

CROSSROADS

The Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Area Church at First Parish in Sherborn

February 3, 2010

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Sunday Services

February 7

– Rev. Lee Bluemel, Guest Minister

February 14

– Laura Randall, Ministerial Intern.

February 21

– Norah Dooley, Storyteller

February 28

– Rev. Dr. Ken Reeves, Sabbatical Minister.

Guest Minister's Message

By Rev. Dr. Ken Reeves

Heaven and Hell

Unitarian Universalists do not dwell much on heaven and hell, especially as a condition for an afterlife, but I like the image of heaven as a place in the present in which love is going pretty well for all involved.

Hell is then a place without love. In hell people feel consumed with resentment, or are alone. Hell would also involve the assumption that there have to be winners and losers, and so someone has to lose. Maybe I win, and I have a brief crow of victory, but then someone else loses. I might tell the loser, "Too bad, tough luck," but the other's loss clouds the victory, and I could be the loser next time. Hell involves narrow self-interest: "What is good for me might not be good for you, but so what? Who cares?"

Heaven, on the other hand, involves a win-win assumption. In heaven life does not involve a zero-sum game, rather a process in which your gains benefit me, and mine benefit you. Your losses result in my diminishment, and my losses hurt you. In heaven our relatedness bases my ethical behavior in which I seek to do what is in the best interests of others.

Heaven can occur in a committed relationship in which my partner's needs matter as much to me as my own. It can occur in a church community in which we all collaborate to form decisions that work for the community, and in which we pool resources to create the building and programs that serve us. Your bidding Nathan good will on his sabbatical, and your welcome of me as his substitute, suggest qualities of heaven right here in Sherborn. Heaven can also occur in a nation or a world in which enlightened self-interest guides decisions toward what works best for the greater good.

People sit at a table set with steaming good, holding utensils, but with elbows that do not bend. They grow hungry. This is hell. People sit at a table set with steaming good, holding utensils, but with elbows that do not bend. They turn and feed each other. This is heaven.

Reflections

By Kate Holland, Director of Religious Education

As I was going over some old files in my computer I came across this article I had written a few years ago for Crossroads. It is certainly that time of year for families to start making choices for our children for camps and vacations. I still hope that some of you will consider looking into some of the wonderful Unitarian Universalist camps in the area. They really are great!! - Kate

As I have raised my kids there are many things that have puzzled my personal sense of the timing of things but none more than the timing for the scheduling of your children's summer camp experiences. Right after the turn of the New Year when it is still cold and winter has its grip on our minds the flood of summer camp information begins to crowd the mailbox. This practice never made much sense to me but it is what we, as parents have to do this time of year. We as parents spend much time and energy not to mention money looking into the best camp experiences for our kids during their summer breaks. We look at sports camps, academic enrichments, and traditional summer fun camps. As the flood of information about summer camps starts to come into your homes I wanted to offer yet another option as you plan your children's summer camp experiences.

Because we live in Massachusetts we are blessed to have some of the most wonderful Unitarian Universalist camps a quick drive from us. The previous summer I was lucky enough to go to Ferry Beach for a renaissance module. When I was planning this trip I asked my fellow DRE's about whether or not to bring my family along for RE Week at Ferry beach I was told, "YES!! Ferry Beach is all about kids!!!" It is advice I am very glad that I listened to. I packed up my family in Early July and even though my then 13-year-old daughter gave me sneers about "Church Camp" we all had a great time at Ferry Beach. So much so that by the end of the week my daughter who I "dragged to camp" was in tears at the thought of leaving and made me swear we could come back next summer.

As parents there are many choices we are offered to help our children grow and learn. I hope that one of the things we consider as we look at our choices in camps that will give our children a chance to grow and explore their spiritual selves. Letting them meet and create a larger religious community and experience than what we can offer on Sunday mornings. Spending a week with families and other children that share our Unitarian Universalist faith is a powerful experience for both kids and adults. Ferry beach has many wonderful camp experiences to offer. Some where kids go to camp alone, others for families to have a week of camp together, even a week to work together as a family for Habitat for Humanity. If you would like more information on Ferry beach look them up on the web at www.ferrybeach.org. Also check out Rowe camp at www.rowecenter.org or Star Island www.starisland.org. In the past the Alliance has offered some scholarship money for families looking to go to UU camps during the summer. Also feel free to talk to me if you would like more information.

Denominational Affairs

By Jill Carroll, Denominational Affairs Chair

Over the holidays UUAC collected donations for the UU Service Committee's Guest at Your Table program. Thanks to your generosity we sent \$655.00 to the UUSC.

