

Spiritual Development

Continuing through the Summer: Benevolent Street Zendo

A Zen Meditation Group

Every Monday, 7:00p

Boundless Way is an interfaith Zen community, maintaining close connections with the Soto Zen Buddhist Association and the American Zen Teachers Association. (All three of its senior teachers, including our minister, James Ford, are also Unitarian Universalists.) Everyone is welcome. Brief instruction will be available to those who come at 6:45p.

We are a member community of the Boundless Way Zen Sangha.

<http://www.boundlesswayzen.org>

Contact: Jan Seymour-Ford and James Ford
(benevolentstreetzendo@gmail.com)

Reimagining Religion

Second and fourth Tuesdays at 7:00p

Reimagining Religion is an ongoing attempt to employ the best recent scholarship in coming to grips with issues raised by radically new developments in the study of religion and thereby achieving a fuller appreciation of what religious literacy entails in the twenty-first century. Registration not required.

Contact: Tom Hall (401.647.2925 or
twh2nd@aol.com)

Knitting Connection

Every Tuesday, 7:00p

Join other knitters in the congregation for an evening of knitting/crocheting and conversation. Bring your own project or work on our group project. Beginners are always welcome! No registration necessary.

Contact: Julie Meyers (kelmey@cox.net)

Natural Wisdom and Compassion Meditation

Every Wednesday, 7:00p

These guided meditations of love and wisdom from Tibetan Buddhism have been adapted into new forms that can touch the hearts and minds of people from all backgrounds and faiths, to help each of us bring out the best in ourselves within our relationships, service, and social action.

Contact: Ken Bent (kenbent@cox.net)

Will reconvene in the fall:

Spiritual Cinema

UUMeN

Sunday, July 11

10:00a

The Theology of After School

Daniel Lawlor

From the halls of Judah's temple to a middle school cafeteria, there is something consistent and eternal: a demand for dignity. Daniel Lawlor will explore the notion of recalling the dignity and personhood of young people as seen in the after school community's work here in Providence.

Daniel Lawlor is a Providence native, graduate of Brown University, employee of the West End Community Center, associate with the Providence After School Alliance (PASA), and a recent convert to Unitarian Universalism. He is a member of the worship committee at Bell Street Chapel.

Sunday, July 18

10:00a

Synchronicity and Serendipity

Melissa Guillet

Genetics and cell memory, white dogs in snow storms, a volcano in Iceland and Rhode Island weather a week later, dreams of Princess Di, Walt Whitman, this rock, serendipity and synchronicity. . . find out what they all might add up to in this sermon.

Melissa Guillet is a mother, teacher, published poet, founder of Sacred Fools Press, often bearing paint, garden dirt, and small children.

Sunday, July 25

10:00a

Creating Peace

Ginny Fox

What started out for me as a spiritual, healing journey became something I share with thousands of people. Like many things we do in life, I backed into it. This "work of my heart" is done through the Peace Flag Project, an organization sponsored by First Unitarian's Social Justice Ministry. Quakers, and maybe even some Unitarians, talk about being "led" to do something, and I have to admit I have felt led to do this work.

Ginny Fox considers herself a life-long Unitarian even though she hasn't officially been one until the last few years. She's been active at First Unitarian teaching sixth grade RE classes, serving on the RE Committee, participating in Small Group Ministry, and facilitating a group for five years. She is ever grateful for our church's sponsorship of the Peace Flag Project.

Sunday, August 1

10:00a

My Faith in Action

Dianne Mailloux

My sermon is based on the ways I put action behind my philosophy of life. It will be one woman's version of walking the walk, not just talking the talk.

Dianne first attended a Unitarian Universalist Church with her mother in Gardner, Massachusetts in the 1990s. After 9/11, she sought out the First Unitarian Church of Providence because she needed something positive in her life. She found it here! She thinks she was always a UU and didn't know it. She and her husband, Len, signed the book in 2003, and she is active in Chalice Circles and the UUSC.

Sunday, August 8

10:00a

Living Values, Living Earth:

Stewardship in the Age of Environmental Catastrophes

Claudia Ford

How do we remain hopeful in the face of environmental challenges like the Gulf of Mexico oil spill? What responsibility should we take for ourselves, for each other, and for the planet in this age of global warming? We are committed to "respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part." What does that mean and how can it be made part of our value system and spiritual practice?

