

The First
Unitarian Universalist
Church of Richmond

First News

RichmondUU.org

Volume XVII Issue 4 March 2013

REV. JEANNE PUPKE

SENIOR MINISTER

Still Radical After All These Years

Our Unitarian Universalist commitment to the inherent worth and dignity of all people gets put to the test often. Sometimes, the huge historical, political and cultural forces which suggest otherwise are so huge, they can fade into the background. We can norm around them and hardly notice how many dehumanizing forces are at work.

In a government established with a 3/5s clause, expanded with the slaughter of native peoples, we find today a nation with 11 million undocumented people in its shadows, and 2.3 million citizens held in prison, these mostly our black and brown brothers and sisters. Women still work for lesser compensation than men, even in the same jobs. Our urban public schools need more than we are giving them.

So to say that we firmly believe in the inherent worth and dignity of all people, runs counter to much that is in our country and culture. To be a UU with this belief is to ask what can be done to bring the world closer to living the reality of each person's value. Living our first value asks of us a radical position against devaluing all humans.

This month, we do two things: we begin our study of the Seven Principles in our monthly sermon themes and we conduct a canvass of very member for support of our church. Our goal is to include every household, every person in a discussion of our first principle and every household and person in a pledging to our community some portion of their financial resources. We do this together because being radical is always clearer and easier when with those who share commitment.

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SUNDAY WORSHIP & RELIGIOUS ED.

10:00am and 11:30am Services

March 3, "Radical Commitment of the Heart" Rev. Jeanne Pupke, Is there room in you to make strong, bold and radical commitments? We begin our series on the seven Principles of Unitarian Universalism, examining our First Principle. Our Principle will be proven by our Celebration Sunday.

March 10, "The Strangers Among Us" Margaret Rush, Walter Clark, Sharon Amoss, Bob Rodgers, None of us is who we seem to be. Who is the person sitting next to you? And who are you, to that person? Join us as we explore outside our comfort zone.

March 17, "A different language", First UU Youth explore the ways that music connects and inspires them.

March 24, "Christian Voices in First UU" Rev Sherman Z. Logan, Jr. and the Christian Theist Group, The common expressions of contemporary Unitarian Universalism suggest that while Christianity is our heritage , it belongs only in our past. Yet our faith is full of stories of people arriving at their liberal Christian faith by different paths. Join Rev Sherman and members of the Christian Theist Group as they share their stories.

March 31, "Jesus and the Radical Act of Being Fully Alive" Rev. Jeanne Pupke, Our celebration of Easter recognizes the teachings of Jesus as radically humanitarian. Rev. Jeanne offers a very different view on the meaning of Easter.

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First Unitarian Universalist Church

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Please make the effort to attend all services this month as we explore our First Principle, hear from speakers on why they support the church, one another and the commitment to human dignity. Radical commitments need radical commitment.

Vespers

Vespers is a shorter, reflective service held Wednesdays at 5:30pm. Simple Supper is served after Vespers.

March 6	Utopia	Aija Simpson
March 13	Middle	Jeanne Pupke
March 20	Equinox	Aija Simpson
March 27	Voice	Aija Simpson

BUILDING USAGE PROCEDURES

Requests for the use of First UU's facilities should be submitted in writing to the Church Business Manager, preferably two weeks or more prior to the proposed use. A space request form can be obtained at the church office or on the website, under the tab "Contact". The form can be submitted in person, or sent by email or fax. Space is generally available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Once an application is submitted, the Business Manager will review the application. If any questions arise, the Business Manager will contact the applicant. No individual or group may rent the building for religious purposes without prior approval of the Church Minister.