The UUSC's mission is to "advance human rights and social justice around the world, partnering with those who confront unjust power structures and mobilizing to challenge oppressive policies".

One example is their support of civil liberties organizations that promote the anti-war movement in Iraq and Afghanistan. UUSC suggests that we watch the DVD *Soldiers of Conscience*. It explores the dilemma of soldiers who must ask themselves: "to kill or not to kill". One conscientious objector featured in the movie, Camilo Mejia, won the Adin Ballou UU Peace Award and is Chairman of Iraq Veterans Against the War, a UUSC ally.

For more information, visit <http://www.socfilm.com> or <http://www.pbs.org/pov/soldiersofconscience/>

News from the Interfaith Hospitality Network

Our next hosting session begins on **February 21**. Anyone new who would like to get involved should contact Joan Hunter (ibh_11@verizon.net) or Barbie Breer (wmbarb1959@comcast.net) for more information.



Interfaith Hospitality Network

The Faith Community's Response to Family Homelessness

Employment Searches for IHN Guests

Diagnostic Radiography-A part time or full time position in a hospital, clinic, or any medical setting.

Power Generator Service Technician with certifications in EPA, Ford STST Credentials, Automotive Information Specialist and Ford Technical Customer Handling. Past employment includes Comcast and New England Telephone.

Preschool Teaching Position or Customer Service Position-Teacher certified for Infants, Toddlers and Preschool; First Aid and CPR Certified. Two years experience.

Resumes available.

Thank you!

If you are aware of any positions related to the above please email Marcia at marcia@metrowestihn.org. The information will then be passed along to the appropriate guest. Thank You!

For ongoing updates on volunteer needs, items requested, and job searches, please visit <http://mihn.pbworks.com/>



1500 Acts to End Hunger 2010

By Barbie Breer

With our 1500 Acts to End Hunger – our Social Action program that collects food for A Place to Turn, an emergency food pantry serving the entire metrowest area – we as a church are helping those in need in our local communities. We welcome donations of non-perishable food items, toiletries, and paper products and we match these items by \$1 each up to \$1500 for the calendar year. Last year we collected 1519 items (and donated \$1500) – an admirable total – what can we accomplish this year? Please continue bringing an item or two each week and leaving them in the baskets provided at the entrance in front and the north side. Our help is most appreciated!!

For February 2010 – Spaghetti Sauce, Beef Stew, Rice, Crackers, 100% Juice, Shampoo and Toothpaste.

Save the Date for the Winter Walk!

Join us on Sunday afternoon, March 14, 2010 for Winter Walk!

Winter Walk is a 5-mile inter-faith walk that supports HomeStart's efforts to end homelessness in Greater Boston. Every day, more than 7,000 people in Boston are homeless, walking the wintered streets and searching for a place to call home. We invite you to do the legwork with us to help end their search.

TWO GREAT WALKS, TWO GREAT LOCATIONS:

Holliston/Sherborn: starting at the Unitarian Universalist Area Church - 11 Washington St. Sherborn and ending at St. Mary's Church - 8 Church St. Holliston

Newton: starting at the United Parish of Aburndale - 64 Hancock St. Aburndale and ending at the Lutheran Church of the Newtons - 1310 Centre St. Newton

REGISTER TODAY ON-LINE:

Holliston/Sherborn: www.regonline.com/ww_2010_hollistonsherborn

Newton: www.regonline.com/ww2010newton





mUUsical notes

By Cathy Leonard

Kudos to our generous congregation! Did you know the sale of Music Sunday CDs has raised over \$5,000 for our NOLA relief efforts? Thank you!

The Music Committee and Laura Jensen, our Music Director, have been hard at work. Here's what we have on the drawing board: 325th Anniversary Celebration Service -- Special music will include an original hymn dedicated to the occasion plus the hymn written in 1985 for our 300th.

May 23rd Music Sunday: Love, Justice and Human Rights – Don't miss it. This promises to be an inspirational program of human rights themed songs sung by the Celebration Choir with the help of the women of the UUAC.

Greatest Hits of the UUAC Choir -- The choirs are recording a CD of UUAC favorites to be completed in October 2010. Funds raised through its sale will be donated to charity.

Historical Musical Selections in honor of our 325th anniversary – The music, including hymns, anthems and instrumentals, will continue weekly through June.

Many thanks to those who have supported the purchase of our new Singing the Living Tradition hymnals by dedicating a new hymnal. Hymnal dedication is an ongoing opportunity. Donations continue to offset the expense incurred for new hymnals. You can find the Hymnal Bookplate Form in the north vestibule or on the web site under Reports and Planning (<http://www.uuac-sherborn.org/bookplateform.pdf>). Just print it, fill it out and mail it in or drop it off with your check.

