



MARCH 17, 2010

R.E.flections by a chaliceD.R.E.amer



Roberta Altamari
Director of Religious Exploration
and Youth Ministry

Whew, what a month this has been! I write often that working with youth consistently opens my mind and heart to new perspectives and possibilities. This month has gone even further and transformed me forever!

Mid-February, nine members of the Youth Group, Valerie, and I traveled to New York City for a social justice trip to learn about and work with the homeless community. Yes, there are plenty of homeless people right here in Boston, but New York City is home to the very special Youth Service Opportunities Project that offers an amazing program educating teens and adults about the homeless community. With real-life stories from people who are homeless and hands-on experiences working in shelters and soup kitchens, YSOP squashed stereotypes and opened our understandings of homelessness.

Hearing stories of transformation from Watertown teens who did the same trip, I expected I would feel inspired and grateful when I came home. How can meeting people who don't have a home to live in or decent food to eat not leave me feeling grateful for not having to worry about having such essentials in my life? But my real transformation was so much deeper and complex. When the only public bathroom we found on our return trip from the shelter was disgusting and then we heard that the church hosting a soup kitchen locked all the bathroom doors, it sparked a harsh reality check of wondering where homeless people living on the streets go to the bathroom. This is but one of many mindless daily privileges we have that some homeless people suffer without.

As this Connector goes to press, I am preparing to do a "Cardboard City: homelessness awareness overnight project" with our Youth Group in the pouring rain. Going without a comfortable bed to sleep in and limited food was the primary focus of this project to get a tiny sense of what it must feel like to go without. Sure, this doesn't bring us anywhere near truly understanding what it is like to be homeless because we know that after our experience that we get to go home to a warm bed and delicious food. But it is making us realize that there is so much more that homeless people suffer without than we ever think about. No access to modern day conveniences like transportation and kitchens, or even umbrellas for the least fortunate. Even the ones lucky enough to find overnight shelter still have to spend the days outside. No rain or snow days ... always stuck outside fending for themselves ... alone.

We discovered that a big loss for homeless people is respect and dignity. Over and over, we heard that homeless people are ignored and treated like they are invisible. It's true. How many times have I turned my head the other way to avoid looking at a homeless person because I didn't want to give him money? And now I know that treating people like

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Worship at the Meetinghouse

Sunday, **March 21**, 10 am

An Attitude of Gratitude Youth Sunday

FPS Youth Group with Roberta Altamari

Join us for a wonderful worship service led by our youth after being transformed by their recent social justice work. How did traveling to New York City to learn about and work with people who are homeless inspire our youth? What did they come home most grateful for? Did sleeping in cardboard boxes and going without the conveniences of regular teen life last weekend change their understandings of our world? Come find out. We will also honor our 8-year-olds with their First Chalice and be introduced to our 11-year-olds by their First Mentors. It is sure to be unforgettable and fill you with gratitude!

No Hearthside Chat



Stewardship and Parish Finances open meeting Sunday, March. 21 11:45 am

Come to the Brackett Room after worship on Sunday, March 21 to hear how things are going with the pledge drive and FPS finances and to ask any questions about the budget that you may have. Childcare will be provided.

Sunday, **March 28**, 10 am

Our Partners in Haiti

Rev. Katie Lee Crane with Ms. Nichole Cirillo

Nichole Cirillo is a member of the Outreach and Mobilization Team of the UUSC (Unitarian Universalist Service Committee). Since January 12, just about everything she does is in service to the people of Haiti. When a UUSC assessment team visited their partners in Haiti last month to gauge the current situation they were deeply sobered by the magnitude of this emergency and the terrible losses suffered by every single person they met. Yet, every person they met demonstrated how ordinary Haitians are doing extraordinary things. Ms. Cirillo will tell something of our denomination's immediate response as well as longer-term plans.

We will Share the Plate with UUSC to support not only their work in responding to humanitarian disasters like the one in Haiti, but also to support their other initiatives in the US and around the world focused on civil liberties and also economic and environmental justice.

There will be a Hearthside Chat at 11:45 to have a conversation with Ms. Cirillo and learn more about UUSC's short- and long-term plans for relief work in Haiti.

First Parish of Sudbury's Pastoral Associates

Annamarie A, Audrey K, Polly M, Bruce P, Fred P, Paul R, Dawn S

In the event of a pastoral need, please call any of these Pastoral Associates.