Claudia Ford is the Director of the Office of International Programs at RISD. She has had a 29-year career in international development management and training, and has worked in south and southeast Asia, Latin America, the Caribbean, the Middle East, and Africa. She has published Why do I Scream at God for the Rape of Babies, a book dealing with child sexual abuse in South Africa, she is the subject of an acclaimed documentary film No Past to Speak Of, and is the founder and director of The Princess Trust, a charity dedicated to the rights of women and children. Claudia is a member of First Unitarian and a lifelong Unitarian, currently living in Providence with two of her four children.

Sunday, August 15 "Miss Otis Regrets"

10:00a

Martha Manno

Is it possible to go through life without regrets? Knowing what you know now, would you go back and change things? If regret is about the past, how do we live with our regrets in the present? The service will include poems on the subject.

Martha Manno has been a member of First Unitarian for almost 20 years. During that time she has served on several thousand committees, including a stint as president of the Prudential Committee and recently as chair of the Search Committee that recommended James Ford as senior minister. For that, she has no regrets.

Sunday, August 22 Sticks and Stones May Break Our Bones, But Names Can Alter Our Dreams

10:00a

Len Cabral

Bullying doesn't only hurt the person being bullied, it hurts society and the community at large. Discover the value that stories have had and continue to have in bringing about changes in action and attitude.

Len Cabral, an internationally acclaimed storyteller, has been part of the UU community since the late 70s. Over the years Len has been a Deacon and a mentor, and has performed many times for church events. He lives in Edgewood with his wife, Judy.

Sunday, August 29 "Ours IS to Reason Why"

10:00a

Bucky Rogers

With due respect to Tennyson, Unitarian and Universalist theologians have written with rationality for more than 200 years. Far from being a dull trend, this should continue to inspire us!

Bucky Rogers is a first-year Master of Divinity candidate at Harvard Divinity School and 2007 graduate of Brown University. He was facilitator of the Brown University UU Group in 2006-2007 and is now on the board of the Harvard UU Ministry for Students. Outside of the classroom, Bucky enjoys leading the Div. School to Ultimate Frisbee victory over the Kennedy School and managing his fantasy baseball team.

Sunday, September 5 Jesus Was a Carpenter: A Meditation on Labor

10:00a

Rev. James Ishmael Ford

James finds himself wondering about work, dignity, and how they relate to a spiritual life.

Sunday, September 12 Homecoming and Water Communion An Intergenerational Service

10:30a

Rev. James Ford, Cathy Seggel, DRE, and friends

Welcome to the beginning of our new church year! We will celebrate the gathering of waters and of our community. Please bring a small sample of water from your summer travels or your backyard and be prepared to say a brief phrase about your water. (We will have "metaphorical" water if you forget!)

Summer @ First Unitarian

Office Hours

Summer Office Hours will be 9:00am-4:00pm starting June 14. The Church Office will be closed on July 5, August 9, and September 6, and for vacation the week of July 26, re-opening on Monday, August 2.

Ministry Services

from mid-June to early August

For emergencies, nearby ministers will be on call. Speak with staff in the church office for names and contact numbers. In case of emergency during the vacation break (starting on July 26; reopening on August 2), a message will be left on the answering machine regarding contact information.

H₂O...

Don't forget to collect a small, sample of water from your summertime activities or travels. Save this water in a small container and plan to bring it to share on Homecoming Sunday, September 12, for our special ceremony that opens up our full program year together.

Summer Greeters

Join the elite corps of summer greeters! What do greeters do? Welcome newcomers and give off an "available to chat" vibe. You are definitely qualified to volunteer for this easy and easy-going job!

Contact: Stacy Allen (poetsrule@hotmail.com)



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Welcoming Congregation.

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Don't Miss This Special Program!

Nancy's Lazy Summer Day Dinner

Saturday, July 10 or August 14 at 3:00p

Imagine yourself sitting on the edge of a pristine lake, far from the madding crowd, your every whim catered to, pleasant company around you, food at your fingertips. Well, you can have all that this summer at the fifth annual summer five course gourmet meal at the Fried's home. For \$55 you can feast like royalty and contribute to needed work around the Parish House. Choose one of two sunny summer dates; July 10 or August 14 - each limited to 18 people. (Some special diets can be accommodated.)

Reservations and payments can be made through the office 401.421.7970 or admin@firstunitarianprov.org

