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# First Parish of Sudbury News

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February 19, 2006

Volume 18, No. 2

Next E-News Bulletin Deadline: Feb. 22, 2006

Editor: Fran Sharp

Submissions to: [office@fpsudbury.org](mailto:office@fpsudbury.org)

Next Newsletter Deadline: March 8, 2006

## **Making Meanings**

A few weeks ago, several of us attended a workshop where the leader challenged us to “re-write your mission statement so that it says how you change lives.” I took the challenge to heart. “Do we change lives?” And, if so, how?

I know that First Parish has changed my life. The call to serve this congregation is still something I count as one of the greatest blessings of my life. And then it only got better! I think of how much I love the “conversation” that inevitably follows a Sunday morning service. Oh, we don’t always agree, but that’s the beauty of it! We go deep. We stretch high. We reach out.

Our congregation does change lives. You tell me that you’ve thought about or acted on something you heard here. You tell me that you feel we make a difference. You tell me that you’ve dared to do something you needed or wanted to do. You tell me you feel welcome and here. You tell me you feel supported here. Challenged here. Empowered here. Safe here.

I’ve heard small children puzzling over large issues here. I’ve heard music that makes me dance and music that give me courage, and music that, literally, transports me to a place beyond naming. I’ve watched as our young people start putting their Unitarian Universalist values to work at school, after school, and in the causes and initiatives they undertake. I’ve seen you mentor and teach and learn from and model for these young people. I’ve stood beside you at candlelight vigils, at the State House, at the bedside of a loved one, and on the day of your marriage.

In the past few weeks alone, I’ve been changed personally by the playful yet meaningful multi-generational worship we call “Village Worship.” I’ve been changed by the deep and wide-ranging conversation a dozen of us had during four Wednesday evenings. It was billed as a “Conversation about God(s)”; it was about us and our meaning-making, and, yes, it was about how we change ourselves, each other and our world. I was changed by a room full of people trying to sort out how best to serve the larger community: big projects, small projects, many projects, few projects – where do we put our collective and individual energies so that we can “be the change we wish to see in the world?”

I’ve been changed by your pain and your courage. I’ve been changed by your commitments to live out your values in the world. I’ve been changed by my mistakes.

I could go on and on. But I will cite just three things that happened here that have changed me. The day our signs were defaced and our rainbow flag stolen, I was catapulted into the role of the public voice of our congregation, a role that continued until the accused were sentenced. Sometimes I was way outside my comfort zone. Sometimes I was afraid. Sometimes I made mistakes. But we stood together. We chose to be both firm and compassionate. And we shared the outpouring of support from the larger community. I will always remember the hate; I will always remember the love.

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*Be the change you wish to see in the world*

- Gandhi

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I felt some of those same feelings – elated and scared – on May 17, 2004 when a whole group of us gathered together at First Parish to march across the street to witness our lesbian sisters and gay brothers apply for marriage licenses. Will it last? Will the hate continue? But when I stood before each couple who could marry legally for the first time – when I stood there as your representative – I have never felt more sure of how we change lives and how we are changed in the process.

And then there was my sabbatical. It would take a whole book to say how it changed my life. What’s relevant here is that you supported me, encouraged me to take that time. And then, you stepped up and showed such strength and leadership during my absence. Of course this was no surprise, no big deal. But your role in my sabbatical cannot be underestimated. You empowered me. You made my life-changing experience possible. And, I think, I empowered and supported you. I honestly believe we are all stronger because of “our” sabbatical.

So why all this talk about how (or whether) we change lives? Why don’t we just keep on doing it? Well, we will. And to do that, we need you to step up yet again. It’s the time when we ask you to pledge financial support. Did you know that it costs more than \$800 a day to sustain First Parish – maintain the building, pay the staff, support our programs? Did you know that most of that money comes out of our pockets?

I know you do. Help us change lives.  
Stand up and be counted.