Save the Date for one Groovy Auction! By Debbi Klein

This year's "must attend" Auction event is starting to swing into action. Please join us at our 1st meeting; Sunday January 31st at 12:00 in the yellow classroom....we could use your help in making this year's event as successful as in past years. If you like to work with other members of the church, LOVE to have fun and help raise money for the church and other charitable organizations this meeting is for you!

Please mark your calendar for the UUAC 2010 GROOVY AUCTION on April 10, at the Holliston Upper Town Hall. (Costume creativity is encouraged!).

If you have any questions, please contact Sally Demler, Debbi Klein and/or Nancy Levy.



Save the Date! Annual Church Retreat April 30 - May 2



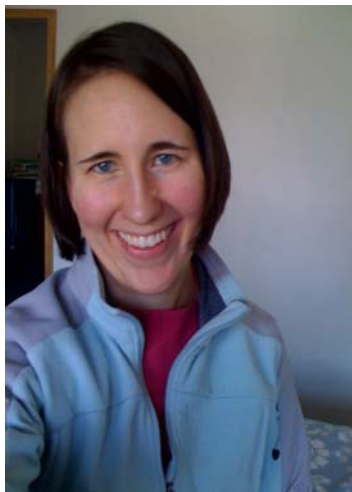
Retreat Registration is in full force! More than 20 people have already signed up for the Cape Cod Retreat.

Kathy Greer and Bob Cipriani will be in church this coming Sunday to take registration for the retreat. It is the last chance to get a free clambake with your registration.

Regarding lodging, there is one more unit at Linger Longer that is available. It is a 3 bedroom and could accommodate up to six people. <http://www.lingerlongerbythesea.com/accomodations.htm>

There are plenty of rooms available at the camp, and hotel rooms at Ocean Edge. <http://www.oceanedge.com/>

In the meantime, for questions about the retreat, please call Kathy at 781-934-7317 or 508-561-0764 (cell).



New Member Marjie Rowe

Membership Corner

By Ellen Kerstein

Marjorie Rowe (who goes by the name Marjie) has been a member since May 2009 and drives here on Sundays from her home in Hudson. It's a bit of a ride, but Marjie says it is well worth it.

Marjie grew up in Vermont where she and her family explored a variety of religious services and settled into a UU church when she was a teenager. After attending Wellesley College, Marjie got a teaching job in Westport and found a UU church in Providence which she really liked. A new job as a reading specialist took her to Hudson, and she began a long and thorough search for another UU church that seemed like the right fit. Eventually some friends from the Providence church who had moved to Ashland invited her to try their new church, UUAC in Sherborn. Marjie says that she knew immediately, "This is it!" She especially appreciates the welcoming people, our minister, the emphasis on social justice and the focus on truth, love, peace and inclusivity.

Marjie enjoys activities that she cultivated in her native Vermont, such as hiking, skiing and canoeing, and she also loves to sing. She sings with the Sounds of Stow Chorus and plans to join our next Celebration Choir. She recently joined a covenant group. Marjie says that she is really happy here, and we are happy to have her!

Celebrating 325 Years...The Roots That Hold Us

From the memoir of Joseph Dowse (III ?) as published in *Sherborn Past and Present*

"Every piece of land that bordered on the road used to be fenced, because cattle were allowed to run on the roads. All front yards had to have two gates for driveways. At one time there was a town officer called a hog reeve to keep hogs off the street. They used to choose the latest married man for hog reeve. I have heard my father tell a story about Priest Brown (Elijah Brown 1770-1816), who was fond of a joke. At a town meeting soon after his second marriage some fellows nominated him for hog reeve for the fun of it, and he was elected. He got up and said he thanked them for tendering him the honor. He did not think they could get a man more fit for the office than he was, for he had had to control a company of hogs for twenty years."

Update from the Board of Directors By Alice Clattenburg

At the December 3rd meeting of the Board of Directors Nathan reported that he is finalizing preparations for the staff during his time away. In Nathan's absence, each staff member will be asked to write an article for the Minister's Page in Crossroads.

325 Project Plan: Discussions with the architect and the contractor are underway on this most exciting project. Hank Rauch, Adrienne Walker and Bob Murchison will be negotiating the contract with Kaplan. The Space Planning Task Force is focused on minimizing the cost and feels that Kaplan will work with them.

Our bookkeeper, Janet McKetchnie, will be retiring soon and interviews are underway for her replacement.