Coming up in Religious Exploration:

TempoTime!!

First Parish of Sudbury is pleased to offer TempoTime, a free and very popular "music and movement" program for children ages 2 to 6 and their parents/care-givers on Saturdays. The next ones are on March 20 and April 3 at 10:30 am.

Come sing, dance, and have fun with your child!! Then stay to enjoy a snack together. Everyone is welcome and you do not have to be a member of First Parish to attend! If you know someone in your neighborhood who would enjoy this program, please pass the word. For more information, contact Roberta at DRE@fpsudbury.org.

Change for change

Our children and youth are hosting a new project for the next month ~ a change collection. Your pennies and other change can make a difference! At our Children's Annual Meeting in February, they voted to collect money for Haiti Relief and a local animal shelter. When you bring in your donation, you can choose which charity your donation is helping.

Free Parenting Workshop and Discussion: Budgeting and Stretching our Dollars Creatively.

Join us on Tuesday, March 23 at 7:00 pm to hear and share tips for resourceful budgeting and stretching your limited funds creatively to create a wonderful life for you and your family. For more information, contact Roberta Altamari at DRE@fpsudbury.org

LaRhette Fund Grant

The LaRhette Fund was established in 1975 by the LaRhette family to honor the memory of their daughter, Lorene LaRhette, who died on an Outward Bound tri in the Pacific Northwest when she was a teenager. The LaRhette family and others have continued to make gifts to this fund, which we use to give grants to First Parish teens who are needing financial help to enable them to explore UU faith development and/or social justice opportunities. For more information about the grant or how to apply, please contact Roberta or Katie Lee.



2010 Pledge Drive Update

Anyone who came to the service on March 7, Pledge Sunday, can tell you what an uplifting morning it was to see so many of the people who love First Parish come together and make their financial commitment. As the annual Pledge Drive began, in addition to 7 pre-pledges, another 47 households stretched and made a significant commitment to financially support this congregation that nurtures and sustains them. Without doubt, this also is an indication of emotional and physical support – stewardship in its full meaning.

During the rest of March and into early April, canvassers are contacting those who could not be present on March 7 and feel the karma of that service. We are confident that everyone will welcome this contact and do the best they can to try to make a minimum pledge or gift of \$2,300-\$2,400.

*Those who can give more, will; those
who must give less will do all they can.
But, we know everyone will stretch.*

Of course, we acknowledge that not everybody can afford to support First Parish at that level. Thankfully, some among us are able to pledge higher amounts. Their generosity makes it possible for others among us to give at the level they can afford while still enabling us, as a community, to reach our goal. Those who can give more, will; those who must give less will do all they can. But, we know everyone will stretch.

Please be sure to notice the bulletin board as you enter the Parish Hall. In addition to general Pledge Drive information, some of the testimonials about giving that were spoken on Sunday are posted. There is space for you to add your personal statement.

In gratitude,
- Colin A, Sheila D, Susan I
2010 Pledge Drive team leaders

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that is far worse than not giving them money. This message was so significant that I tried it when I returned home. I was in Cambridge one day and a homeless man was walking around the cars stopped at a traffic light with a cup and a sign asking for money. I felt shy, but rolled down my window and said, "I'm sorry I can't help you, but I wanted to wish you good luck in getting your needs met today." The look on the man's face was pleasant surprise. He smiled at me and said, "Thank you, God bless you!" For me, it was a very small and simple act of kindness. For him, it was so much more!

I wonder if lack of respect and recognition is something that many people from minority groups suffer? I know that when I worked with disabled adults that they are often ignored as well. A disabled man in his wheelchair goes to get a coffee at Dunkin Donuts and everyone avoids looking at him. He doesn't need anyone's help. But a smile or hello would work miracles for his spirit!

As Unitarian Universalists, we proclaim the worth and dignity of all people as our first principle. I am now realizing that the first place to start could be simply saying "hello" to everyone we meet, no matter how different they seem from us. Sometimes, the people who seem the most different from us need our respectful recognition the most!