*Katie Lee*



**Seekers of the Light**

**Seeing through Spiritual Eyes**

*The eyes are the windows of the soul.  
- old adage*

It's not what you see, it's how you look at it. How come some people praise my outspokenness while others tell me I talk too much? Where one person sees an inability to walk, another sees the ability to do wheelies and race really fast. Of course, both are true. We live in either/or world in which the true reality, Truth with a capital T, is both/and. Ours is a critical society in which the predominant tendency is to look at the negative, the "problem" side and try to "fix it." How would you feel if everyone was always trying to "fix" you? Would you lose sight of your own giftedness?

How easy it is for our children to have just this experience! Sally Patton, ministry to children with special needs guru, does a workshop exercise in which each person is given a piece of paper. On one side we all write down our deficits—the things we're bad at or don't like about ourselves. The other side is for our gifts. We then hold the deficit side out, while imagining how it feels to have everyone treat us as if this were the only reality about us. Oh yuck! But then we hold out the giftedness side and imagine how people relate to us with only that side visible. What a difference! Sometimes the deficits get labels like "A.D.D." and "Handicapped". The deficit-side-out experience is exactly what labeled people experience. It is a spiritual practice to flip the paper over and to look for the giftedness. "A.D.D." can become "creative and energetic." "Handicapped" can become "differently abled."

When we see the gifts, our whole world changes. Our relationships change. And it doesn't just work for people, it works for experiences. Our mistakes can teach. The experience of pain can make us more compassionate. When we look through the eyes of giftedness—through the eyes of love—we see with the eyes of the Spirit. Our souls are opened. The children in our Religious Exploration program have tried it. How about you?

*Peace, Tracy*



**Did You Have Fun?**

This year's In-Home Dinner program has come to a close. There were over 160 people eating together this year, in 15 dinners in private homes including 4 family dinners with children of all ages. Thanks to all the hosts and hostesses, guests and helpers. See you next year!



**People We Care About**

*This column seeks to share news (happy, sad, exciting events) of our lives so that we may support each other as we travel this road together. May it be so.*

This column is not available on the website version of our newsletter. Call the office if you need more information.

**First Parish of Sudbury's Pastoral Associates**

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|-------------|-----------|
| Y Annmarie  | Polly     |
| I Geneviève | Y Fred P  |
| Y Audrey    | I Karen R |
| I Linda     | Bev       |
| Susan McK   |           |

- I Pastoral Associates On Call during February
- Y Pastoral Associates On Call during March

**February Share the Plate**

*What happens to biases, stereotypes, bigotry, and racism when boundaries turn into bridges?*

This Sunday, Feb. 19, we will donate one half of our offering to The Greeley Foundation for Peace and Justice, whose work focuses on supporting grassroots nonprofit organizations actively working with at-risk youth who are daring to dream of a better future for themselves. Their grants provide key support to Greater Boston area community-based groups that are in the early stages of development and for which small strategic grants can make a difference. They specifically seek to fund groups that reach out to young people of different racial, ethnic and religious backgrounds with programming that is inclusive and multicultural and that provide an urban-suburban connection. The Greeley Foundation carries on the work of the Rev. Dana McLean Greeley, a Unitarian Universalist minister and civil rights activist. For more information, call 978/369-7387 or go to [www.greeleyfoundation.org](http://www.greeleyfoundation.org).

## Board of Trustees Report

by Ginny S, Clerk

The Spirit Play group (kindergarten and first grade) is growing and has the most consistent attendance of any group in RE. The children love the program, as do the adults who are guiding them. One beautiful aspect of the program is the high quality of the “manipulatives” – the Montessori-like materials that the children use as they work with the stories. These materials require storage space. Bruce W has made fine wooden storage units, but these require space. Tracy Duncan, DRE, hopes to expand Spirit Play to older age groups in the future, but the need for space to store the materials would also expand – to where? A task force is looking into storage possibilities...