UUAC Book Club

The Book Club will meet **Friday, February 5** at the home of Betty and Tom Glick, 132 Brook Street, in Holliston, 429-2158. The book is **Peace** by Richard Bausch. The next books will be **The Springs of Affection: Stories of Dublin** by Maeve Brennan on Friday, March 5 and **The Elegance of the Hedgehog** by Muriel Barbery on April 2. New participants are always welcome!

An Intern's Journey

By Laura Randall

January was a difficult month. Not for me personally. Personally, I have more blessings than I know what to do with and every day of January reminded me to count them and give thanks. With the devastation of the earthquake in Haiti looming large in the media and in our hearts, it's been so easy to feel helpless in the face of such suffering.

Because reading is one of my greatest comforts, I turned to my books in search of some solace. I came across a poem by Rev. Bob Hill called "Will and Testament." Written on September 12, 2001, I found this poem spoke to my current need for grounding and hope when the world seems to be falling apart. Perhaps you will find something here as well. Here is an excerpt:

Will and Testament by Robert Lee Hill

This morning is definitively different,
and thus it seems only meet and right so to do:
to say it out loud:

I will make the bed,
and then I will make coffee,
and then I will play with the cats,
and then I will make an appointment
with my dermatologist
regarding that oblong splotch on my arm...

I will work with my hands in the yard,
and then I will wash my hands thoroughly,
and then I will look out our healing kitchen window,
and then I will thirst for some new day
and some new, saving strangers to come into our town...

I will drive down my favorite expressway,
and then I will eat the world's greatest barbecue at Gates,
and then I will remember Martin King
and Martin Buber and Martin Luther and Martina Navratilova,
and then I will testify of a need for still more saints.

I will laugh once today, at the very least,
and then I will remember Robert Frost
and then I will recall Emily Dickinson's late-coming fame,
and then I will change the oil in my Jeep,
and then I will take my Ansel Adams photos of Manzanar to the frame shop...

I will call up Emanuel,
and then I will testify to Thomas,
and then I will offer a bowl of oranges to Buddha,
and then I will have hope with Paul,
and then I will seek Muhammad's mountain,
and then I will purchase a plot with Jeremiah.

I will ring a bell,
and then I will climb a hill,
and then I will sing a song (very loud),
and then I will recite Psalm 22,
and then I will cry with all anguish
the cry of those of us who are not dead.

On this definitively different day, I will do all these things
and I will do even more tomorrow,
and I will say it out loud again, until they hear it,
until I hear it,
clearly.

In Peace,
Laura

**Unitarian Universalist Area Church
at First Parish in Sherborn**

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Worship Service: Sunday Mornings at 10:30 a.m.
Crossroads, the newsletter of the UUAC, is mailed to all members and pledging friends via US or electronic mail. Non-members receive a complimentary three-month subscription. The newsletter may be viewed at the church website. Printed copies can be picked up at church.

Crossroads Listing Policy

Submissions to *Crossroads* are always welcome and may be e-mailed to uuac@uuac-sherborn.org (*word format preferred*); or typed/legibly handwritten copy may be dropped off in the Church Office by noon on the deadline date.

We are happy to publish any announcements about UUAC, UU-sponsored events and other non-profit activities of interest to the community. We are sorry we cannot list for-profit announcements.

UUAC Board of Directors

President: Howard Teibel
President-Elect: Jeff Barton
Treasurer: Hank Rauch
Clerk: Alice Clattenburg
At-Large: Deb Boyce
Buildings and Grounds: Allan Green
Finance: Jon Treon
Personnel: Adrienne Walker
Minister (Ex-Officio): Reverend Detering

UUAC Ministry Council

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Adult Programs: Gail Donaldson
Caring Committee: Becky Sheble-Hall
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Music: Cathy Leonard
Religious Education: Barbara Bolten and Gary Leonard
Social Action: Vicky Diamond
Women's Alliance President: Dot Widmayer
Worship: Jeff Barton
Youth Representative: Meg Barton

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Sexton: Mark Forsythe
sexton@uuac-sherborn.org

Join the Celebration Choir for the Spring Music Sunday!

The theme for our next Music Sunday program, on May 23rd, will be human rights. The Celebration Choir and congregation will sing a selection of songs about the fight for equality and freedom from oppression. We welcome all who can sing in tune and would like to raise their voices with us in the spirit of love and justice. Practices will be Thursday evenings 7:00-8:00 and Sunday mornings from 9:45-10:15 beginning Thursday, February 4th. If you are interested in joining or learning more, please contact Laura Jensen, Music Director, at music@uuac-sherborn.org or simply come to practice on the 4th.