Roberta ♥



Grange Honors Katie Lee March 17 – All invited

Rev. Katie Lee Crane will be honored as the Citizen of the Year by the Sudbury Grange #121 Wed., Mar. 17 at 7:30 pm. Come and applaud Katie Lee for her years of service to the greater Sudbury Community. It is the Grange's small way of paying tribute to Sudbury's outstanding citizens that make a difference in the world. Katie Lee has helped lead the local Interfaith Council play a stronger role in our lives, along with many other accomplishments. The Grange will also be celebrating the 125th Anniversary of its founding in Sudbury. Please come to 336 Concord Road, next to the Sudbury Town Hall; it is fully handicapped accessible. All are welcome.

A Note from Fran

Dear Friends and Members of First Parish,

I am writing to let you know that I will be resigning from the position of Community Life Coordinator at the end of June.

This was a difficult decision for me to make, and it came after much thought, soul-searching and discussion with my family.

This will end ten years of service to First Parish on the staff (2000-02 as co-Dir. of Religious Ed.; 2002-08 as Cong. Administrator; and 2008-10 as Community Life Coordinator.) For me, it has been a great run! I am very grateful for the opportunity to have served you. I will be working with our staff and leaders this spring to ensure a smooth transition for the congregation leading up to June 30.

Some of you may have heard me tell the story that after my 3rd Sunday coming to worship at FPS (in the spring of 1998,) I went home and said to my husband, Philip, "You know...First Parish is going to become a BIG part of our lives." I didn't realize then the extent to which congregational life would come to be at the center of our lives, especially mine. But, even then, I knew in my heart that this felt like *home* and that it was already beginning to be my beloved community.

Having the opportunity to serve on the staff has been a gift, and one that has helped me to grow, professionally and personally. Being part of the staff team has given me the experience of working with colleagues in right-relationship and in creative collaboration, a rare and blessed experience.

I have been supported and nurtured by you all. You have stepped up in big ways and small to help me succeed in my different positions. You have been helpful, generous, and forgiving of my "human" moments.

With deep appreciation,

Fran



Birthday Party Sunday, March 21

Join your friends of all ages to celebrate ALL of our birthdays during a special Social Hour on Sunday March 21. From youngest to oldest, we all love a birthday party so join us for cake, candles and lots of fun!

Delegates- Sign Up by March 22 for Mass Bay District Annual Meeting

The annual business meeting of our UUA District will be held Sunday, April 11 from 5-8 pm at First Parish in Needham, UU. Rev. Terry Sweetser will give the keynote address.

To be a delegate you submit a designation form by March 22. Please contact the FPS office if you are interested.

MAKING CONNECTIONS



Welcoming New Members and Friends

With each new member, we, the congregation of First Parish of Sudbury, are re-created.

We are blessed to have several new members and friends! We welcome as official members Rebecca P and Robert W, and Richard S. Have a look at their photos on the Parish Hall bulletin board, and offer them a warm welcome.

Our new active friends since the fall include Sheila B, Rebecca B, Julia E and Dave A, Jess G, Liz M, Cathy and Heather S, and Sue R.

Welcome to you all. We are glad you're with us, and are eager to share with you our ministry, religious exploration, and community.

Peace, Fran

Coming soon...



APRIL IN PARISH

Service Auction, Sat., April 10 at 6

Plan to attend this annual auction, a major fund-and fun-raiser featuring great food, drink, music, entertainment, and your chance to pick up some good buys including vacation destinations, theater/museum tickets, dinners (hosted or delivered), art, and services or items from many of our parishioners and local merchants. Tickets are \$10 per person at the door.

Watch your First Parish e-mail for the preliminary auction book later in the month and the Parish Hall for information on the vacation homes offered.

In the meantime, PLEASE GO TO THE WEBSITE (www.fpsudbury.org) AND ENTER YOUR OWN OFFERING, or call Ted or Elaine Jones to enter it for you.

To make this successful, WE NEED YOU!



Women: Come to the Potluck Supper & Meeting Sunday, March 28 and the Annual Weekend Retreat May 14-16

All women are warmly invited – no previous attendance at any Alliance event necessary. The March 28 potluck is at the home of a Sue C from 5-8 pm. Drop in for a while and relax with good friends and good food.

Pick up a Retreat brochure in the lobby or contact office@fpsudbury.org or call 978-443-2043 ext # (pound) for details. You'll be glad you did.

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You Can Get First Parish Named on WBUR

By volunteering during WBUR's spring pledge drive you'll support a local NPR news station and gain exposure for First Parish.