...at the same time that RE is wondering how their space in general could be more obviously THEIR space. Children definitely feel welcome, as an integral part of the congregation, and in their particular programs, but nothing visible in the buildings represents them and their many interests and activities. This will be a continuing conversation, with ideas always welcome.

What is a “pledge”? Could we call it a promise, or a commitment? The Trustees are fully aware that special circumstances may make it impossible for someone to fulfill their financial pledge to First Parish, or force its postponement. But they have not heard, in most cases, why so many of our members and friends are behind in their payments this year.

**Did you know** that the church’s expenses, highest during the heating season, are essentially constant throughout the year? The largest amount of pledge income is received in December, but the need does not go away after that. The Trustees amended the Finance Committee’s proposed budget for 2006-2007, reflecting their optimism about pledge income in the future. Let’s hope they are right.

The next Board meeting will be on Monday, March 6, at 7:00pm. Board meetings are open and anyone is welcome to attend.

## New Member Sunday – March 12

### Are you ready to join?

We at First Parish will be welcoming and honoring new members at our Worship Service on Sunday, March 12. If you would like to explore becoming a member or if you know you are ready to make that decision at this time, please call Ginny D, who represents the Members & Friends Committee, or our minister, Katie Lee Crane. Either will be delighted to help you take your next steps.

Members may join First Parish at any time during the year but at least once annually, we celebrate our new members and recommit ourselves to the privileges, benefits, responsibilities and expectations of what it means to be a member of this congregation.

## Shared Gifts and Service Committee

We would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every committee and group at First Parish that took part in the Committee Fair – for the glorious decorations, the festive atmosphere, the prepared information you all presented at your tables. I found this event to be as someone mentioned a “swirl of wonderful energy”. We thank you all!

*The Shared Gifts & Service Committee helps identify opportunities for both new and long-time FPS members to share their time and talents for the mutual benefit and enjoyment of all. It’s “sharing the ministry”!* We have a slowly growing number of Gifts/Talent surveys being completed revealing wonderful gifts we all have to share. If you have not completed one as yet, please do and return it to the Shared Gifts folder in the office.

Final note (and testimonial): I, Pam K, have been a long time UU and member at First Parish since 2001. I have always found that volunteering in some way in the churches I have belonged to helped me to learn more about being UU, to meet wonderful people, many of whom have become lasting friends, and continues to give me the opportunity to share a little of the gifts I feel I have, hopefully for the betterment of the church community and beyond. A few years ago I actually volunteered to be considered on the slate for Trustee at First Parish! I was already involved here, I was busy with my job, and I was pretty new to the community. What was I thinking?! Well, I have found it was a good decision – it has been very rewarding for me. I’ve met fascinating people, learned more about how First Parish “ticks” and can better appreciate what we do here. It is a commitment of honor. I hope if what I have written speaks to you, you will consider how you might fit in some part of the community of First Parish and talk with someone on Shared Gifts; if the Nominating Committee talks with you about an elected position I hope you will seriously consider it. It takes all of us to do the work here and, believe me when I say, you get way more out of a commitment of time here at First Parish than you will put in.



## Food&Food for Thought

(free&provided) Lunch and Discussion  
“The Loves of Our Lives”, Feb. 28, 11:45ish

This month we will be discussing “our great loves” (only you know who or what these would be). Bring a story of your own, or a reading to share if you wish. Or “just bring yourself” ready to listen and enjoy a nice lunch together.

Worship at



the Meeting House

**Sunday, February 19, 10am*****“Listening for Wisdom from the World’s Religions”***

Katie Lee Crane, Carolyn L, and Matt S

Continuing the year’s theme of listening, two First Parish of Sudbury congregants, Carolyn and Matt S, explore a little of what has inspired each from different world’s religions. They examine for themselves the ways scriptures, texts, practices and exemplars of various world religious traditions help to inspire us in our ethical and spiritual life and how, if at all, we might find interconnections among the world’s great traditions as well as sources of inspiration for ourselves today.