The space you request is reserved after confirmation that there are no previous reservations for that space. If there is a conflict, another space may be reserved for you. You will receive confirmation of space reservation from the church Business manager no later than 48 hours from the receipt of the form. Contact the Church Business Manager at sherman.logan@richmonduu.org or 355-0777

News of the Community:

Home from the hospital: Warren Hull, son of Amy and Corey, Darlene Dragavon, Leslie Stokely, John Griffin. Remaining in hospital: Ian Finlayson

Family members losses:

Bob Odor's Mother, Virginia Morris Odor passed away, memorial service March 3, 2013; **Jamie Kilpatrick's mother**, Virginia Anne Kilpatrick past away, her memorial was March 1st; **Bob Meadow's mother** passed away and her service was held in February.

Member losses:

Powell Peck's memorial will be held in our congregation on Friday, March 22, 2013 at 2:00pm. His wife Nazlee thanks you for cards and calls.

TEAM KINDNESS COORDINATOR FOR MARCH

Laura May lmay45@comcast.net 804-755-7054

A NOTE FROM OUR FIRST UU PRESIDENT

Why do I pledge to this Church?

At this time in the church year we focus on stewardship and financial support for the church. This begins the process for budget planning and the annual meeting in May. Cabaret on Saturday March 2nd, and Celebration Sunday on March 3rd, will kick off the annual stewardship campaign. The theme this year is "It Takes All of Us" and we have a goal of 100% participation in pledging this year.



So why do I pledge to this Church? This church community is my spiritual home and a place where I can feed my inner spirit, explore other spiritual paths and learn so much on Sundays and in conversations with so many members and friends. Lifespan religious education provided a spiritual foundation for my son and many of our children, in addition to adult programs with opportunities for continual learning and growing. I pledge to this church to support our Spiritual and Educational Ministries.

This church community provides opportunities for social justice work, from bringing canned goods for the food bank, supporting Greene School with donations or Saturday work days, share the plate Sundays, to the mitten tree at Christmas. On Valentine's Day it was an honor to be "Standing on the Side of Love" and hanging out with the "yellow shirts" in downtown Richmond, with our church community and other community partners in support of marriage equality. I pledge in order to continue the important work of the Social Justice Ministry of this church.

This church has a care ministry that is outstanding. Two years ago when my husband was dying of cancer, the care committee was there with a creative array of services and addressing needs on multiple levels. I am thankful for this group of church members that go the extra mile to take care of those in our community who are in need. I pledge in order to support the Care Ministry of this church and their continued support of our church community.

We are a church community with an arts foundation in Gallery and growing in the work of UU Presents and support of the One Voice Choir. I pledge to continue the Arts Ministry of this church.

First UU has taken a leadership role in support of the Southeast District through hosting cluster and district meetings and hosting and sharing training with other UU congregations. We are a learning congregation through sponsoring ministerial student interns on an annual basis. I pledge to this church so that we can support the UUA and the Southeast District, and so that we continue to grow and benefit as a church community and a religious denomination.

So I pledge because First UU is an important part of my life, and also in order that the good work of First UU can continue. It takes all of us to support and maintain first UU for the mutual benefit of so many. So why do you pledge to First UU? I thank you for the commitments you will make in March to our church community.

In Peace,
Dorothy Hollahan

UU ASSOCIATION OF CONGREGATIONS

The Congregational Stewardship Network

Bill Clontz, a consultant from this branch of the UUA, came to our church the weekend of January 18-20 to determine if our Capital Campaign goal is realistic and to advise us on fund raising strategies for the Campaign and for Stewardship. Bill interviewed a total of 36 members in person or in an on-line survey who constituted a representative sample of the demographics and level of connection to the church. Bill also measured how well the campaign has been received, the overall feelings about how First UU is doing, and a range of topics respondents offered as examples of good news or areas of potential concern. All of these factors contribute to the health of the congregation as a community and, in turn, indicate what financial support for the capital campaign is likely. This is a summary of his report to the Capital Campaign Co-Chairs and the Senior Minister.

Worship services and the Senior Minister received very high praise and RE was a close second in praise and making connections to the church. Members also liked being a part of a small ministry group. There was some concern by theists and humanists that the other's view had more influence than theirs. Bill suggested that there is room to work here to the good of all concerned. There was a consistent agreement that the church is an intellectually challenging and friendly place. A sample of characteristic responses were

"The freedom of the pulpit and the freedom of speech here are important to me."

