventually settled in Santa Barbara, California, where Elayne lived for 25 years.

In Santa Barbara, she became a seeker of truth, attending the Presbyterian Church, the Hindu Temple, Buddhist meditation groups, and the Unitarian Universalist Church. She became a member of the UU congregation after enrolling her daughter in the co-op nursery school at the church.

Elayne makes regular trips to Boulder, Colorado, to visit her granddaughter, the smartest, sweetest little girl ever. Elayne's daughter and her husband teach at the university. Her daughter is a published poet.

Elayne became acquainted with our church by hosting a MoveOn.org meeting which church members attended. Now she cooks for the Women;s Alliance, helps with the children's program, attended Evensong, and has planned a Vespers service.

Elayne welcomes your attention. She'll be happy to talk to you about anything mentioned here. Just ask her!

Mary Lou Malone

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The deadline for all newsletter submissions, both printed and electronically submitted material, is Wednesday, September 23 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.