This sermon, planned for Sunday, February 12, was postponed due to inclement weather.

**Sunday, February 26, 10am*****“Fundament”***

Pulpit Guest, Rev. Allen

Of this sermon, Rev. Allen writes, I have been experiencing a different kind of armchair travelogue, a virtual tour of the hundreds and hundreds of miles of security barriers that have served to separate countries, territories, peoples, neighbors in conflict all around the world and through the ages. These tall-fence, stone wall, earth berm and rubble boundaries—barbed-wired, razor-topped, electrified, floodlighted, booby-trapped and patrolled—have etched their story of fear into the earth’s surface and into the hearts of humankind. The poet Robert Frost is often quoted in this context: “Something there is that doesn’t love a wall.” I’ve been thinking about spiritual masonry, safe space and tender souls. What *is* that something that brings walls down?

Rev. Allen was ordained only weeks ago by our UU congregation in Annapolis.

**Sunday, March 5, 10am*****“Response-ability: How We Change Lives”***

Rev. Katie Lee Crane

On this annual Canvass Sunday Katie Lee invites us to reflect on how First Parish helps us change lives. When we live our faith, she says, we respond from a place of faithful, moral, ethical conviction. “It isn’t what we give that is at issue,” she says, “It’s how we respond with the gifts we have that makes the difference – to each of us, to all of us, and to the world beyond the Meeting House walls.” As a congregant here we ask: “What calls to you? What comes to you?” It’s an equation that equals one community where we share both privilege and responsibility and also giving and receiving in full and generous measure.

This morning we will share the plate with Community Change Inc, whose mission is to promote racial justice and equity by challenging systemic racism and acting as a catalyst for anti-racist action and learning.

[www.communitychangeinc.org](http://www.communitychangeinc.org)

**Sunday, March 12, 10am*****New Member Sunday***

Katie Lee and the congregation welcome, honor and celebrate the new members among us. Famous 19<sup>th</sup> century Unitarian, James Freeman Clarke, provides a model for some of what we do as Unitarian Universalists today, Katie Lee explains. She explores Clarke’s vision of a new way of “doing” church based on bringing together people with a diversity of beliefs and perspectives, rather than forming communities of those who all believe the same thing; his suggestion that Unitarians eliminate what amounted to seating-by-class through voluntary contributions rather than selling of pews; and his model of involving the entire congregation in worship through hymns, responsive readings, and even lay sermons.

**Saturday, March 18, 4:30pm*****Village Worship: “Magic, Mystery&Wonder”***

All (really ALL!) are welcome at this magical Village Worship, followed by a potluck supper, and Magic Show featuring Rob K for the younger set. During the Magic Show, adults can join in a discussion about membership policies with folks from Members and Friends.

**Sunday, March 19, 10am**

Katie Lee Crane and Claudia Kern

Katie Lee welcomes friend, former neighbor and Chair of the Unitarian Universalist Ministry for Earth initiative, Claudia Kern, to join her in the pulpit this morning for a look at why we are called and what we are called to do heal and sustain our earth.

Read more about Claudia’s ministry on page 6.

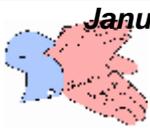
### Emergency Closing Information

If worship services and other events at First Parish need to be cancelled due to severe weather or other emergency situations, here’s how you can find out:

**By phone**—check the recorded message at the First Parish number, 978/443-2043. Press #1 for General Information. If events for the day have been cancelled, the message on line #1 will state that.

**First Parish website**—go to [www.fpsudbury.org](http://www.fpsudbury.org). The front page will show information about the emergency closing.

**By radio and television**—listen to or watch the WBZ Storm Center (news radio 1030-AM or CBS-TV Channel 4), for the cancellation of our Sunday worship service only. (Other events cannot be listed.)