"I don't have to check my brain at the door here."

" People here are so loving, open, and welcoming. It's a wonderful congregation"

"I feel welcome here. I feel I have been searching my entire life, and now I'm home."

"I get that 'feel good feeling' every Sunday, and it carries me through the week."

The vast majority of participants felt informed about the capital campaign, what it will bring to the church, and gave high marks for the effort to get the word out. Some had specific suggestions that were passed on to the campaign committee. Some said:

" The new design is as warm and inviting as is this congregation."

" Completing this project affirms the vitality of our congregation"

"We must upgrade and modernize to be an attractive space"

After analyzing data provided by First UU and his study, Bill concluded that it is feasible for the church to reach a goal of between \$1.9M and \$2.1M for the overall capital campaign, with a stretch goal of \$2.5M. The campaign probably will be able to fund all of the design at \$2.1M, except for the windows in the Great Hall and the roof.

Bill concluded: "1st Unitarian Universalist of Richmond is an impressive congregation in so many ways. What you have already accomplished and the growth you have experienced gives witness to the needs you serve and the inspiration you offer. The potential you have to nurture each other and to be a force in the community for UU values is essentially unlimited. The capital campaign you have begun serves all of these goals in very direct and appropriate ways. "

Louise Einolf

Capital Campaign Co-chair

STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

Your Stewardship Chair's 'Take': It Takes All of Us

When you receive this newsletter, many of the Stewardship Campaign activities soliciting financial commitments for the coming 2013-14 fiscal year will likely have been completed – the Silent Phase by March 1; Cabaret, our fabulous ‘show’ of talent on March 2; and Celebration Sunday, March 3, when everyone else is asked to submit their pledge during Sunday Services. With heartfelt Thanks to all who have already pledged, these activities will have hopefully resulted in a successful Campaign! If you have already pledged, you can still read on for a retrospective; and if you haven’t yet pledged, the following message is for you!

For more than a year before I joined this congregation as a ‘Friend’ in early 2006, First UU was in transition mode: an interim minister had been brought in to serve our beloved community until a settled minister could be found. By Fall 2006 when Rev. Jeanne joined us, much of the angst that led to the need for an interim minister had dissipated, to be followed by other issues. There had been a significant decline over the preceding years in attendance, in financial support, in membership growth, in sustaining our heritage of community activism & social justice leadership, and even in programs offered to and used by our members. Our congregation had settled into a self-defined comfort zone, and while we served many of our own social needs, we excelled mostly in ‘keeping on keeping on’ in spite of chronic shortages of everything from money and manpower to trained lay leadership, relying on an ever-decreasing number of volunteer leaders. Our facility was also showing its age, with no plans to address the growing problems. On many fronts, we had lost our way.

Under Rev. Jeanne’s leadership much progress has been accomplished: membership (Yes, I, too, became a Member), community involvement, programs, and leadership development have all increased substantially, and we have also raised well over half the funds needed to upgrade our facilities. Staffing and financial support have also increased, although by less than the other activities.

So, we come once again to our Annual Fund Drive, the time when we seek financial commitment from our Members and Friends to support the operating costs of our facilities, Staff and our many programs. It behooves us to look at the results of this past year’s Campaign, when we yet again came up short of the total Pledge Amount needed to support those Budget additions that were verbally supported by our Congregation. Among other things this year, we again delayed the search for an Assistant Minister, delayed purchasing a new database system to effectively manage the church and its activities, delayed hiring a Communications Director, and delayed compensating all our Staff consistent with UUA guidelines. These much-needed additions would have all been done this year had every Member and Friend made and fulfilled financial commitments that they could afford. However, **120 of our 398 ‘pledging units’ did not pledge, and 40 of them have made no contribution of record.** Budgeting was again problematic since the needed funds had to be taken on faith, with no pledge in hand. In spite of scrimping on every front imaginable, we found ourselves having to once again dip into our Cash Reserves to the tune of some \$35,000 just to cover operating costs for the current year. Needless to say, this cannot continue.

