

FUUF to hear about 'Inner Divinity' Sunday

This Sunday, Sept. 11, from 10 to 11 a.m. at the Florence Unitarian Universalist Fellowship (FUUF), N*U*F Bebeau will be the guest speaker on the topic of "Our Inner Divinity."

Bebeau has two Master of Arts degrees in Transpersonal Psychology and Counseling. She and her husband, Charles Bebeau, founded four graduate schools for archetypal psychotherapy and healing. The second school, Boulder College, had 20 teachers and 200 students. At the third school, Avalon Institute, Bebeau created new innovative forms of education.

As a spiritual teacher, she founded the Qadisha, a priestesshood of women; as a

peaceworker, she went on several peace missions, including one to North Korea, and a journey around the world lecturing on how we can work together as a global family.

"The art of self-love is the core generating force for creating peaceful coexistence on this small planet," said Bebeau. "In a world torn by constant change, where do we find a constant sanctuary of safety?"

Each service concludes with refreshments and dialogue circle to explore the questions that come up during each service.

For more information, visit www.florenceuuf.org or call 541-997-2840.



Have you ever had one of those days when you were busy all day long but when you got to the end of it, you found you hadn't accomplished anything that you wanted or needed to do? It's so frustrating when this happens.

I'm usually a very goal-oriented person and can stay focused on the things I really want to do. But there was a time recently when I found myself struggling to finish things that I started because I was getting distracted by other things that needed to be accomplished as well.

So I ended up with a lot of loose ends and felt overwhelmed by everything that needed to be done.

I believe this happens to many people because they are letting their circumstances seize them, allowing the many interruptions that come up take over their day. We need to learn how to live our lives on purpose and invest our time and energy in the plans God is calling us to accomplish.

It's time for us to take our lives back and stop letting everything around us dictate what we are going to do each day.

Maybe you need to wake up? In Ephesians 5:14-17, the apostle Paul addresses this

Seize the day, every day

issue with born-again believers in the church. He says:

"Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall shine upon you and give you light. Look carefully then how you walk. Live purposefully and worthily and accurately, not as the unwise and witless, but as the wise, making the very most of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be vague and thoughtless and foolish, but understanding and firmly grasping what the will of the Lord is" (AMPC).

Notice that he says "Awake, O sleeper."

Sometimes we find ourselves just going through life and we've lost our excitement about God and His purpose for us because we aren't living life on purpose.

It's easy to sit around, waiting for something to happen to you, wishing you were happier, more disciplined, in better shape, more successful and so on. But we don't reach our goals just by wishing they would be fulfilled.

I often say we don't need more "wishbone," we need more backbone.

Be careful and live carefully The next thing Paul says is "Look carefully then how you walk." The Greek word for "carefully" here means to walk circumspectly, looking around you all the time as if you were in a very dangerous place. A good word picture for this defi-

inition would be a person walking barefoot in a field of thorns. You'd be very careful where you step, constantly watching where you walk.

We need to be aware that we have an enemy who is trying to steal, kill and destroy (John 10:10).

In 1 Peter 5:8 (AMP), the Bible says to "be sober [well balanced and self-disciplined], be alert and cautious at all times. That enemy of yours, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion seeking someone to devour."

Now, the devil can't devour just anyone he wants to. But those who aren't careful about how they live are vulnerable to his attacks.

For example, have you been offended recently? If so, that was a thorn.

When we encounter thorns, if we are living carefully, we recognize what they are and resist them. So when an offense comes, we immediately decide, "I know what that is," and purposefully decide not to step on it.

We'll refuse to take offense and instead, forgive.

The truth is the devil is always trying to steal from us, and he'll take our joy, our peace, our time... anything we're willing to give him. That's why 1 Peter 5:9 says to "resist him, be firm in your faith."

We accomplish this as we

"live purposefully... not as the unwise and witless, but as the wise, making the very most of the time" (Ephesians 5:15-16).

Don't waste your life I love how this scripture says to live like wise, intelligent people, "not as the unwise and witless" who don't know what they are doing.

As we take time to study God's Word and learn what His will is, we can make choices that line up with His plans and purpose for our lives.

Make a determined decision to seize each day of your life, focused on the things God puts in your heart to do. Realize that every day that goes by is one you will never get back.

Refuse to waste your time living in anger and unforgiveness or settling for a mediocre existence that lacks zeal for the call of God on your life.

Seek God in prayer and through His Word. If you need help getting started on a new track, living with purpose, pray something like this:

"God, help me to do what You tell me to do in Your Word. Help me to stop walking around like a sleepy Christian and to live carefully. I want to invest my time and all of my resources in Your Kingdom. Help me to seize the day and live for You."

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Corner of 10th & Maple — 997-3533
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www.churchofchristflorence.org

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Wed. Bible & Children classes at 6:00 PM
Call for details.

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Spirituali-Tea to discuss dissension, division

On Monday, Sept. 12, at 6:30 p.m., everyone is invited to join a group from varied spiritual paths to discuss the topic: "Dissensions that Divide."

Baha'u'llah says: "Bend your minds and wills to the education of the peoples and kindreds of the earth, that haply the dissensions that divide it may, through the power of the Most Great Name, be blotted out from its face, and all mankind become the upholders of one Order, and the inhabitants of

one City."

The main goal of the Baha'i Faith centers around the peaceful unification of the entire human race.

The gathering will end at 8 p.m. with prayers for the requests left in the Prayer Pole in the garden of the Florence Playhouse and those shared by the group.

The Heintz home is located at 875 Seventh St.

For more information call Suzanne Mann-Heintz at 541-590-0779.

SPECIAL MASS, FEAST DAY

St. Mary, Our Lady of the Dunes Catholic Church is having a celebration Sunday, Sept. 11, beginning at 11 a.m.

The parish feast day will begin with a special mass and

commissioning of ministers followed by a reception, family games and art and quilt show.

All parishioners, family and friends are invited to this annual event



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