**January's Invisible Hands Recipient:  
Beth R**

The Invisible Hands for February goes to Beth R. We realize that many of the activities she is involved in is well known at First Parish, much under the heading of Faith in Action where she is not invisible at all - we see her selling Fair Trade coffee, participating and recruiting for Walk for Hunger and Habitat for Humanity. She changes hats and is a Chalice Circle convener and shares her gifts of warmth and a smile as greeter on many Sunday mornings. And those are but a few ways she shares her gifts and does her ministry.

However, we want to honor Beth this month for the "behinds the scenes" monumental work she accomplished in January when she so skillfully put together small groups of members and friends and matched them with hosts for our wonderful annual In Home Dinners. She found 15 hosts and coordinated evenings for dinners to seat 160 of us. What a job! Beth, for all that you do – and particularly this month for the quiet, "invisible" work of coordinating and making sure we all had a place to meet for dinner, get to know each other better and share the evening – WE THANK YOU!

As most of you are aware, the **Invisible Hands Award** is awarded each month to an individual who has quietly and without recognition contributed much time and talent for the benefit of the operations and/or spiritual life of the congregation. The names of our recipients come from you – members and friends - who "nominate" someone or groups of someones who have and are making a difference. There are many of you out there.

Recognizing everyone is not possible; please know that what each of you does is appreciated and filling a need in our First Parish community.

*If you know of someone who is quietly making a difference at First Parish and you would like us all to know, please contact one of us on Shared Gifts & Service Committee: L LeB, Sara H, Bonny L, Pam K.*

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## Upcoming Women's Alliance Events

### **Potluck and Brief Meeting**

Sunday, Feb. 19, 5-7pm

All women—members and friends—are welcome at Sue Cs house. Childcare is available IF you call Sue in advance to sign up. Otherwise no RSVP needed. Pop in for thirty minutes or stay for three hours...just COME and shake off the mid-winter blahs.

### **"Spring Retreat"**

Weekend of April 7-9

This year the women of First Parish—members and friends, long-timers and shorter-timers—will retreat to the Round House in the Berkshires for fellowship, fun, worship, time together and time for solitude. For more information, contact Donna S or Bev W, or come to the Feb. 19 potluck when the retreat will be discussed. This is a favorite annual event for many women—this is the year to give it a try!

## The Little Things We Do

**Parking** Our goal is safety, accessibility, and convenience. Yes, we wish we could do it all in our one parking lot adjacent to the church. But, since we can't, we invite all able-bodied people to park behind Town Hall on Sunday mornings, leaving the limited parking in our lot for guests and those who need easier access to the Meeting House. On Sunday mornings please leave open the space marked "Reserved for Auction Donor."

During other times of the week, our parking lot is a busy place, and often the spaces are mostly taken. On weekdays our renters, S.E.D., have many bus and car dropoffs and pickups. The first and foremost concern is the safety of the children and adults in transition from building to buses and cars.

On weekday evenings, our lot is often full due to First Parish meetings and the use of the building by renters. Please always leave available 1 or 2 of the spaces designated for persons who need handicapped access to the building, as well as the space marked "Reserved for Minister", at all times of the week.

Additional parking is available behind Town Hall for Sunday mornings and times when our lot is full. Parking on Concord Road creates a safety hazard for cars and people trying to cross the street.

Thanks for your help!

**Get Ready for the 2006 First Parish Auction**

April 1, 2006—April Fools Day!!

(No fooling though—this really is the date)

The Service Auction is the most social of the all congregational events on the First Parish calendar. It is a chance to engage some help baby sitting, landscaping or even dance lessons. It is also a chance to pick up tickets, museum passes, fine wine and much more. And it is a chance to arrange some special social occasions or even a vacation getaway!