This year, in an effort to change this pattern of seriously underfunding our financial needs, four elements of our Annual Fund Drive are being approached in a different way: 1) our Goal is to have 100% of our Members & Friends submitting a pledge; 2) all households that do not pledge by Celebration Sunday will be directly contacted in the following weeks; 3) all who do pledge (though not the amount) will be publicly recognized; and 4) Celebration Sunday is being reintroduced.

So, if you have not submitted your Pledge, you are encouraged to do so immediately, and to be generous in your support. Everyone is being asked to help overcome the chronic shortfall in funding by considering raising their pledge amount by at least \$50 a month, or just \$1.67 or more a day, so not a monumental sum, but in aggregate one that will make the difference for First UU.

There’s been mention that “we are the ones we’ve been waiting for”, and in that vein, “First UU is the church we have been waiting for.” We want you as a Member; we assume you want First UU as your congregation, your spiritual home. So, what are you waiting for! It truly takes all of us, including you, too, so send in your Pledge today!

We look forward to celebrating a successful Campaign with you!

~ Ned Haley

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Thoughts for the Journey . . .

The Inherent Worth and Dignity of Every Person

This is a community of compassion and welcoming.

You do not have to do anything to earn the love contained within these walls.

You do not have to be braver, smarter, stronger, better than you are in this moment to belong here, with us.

-Erika Hewitt, adapted



Many people believe the seven principles are what hold us together under one umbrella. Though we do not all believe the same things, we accept the seven principles as important ideas or ideals by which we make decisions and try to live our lives. This month in Religious Education, the thematic focus is our Unitarian Universalist first principle – *the inherent worth and dignity of every person*. During Chalice Lighting time, students in Grades 1-5 will be exploring this principle through expressing gratitude, hearing stories that speak to their understanding, discussion, singing songs, and through meditation. Children benefit most from religious education that occurs in a beloved community and allows for personal kinesthetic expression.

When you encourage your children to stretch themselves in their spiritual growth and understanding, very often you don't simply meet their needs, you feed yourself as well. Below are several suggested storybooks to share with your children at home. These stories encourage and promote the first principle:

- Friedman, Ina. *How My Parents Learned to Eat*. Harcourt 1991
- Henkes, Kevin. *Chrysanthemum*. New York: Scholastic, 2005
- Lionni, Leo. *The Biggest House in the World*. New York: Dragonfly Books, 1973
- Palocco, Patricia. *The Keeping Quilt*. New York: Aladdin, 2001
- Yarborough, Camille. *Cornrows*. New York: Putnam Juvenile, 1997.

Middle School students will continue their Coming of Age studies this month through topics entitled Connecting to the Natural World and The God You Don't Believe In, the God You Do. Continuing in their growth of articulating and sharing their faith, High School students will complete planning for and present the annual spring Youth Service, March 17. Worship together to be inspired!

In hope, Rhonda Wingfield, Dir., Lifespan Religious Education

CHALICE LIGHTERS UPDATE

Chalice Lighters program is gaining momentum at First UU and we want to keep you informed and updated about how to get involved in this worthwhile project.

What is the Chalice Lighter Program? As explained on the Southeast District UUA Web Page, the Chalice Lighters program "encourages and supports growth of Unitarian Universalism in the Southeast District, by awarding grants to member congregations and clusters. Grants are awarded for both traditional and innovative growth projects." Examples of the types of grants include building expansion, funding assistant ministers or additional staff, and innovative community ventures.

How does it work? The program works by each congregation enlisting congregants to pledge money in order to help fund grants to member congregations and clusters. No more than three times a year, a request will come in a self-addressed envelope with a description of the request and when the money is due.