By the way, it is also a major First Parish fundraiser. Even though April is still many weeks away, it would be great if you could do two things now, if you have not done them already. First, mark you calendar and plan to attend this special event. Second, tell us what you would like to donate this year by going to the website [www.fpsudbury.org](http://www.fpsudbury.org) and filling out the donation form. For more information ask Jan H. ([jch@jch.com](mailto:jch@jch.com))

**A Green Sanctuary Program**

We are in the process of officially forming a Green Sanctuary Project committee and hope you will volunteer to join us. This could be a vehicle by which you extend your environmental concerns to a larger community.

Most simply stated, our goals are to reduce our church's environmental footprint on the earth, and to reduce our congregational members' and friends' environmental footprint on the earth. Owning a historic building places some limitations on us, but we can all do something.

A Green Sanctuary Program is something we want to do as a congregation as sponsored through the Ministry for Earth. Becoming a Certified Green Sanctuary has elements in it similar to our having become a Welcoming Congregation.

The UU Ministry for Earth (MFE) (formerly the "Seventh Principle Project") is an affiliate of the UUA, and sponsor the congregation based Green Sanctuary Program. This program will touch many of our committees, including programs, education, worship, landscaping, and buildings & grounds.

Please contact Bruce L, Carolyn L, Beth R or Tom Y to volunteer and for questions.

*On March 19 we welcome special guest, Claudia Kern, who serves as Chair of the Board of Directors of Unitarian Universalist Ministry for Earth, an affiliate of the UUA. Its members believe that the Earth is in peril from human activities and that, as people of faith, this is a moral and spiritual crisis of utmost importance. They sponsor the congregation-based Green Sanctuary Program which provides a framework for study and reflection, and encourages individual and collective action for responding to the call to heal the Earth.*

**Hate Strikes Close to Home**

Early on Sunday, January 22, vandals stole a sign from the Unitarian Universalist parish in Kingston, Mass that advertised worship services for a Brazilian Assembly of God congregation that meets in the UU church on Sunday evenings. Later the sign was returned, riddled with more than 100 bullet holes, and defaced with graffiti reading "Viva deportation." The vandals also covered the sign's Brazilian flag with an American one.

In another story that made national news, a New Bedford man, armed with a hatchet, a machete, and a handgun attacked three patrons in a local gay bar. Several days later he murdered a police officer and a woman before he took his own life.

While hardly the only stories of hate in the news, these strike close to home, especially the defacement of signs in Kingston almost five years to the day since our own signs were defaced in January 2001 by vandals and our rainbow flag stolen. Our minister and the Chair of the Board of Trustees immediately reached out to the Kingston UU congregation and to the Brazilian Assembly of God congregation to offer our support and any aid that we might give.

Greater Boston PFLAG (Parents and friends of Lesbians and Gays) issued a strong statement in response to the bar attack. *Now is the time to send a message of love, tolerance, and respect for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people. We must NOT be silent; we must NOT be complacent.* PFLAG urges us to do whatever we can to ensure that all people can live with dignity and respect. *Let people know that this affects all of us, they said, we must take care of ourselves and each other.*

**Spirit Play News**

Thanks to everyone who participated in our Spirit Play Open House! The children enjoyed showing their families and friends all our story materials and crafts, and the teachers enjoyed sharing the work we are doing with the community. We would like to offer a special thank you to Bruce W and Ginny D. Bruce built the two sets of beautiful shelves that we use every week, with Ginny's support. These shelves are essential to our classroom - they are just the right size for children, hold all our important materials and frame the space where we meet to learn, grow and explore each week. The beautiful wood glows and lights our space with warmth and beauty.

This month our class explored two Promises (UU Principles) - Green, for Grow by exploring what is true and right in life, and Yellow for Yearn to learn about and accept ourselves, others and the Mystery. We also learned about our UU Sources. This lesson presented our UU faith as a tree with the Mystery at the center. The roots of the tree are our Sources and the branches are the Promises.