How much do I have to pledge? We encourage people to pledge at least \$15 dollars per call but you can pledge any amount. If you choose \$15, the most you will be giving is \$45 per year - pretty manageable for most people. You can always decline a pledge for any reason and will always know exactly where your money is going.

Why is it important? It is amazing what the pooling of \$20 dollar checks can do! Most grants are around \$20,000 - \$25,000. By becoming part of the Chalice Lighters, you will help increase the visibility and sustainability of Unitarian Universalism. And an added bonus is if enough people in our congregation participate, First UU will be eligible to apply for a grant, should we ever need one.

We have made tremendous progress in increasing congregational participation in the Chalice Lighter project at First UU. We went from 89 individuals to 119 individuals in the last few months. But we would like to invite more people to participate and help reach our goal of 25% of the congregation! The three ways you can join are 1) On-line at www.seduu.org/services/chalicelighters or 2) filling out a form available at church inside the entrance in the plastic display case to the right or 3) contacting Ellen Parnell (egparnell@yahoo.com) or Christina Arnold (Tallgrl55@yahoo.com) for more information. We look forward to hearing from you!

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION ~ CLASSESS

Lifespan Religious Education Announcements

An updated version of the catalog is now online! Visit www.richmonduu.org, under the heading GROW, Religious Education, to view the latest class information.

Register for these March Classes:

Hike Along the James: Join other First UUs for a hike along the North Bank of the James River. This hike is for all ages. Wear comfortable clothes and shoes to walk for about an hour. Meet at the church parking lot entrance at 1:00. **Mar. 10, 1-2:30.** **Facilitator: Ernest Wilson, No fee.**

Estate & Life Planning: Be Prepared Now: Everything you wanted to know about estate planning (death and taxes and more) but were afraid to ask! This session provides an informative overview of all of the pertinent topics and then leaves lots of time for questions. This is a one session class that will be offered twice.

***Second Offering: Wed., April 10, 6:30-9 pm**

Facilitator: Carolyn Bourdow, Estate Planner and Elder Law Attorney, Fee: \$10

*Childcare available, no additional fee

Introduction to Buddhism: Buddhism is an important source for Unitarian Universalists. This class will cover the central tenets of Buddhism, including the Four Noble Truths and the Eightfold Path. Participants will also be introduced to different types of meditation practice. Wear comfortable clothes. **Mar. 21, 28, April 4, 7-9pm** **Facilitators:** Anne Joseph and Regina Largent

What is Memory?: Memory is at the core of our identity as persons and indispensable for us to function in daily life. Yet it remains a mystery. This class will delve into the scientific study of memory, including forgetting, absent-mindedness, and false memory, and also give some exercises for improving yours. **Mar. 25, Apr. 1, 8-7-8:30p.** Facilitator: **Mark Reimers**. Fee: **\$15.**

WUU / CLUSTER EVENT

Save Saturday, March 23, for a WUU/Cluster Event

There are lots of reasons to attend the all-day gathering at the Williamsburg Unitarian Universalists Church on March 23. A major workshop will focus on forming legislative advocacy groups of UUs—from our cluster and possibly from across the state—led by UUs from Northern Virginia who have already started this process. Other states have formed UU legislative ministries, working together on issues, and our congregation and cluster will benefit from their experience at the March 23rd cluster meeting in Williamsburg.

The day starts at 9 with keynote at 9:30 and ends at 3:30, with lunch provided. If you attend you must register (information will be provided next week for online registration through the SE District office) and pay \$15, a small sum for such a large day.

If you have questions, email: lindalanehamilton at gmail dot com.

SPRING FLING IS COMING....

The third Saturday of April may sound far off till you really look at the calendar and realize that, of course, you want to be part of the action, but need to define exactly how. Your donation to the April 20 Spring Fling, that Auction Thing, one of the church's major fund-raisers, may take a bit of thought. Beer tasting on the deck? Lessons in an activity in which you excel? Children's activities? A yummy dinner? Anything that a group – large or small -- would enjoy. And if you can contact some local businesses for gift certificates or objects, that would be wonderful also.