### Two Area UU Spiritual Centers

*Promoting our 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> UU Principles:*

- ✓ *Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations*
- ✓ *A free and responsible search for truth and meaning*

**The Wright Tavern Center for Spiritual Renewal**, in Concord, Mass, whose mission "is to be a source of spiritual renewal and development for members of First Parish, Concord, and surrounding communities", helping all to learn more deeply of matters of the spirit. Their website, [www.wrighttavern.org](http://www.wrighttavern.org) contains information about the various listing of courses and offerings available through the Center. It is described as "a place where we can acquire the tools, practices, beliefs, and wisdom that lead to rich and fulfilling lives. The teachings come from living traditions drawn from many (Unitarian Universalist) sources.

The Center offers courses such as yoga, drumming workshops, Listening for God, Play with Purpose, Tibetan Buddhism, and Rise Up Singing, book groups, prayer, and T'ai Chi.

For more information, contact The Wright Tavern Center at the above website, or 978 369-9602.

**The Center for Spiritual Development** at The Church at Monument Square: the Universalist Unitarian Church of Haverhill

"The goal of the Center is to help individuals on their life's spiritual journey by providing resources to awaken and sustain love....Spiritual development is a life-long process requiring Spiritual Practice, Life Support, Education and Exploration, and Service to Others."

The Center offers courses and programs on Buddhist meditation, yoga, spiritual growth through choral music, support groups for caregivers, drumming circle, and an environmental covenant group.

For a complete list of offerings, and more information, their website is [www.uuhaverhill.org/happenings](http://www.uuhaverhill.org/happenings); their phone number is 978 372-5173.



### Calling All Hymnals...

If you have borrowed a hymnal belonging to First Parish (with or without a nameplate) please return it to the office so we can log it in as being "back home". We are missing quite a few, and will be glad to have them back. Thanks!

### Movie Discussion Night - Saturday March 4 - 6:30 PM

*The Language You Cry In*, (Story of a Mende Song) 1998, 52 minutes, in English and Mende with subtitles

Shown on our Commons' fabulous 6X8' screen with surround sound.

An amazing scholarly detective story reaching across hundreds of years and thousands of miles, from 18th century Sierra Leone to the Gullah people of present-day Georgia. It shows how African Americans have retained powerful links to their African past despite the horrors of the Middle Passage and the long years of slavery and segregation.

Why would a Mende woman exiled 200 years ago have taken that particular (burial ceremony) song to America, and not another, the answer was, "It was the most valuable thing she could take. Just by singing it, it would connect her to all her ancestors who were buried with it in Africa and to their continued blessings." A Mende proverb: "You know who a person really is by the language they cry in." This film is "Judith's pick."

You are welcome to bring snacks or your supper!

A concurrent children's movie can be shown in the adjoining room if parents desire. Contact Judith C to help pick it!

First Parish of Sudbury Unitarian Universalist  
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email: [office@fpsudbury.org](mailto:office@fpsudbury.org)

Office hours: Monday - Friday 9:00am to 1:00pm

We embrace diversity and, as a Welcoming Congregation, are intentional about welcoming the presence and participation of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender persons in all aspects of congregational life.

Minister:	Rev. Katie Lee Crane email: <a href="mailto:minister@fpsudbury.org">minister@fpsudbury.org</a>
Director of Music:	Debra Morris-Bennett email: <a href="mailto:music@fpsudbury.org">music@fpsudbury.org</a>
Director of Religious Education:	Tracy Duncan email: <a href="mailto:reducation@fpsudbury.org">reducation@fpsudbury.org</a>
Youth Advisor:	Greta Stone
Administrator:	Fran Sharp
Chair, Bd. of Trustees:	Jan Hardenbergh
Treasurer:	Jan Pendleton

## Faith in Action News

*Judy D and Beth R, Co-Chairs*

***Sudbury Interfaith Collaboration...*** Should First Parish join other Sudbury congregations?

St. Elizabeth's Episcopal Church, working with Refugee Immigration Ministries (RIM) is leading an initiative to open up their empty rectory to refugees in need of housing and a new life.