Just don't tarry too long in the thought process. Talk to those happy people behind the table in the lobby about your donation ideas if you need help refining them. Grab a donation sheet from them or go on line and print out one at home.

You simply open your computer, go to the First UU web page, click on CARE in the blue navigation bar at the top of the page and select the first item on the list – Spring Fling Auction. Click on Auction Donations for instructions and a link to the actual donation form. No muss, no fuss, no forgetting by the time Sunday rolls around.....

EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

TEAM KINDNESS

Team Kindness (formerly known as Care Committee) - will meet on Wednesday, February 27th at 7:00 pm. Those currently involved with Team Kindness, and anyone thinking about becoming involved, is welcome to attend. Team Kindness is a ministry of caring for our congregants in moments of need. Volunteers for providing rides and/or meals are always welcome. We can also use volunteers to coordinate a month's worth of care. It is wonderfully rewarding!

To learn more, contact **Margaret Rush** (margaretrush1009@gmail.com) or **Mabrey Matherly** (mabreymatherly@live.com) for more information.

THE UU VISIONING PROCESS

Imagine First UU five or ten years from now. What do we stand for? What are your hopes and dreams for our congregation? In the coming weeks, there will be two opportunities to help define our shared vision for First UU.

A forum will be held here at the church:

- Thursday, February 28th at 6:00 pm.

The forum will provide a **fun** way to think about and describe our best future.

Please plan to participate in one of these forums. If you cannot make one of the forums (or even if you can) you may also send any thoughts you may have to vision@richmonduu.org.

MONEYLESS YARD SALE

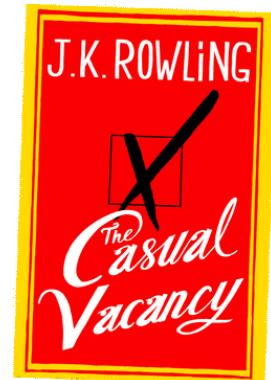
"Save the Date! Next Moneyless Yard Sale is Sunday - March 17th.
Watch for more information in the order of service."

DAYTIMERS

The March meeting of the Daytimers will take place at 11 AM on Wednesday, March 13 in the Douglasdale Studio of First UU. Evaline Jones will speak about her trip to Ireland. A pot luck will immediately follow. Bring some food without peanuts or tree nuts to share with fellow members and friends. If you cannot bring food you may leave a small donation instead.

SUNDAY BOOK CLUB

We have bookgroup this Sunday on the 17th at 4:30pm at Positive Vibe Cafe as usual. March book is "Casual Vacancy" by JK Rowling. Next month meeting is also the 3rd Sunday, same place at 4:30pm. The title will be, "It will be On the Road" by Jack Kerouac.



EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS AT FIRST UU

Book Nook

Take the opportunity to invite a visitor or a 1st UU member that you don't know into the Middle Studio for coffee and conversation. Then, browse through the variety of new and used reading choices for sale at the Book Nook or take home a few magazines from the exchange rack.

Sermon CDs may be ordered and will be available the next Sunday, for \$2.00.

Please, check to see if your order is among those that have not been picked up.

"STANDING ON THE SIDE OF LOVE" T-Shirts

UU Chalice Necklaces & Earrings

Creative Designs by Wayne Swatlowski for \$12.00

Book Nook Gift Certificates for \$5.00, \$10.00 and \$20.00

ICGR Calendars are available for \$15.00

NEW ON THE SHELF: "DARKENING *the DOORWAYS*: Black Trailblazers and Missed Opportunities in Unitarian Universalism" BY Mark D. Morrison-Reed (\$16.00)

We have a variety of titles, by Ginjer Clarke, for the younger members in your family. (\$4.00 for a signed copy).

March is "Women's History Month." Donations of books about women or written by women for our sale table will be most appreciated. Thank you for helping to make our book store a success.