This is an undertaking that needs support of other congregations in Sudbury. While St. E's would be the lead player, they are inviting us to participate. So far, perhaps nine Sudbury faith organizations have expressed initial interest in exploring this further.

R.I.M. provides support, a process that works, and materials to help move clients to independence as soon as is practical. The participating congregations are responsible for managing the details, such as assisting with furnishings, acculturation, friendship, transportation, and fundraising.

This is a great opportunity to get to know our neighbors in other congregations in Sudbury better, and dispel any misunderstandings about one another's religious beliefs and values. Working together not only serves those who benefit from the initiative; it also helps us to know one another better.

Beth R is leading the First Parish effort, should we decide to go forward. Please let her know if you would like to hear more, or wish to be involved. Without your support, we will not go forward. For further information about RIM, see [www.r-i-m.net](http://www.r-i-m.net)

***First Parish "Partakers" Take Off*** We need YOU to be the sixth member of our team. Five of us (Annmarie A, Judy D, Carol J, Carolyn L and Bev W) have agreed that two of us, in turn, will visit, mentor and write to a Norfolk Correctional Institution prisoner once each month until he completes his college education. Please contact Annmarie A or Carol J, our coordinators, if you would like to join us, or want more information.

***Show Your Support For Universal Health Care*** Those of you who support the Massachusetts constitutional amendment requiring universal health care are asked to stop by the table at the Faith In Action bulletin board during Coffee Hour on Sunday, March 19, to sign huge (already made out) cards to your legislators.

***Our Next Committee Meeting*** Sunday, March 19, in the Brackett Room at 11:30am. We hope you will join us!

### ***"Clarence Darrow" Visits First Parish March 11.***

The country's renowned portrayal of Clarence Darrow, Gary L. Anderson, will perform on Saturday, March 11 at 7:30 pm. In the performance, Darrow recounts the greatest trials of his career, including the ongoing controversy of the Scopes "Monkey" Trial, the Leopold and Loeb plea for mercy, the Los Angeles Times Terrorist and Bombing Trial of the McNamara Brothers, and Darrow's own jury-tampering trial, while providing personal insights into his character and philosophies through often humorous and moving anecdotes and trial excerpts.

Tickets are \$20 at the door (\$12 for students) but will be discounted to \$15 if reserved in advance by emailing to [office@fpsudbury.org](mailto:office@fpsudbury.org) (state name, phone and ticket quantity) or phoning 978-443-2043. Proceeds will benefit our Faith In Action initiatives.

All ticket holders are invited to a reception at the church from 6:30-7:30 pm to meet the performer and have refreshments before the performance.

***Upcoming Events For Your Information*** Faith In Action has information about several upcoming events, and they encourage your participation. Contact Judy Deutsch and see the Faith in Action bulletin board in the Parish Hall for full descriptions of these events:

- The Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless' legislative action day, February 28, including appointments with Lincoln and Sudbury's Rep. Susan Pope and sessions including one on "Regionalizing Family Shelter and Prevention Programs: Benefits and Risks"
- "Overdo\$ed In America: How The Pharmaceutical Companies Distort Medical Knowledge, Mislead Doctors, And Compromise Your Health" at Goodnow Library in Sudbury on Sunday, March 5 featuring John Abramson, M.D., a Robert Wood Johnson Fellow, Clinical Faculty Member of Harvard Medical School and author of "Overdo\$ed in America" present the results of his research.
- Institutional Racism Workshop, Sunday, April 9th, from 2:30 to 5:30pm, held at the Trinitarian Congregational Church of Concord, including an interactive presentation that establishes a common framework for understanding race, racism and white privilege; a powerful video that demonstrates the effects of Institutional Racism, and small and large group discussions.
- People Poverty Power - A UU-United Nations Organization Intergenerational Seminar, April 6-8 in New York City. Registration information is on the FIA bulletin board and can be obtained from [www.uu-uno.org](http://www.uu-uno.org).