~ Pat Vaughn

MEET-UPS

Meet-Ups: Look at Animal Rescue and Cooking

The March meet-ups again offer an opportunity for those interested in the topics to come together to meet others of like interests and to decide their own agenda.

COMING IN MARCH . . .

Monday, March 18: Single Parenting

Tuesday, March 26: going to the movies and then discussing them

Both Meet-Ups will meet at 7pm at the church. If either (or both) topic interests you, please come and "check it out" with your fellow UUs.

DIDJA KNOW. . .

DID JA KNOW??... .

MARCH IS A CELEBRATION OF WOMEN'S CONTRIBUTIONS FOR A BETTER WORLD?

Historically, generations of women have been taught they must accept male domination over their bodies and their lives. It began in the 4th Century, as Christian tenants of belief were being reinterpreted to accommodate the power of Rome in exchange for positions of influence. Christian moralists redefined the Genesis myth to portray women as the source of temptation and evil, reinforcing male domination, in spite of fellow theologians that continued to proclaim that the Christian gospels were a message of freedom. Gnostic teachings were eventually suppressed and orthodox churches became more rigidly institutionalized, eventually leading to civil laws that defined women and children as the 'property' of a husband or a male member of her family. For many women around the world this is still their way of life.

During the Revolutionary Period, educating women meant educating 'mothers' with enough basic training to nurture the minds and bodies of (male) future citizens and leaders. Equity Law, which developed in England during the 19th century, had a liberalizing effect upon the legal rights of women in the United States. Unions were organized to create coalitions of laboring members, enabling them to bargain for better working conditions, higher pay and limits on working hours. Hard-won initiatives, passed at the first Women's Rights Convention in 1848, gradually developed into legislation that allowed women to own property, upheld their rights to privacy, gave them access to equal consideration under the law, and opened the doors to educational and career opportunities.

Women had been excluded from the professions because they could not gain entry into secondary institutions for education. Most colleges hired only male faculty, there were no women's courses of study and very few role models. 'Experts' claimed that females were incapable of higher learning due to their intellectual and moral weakness. Women's refusal to accept the traditions of single-sex educational elitism became the driving force behind the building and success of women's colleges in the United States. When American women gained the right to vote, in 1920, the door opened for entry into the political arena and legislation was enacted, in 1979, prohibiting gender discrimination by federally funded institutions.

In 1978, a movement began in Sonoma, California with a "Women's History Week" celebration. Three years later, Congress passed a resolution establishing a 'National Women's History Week' that expanded into the entire month of March. This event provides the opportunity to recognize and honor the contributions of women to our society, to our culture and to our country.

This year twenty women hold Federal congressional seats in Washington, D.C. and women's military levels of responsibility have been increased. They hold positions as advisors and international ambassadors. They are members of the Presidential cabinet, the court system and are found in all levels of state and local government. Women participate in social action, education and religious reform movements. They take their places in the science labs, on the athletic fields, and even in outer space.

Each year on Valentine's Day, 1st UU members gather at the John Marshall Courthouse to *Stand on the Side of Love* in protest against Virginia laws that deny LGBT citizens the right to marry.

Traditional views of women and their roles in society are evolving because our citizens recognize that change will not happen without consistent participation in the work for equality.

~ Pat Vaughn

MARCH 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 5:30pm Bread for the Journey (BftJ) Dinner 6:00pm BftJ Service 6:30pm BftJ Tea & Chat 6:00pm First UU "Cabaret" Dress Rehearsal 7:00pm Nu Beginning Reh.	2 10:00am Class: Discovering the Divine In the Everyday 10:00am RE Class 6:00p First UU "Cabaret"
3 Share the Plate 9:00am Zen Meditation 10:00am Service & Church School 11:30am Services & Church School 3:30pm Anne O'Byrne Class Recital	4 6:00pm One Voice Reh. 6:00pm Stewardship mtg.	5 5:30pm Christian Theist Grp. 6p Stewardship 6:30pm Taoist Group 7:00pm Class: Practical Options for Aging 7:00pm SGM: Oaks	6 11:00am SGM: Pathfinders 5:30pm Vespers 6:00pm Simple Supper 6:45pm Class: Reclaiming Universal Salvation 6:45pm RE Committee 7:15pm First UU Singers	7 6:30pm Class: Parents as Spiritual Guides 7:00pm SGM: Dogwoods 7:00pm Zen Meditation	8	9 9:30am Stewardship 10:00am Class: Discovering the Divine In 10:00am RE Class 5:30pm FUUN Night
10 DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME 9:00am SGM: Sugar Maples 9:00am Zen meditation 10:00am Service and Church School 11:15am RE Class , COA-Lib. 11:15am - RE Class(youth-LL) 11:30am Services and Church School 12:30pm Jubilee Reunion 1:00pm Humanist Discussion	11 7:00pm COM meeting 7:00pm SGM: Sycamore 7:00pm Writer's Group	12 5:30pm Christian Theist Grp. 6:00pm Ewe Ewe Knitters 6:30pm Class: Estate and Life Planning 6:30pm Richmond Tree Stewards 7:00pm Humanist Discussion	13 11:00am Daytimers 5:30pm Vespers 6:00pm Simple Supper 6:30pm Class: Reclaiming Universal Salvation 6:30pm SGM: Grow, Care, Act 7:00pm SGM: Men's Group 7:15pm First UU Singers	14 6:30pm Board meeting 6:30pm Class: Parents as Spiritual Guides 7:00pm SGM: Magnolias 7:00pm Zen Meditation	15 7:00pm Nu Beginning Reh.	16 10:00am Class: Discovering the Divine In 10:00am RE Class 9:50am QUUilters
17 9:00am Zen Meditation 10:00am Service & Church School 11:00am & 12:30pm Moneyless Yard Sale 11:30am Service & Church School 12:30pm LGBTQ-Straight Alliance meeting	18 7:00pm Meet-Up Group: Single Parenting	19 1:00pm SGM: Oasis 5:30pm Christian Theist Grp. 6:30pm Taoist Group 7:15pm Membership Committee	20 11:00am SGM: Pathfinders 5:30pm Vespers 6:00pm Simple Supper 6:45pm Class* Reclaiming Universal Salvation 7:00pm Class: Living the Spirit 7:00pm SGM: Willows 7:15pm First UU Singers	21 6:00pm SGM: Smoothstones 6:00pm SGM: Petipoint 6:30pm Class: Parents as Spiritual Guides 7:00pm Class: Introduction to Buddhism 7:00pm Woman's Circle 7:00pm Zen Meditation	22 6:00pm CREU: Joyful Justice	23 10:00am Class: Discovering the Divine In the Everyday 10:00am RE Class 12:00pm F.U.U.N.K. Group
24 8:45am Zen Meditation 10:00am Service & Church School 11:15am RE Class , COA-Lib. 11:15am RE Class(youth-LL) 11:30am Services & Church School 12:45pm Earthspirit Group	25 4:00pm LPC meeting 7:00pm Class: What is Memory? 7:00pm Writer's Group	26 5:30pm Christian Theist Group 6:00pm Ewe Ewe Knitters 7:00pm Meet-Up Group: Going to the Movies	27 5:30pm Vespers 6:00pm Simple Supper 6:30pm Class: Reclaiming Universal Salvation 6:30pm SGM: Care, Grow, Act 7:00pm Team Kindness 7:15pm First UU Singers	28 6:30pm Class: Parents as Spiritual Guides 7:00pm Class: Introduction to Buddhism 7:00pm Zen Meditation	29	30 10:00am Class: Discovering the Divine In the Everyday 10:00am RE Class
31 9:00am Zen Meditation 10:00am Service & Church School 11:15am RE Class , COA-Lib. 11:15am RE Class(youth-LL) 11:30am Services & Church School						

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