When you volunteer with a group or multiple times as an individual, you can have First Parish thanked on the air live during the fundraiser and on WBUR's "Community of Volunteer Groups and Businesses" page.

Interested? Want more details? Contact Kelly S



Faith in Action News

UUMassAction is co-sponsoring "An Interfaith Call to Action: Community Forum on Housing and Homelessness" in Waltham on Thurs. Mar. 25, 6:45-8:45 pm Immanuel United Methodist Church 545 Moody Street, Waltham.

Squeezed by the economy? The UU Service Committee (UUSC) is hosting a Get-Together on March 28 and you're invited to talk about the impact.

UU Mass Action is supported by the Fund for UU Social Responsibility, UUSC, UU churches and members. For details on both events, go to www.uumassaction.org

Please Donate to Sudbury Food Pantry which serves residents from several communities and especially needs baby wipes, dry baby food (no jars please), cans of fruit, bar soap, paper towels, and plastic sandwich bags. Kindly double-paper-bag and leave all items in the green collection box just outside the Parish Hall.

One Day Retreat for men and women at FPS Saturday, March 27 from 9:00 to 3:00

First Parish members pay half price.

led by CC King and Pam Swing
sponsored by First Parish of Sudbury

As winter yields to spring and sap begins to rise, what is stirring within you? What has been incubating in the darkness? Join us as we explore ways of sensing newfound awakenings within us. Drawing from the creative processes of Interplay and SoulCollage[®], we will tap the energy of transformation and renewal that comes as the earth thaws. We will play with shifting from discovery to intentionality, identifying practices you can continue at home to nurture these tender shoots. Previous experience in either Interplay or SoulCollage is not needed. Just bring yourself, and see what is ready to unfold!

To register: contact CC King
sammykat@comcast.net or
Pam Swing pam.swing@gmail.com,
www.bluemooncreativity.com
Cost: \$85.00 (incl. snacks and materials).
First Parish members pay half price.

Coming Up at First Parish

- ➡ Saturday, March 20
Morris Dance Performance & Dinner
6:30 pm.
- ➡ Saturday, March 27 – *Rising Sap*
One Day Retreat for Men and Women
9:00-3:00 See page 6 for details.
- ➡ Saturday, March 27 – Fundraiser for FPS
Coffeehouse on the Rocky Plain
7:00 pm See page 8 for details.
- ➡ Saturday, April 10 – Fundraiser for FPS
Annual Service Auction 6:00 pm
See page 5 for details



**Please Remember to
Enter and Remain in the
Sanctuary in Silence
for Sunday Worship**

Save the Date: Sat., June 12

March with First Parish's Welcoming Congregation, our Youth Group and other allies in Boston's Pride Parade for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender equality. Details to follow.



Help Wanted

Check out the job openings at Sceris, a Sudbury business process consulting, technology and outsourcing company. For details visit www.sceris.com or 978-218-5000

Be a census worker. Call 1 866 861 2010 or visit www.2010censusjobs.gov.

Know of other job openings? Email details to office@fpsudbury.org for the next *Connector*

Contacts:

Minister: Rev. Katie Lee Crane - minister@fpsudbury.org;
Ministerial Candidate in Residence: Beverly Waring
Music Dir.: Debra Morris-Bennett – musicdir@fpsudbury.org
Dir. of Religious Exploration & Youth Ministry: Roberta Altamari – dre@fpsudbury.org



Donate Your Rummage...please

Household goods. Toys & games. Office supplies. Clothing. Books.

Any item that fits into a paper grocery bag will help the Women's Alliance June 19 Jumble Sale. No textbooks, please. All items must be clean and in good repair. Drop off M-F 9-12 at the office.

Get Screened to Prevent Stroke

Wed., March 31 at St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church. Pre-registration is required by calling Life Line Screening at 1-800-324-1851



**Remember:
Save Our Visitor's Parking
Spots for Sunday Visitors.**

Looking for a Great Place for Your Next Family, Friends or Work Get Together?

Consider renting space at First Parish: Reasonable rates...Wine and Beer approved Comfortable clean rooms... Convenient parking Great sound & video systems...And you won't have to get *your* house ready for company! Call 978-443-2043 or office@fpsudbury.org

Town Annual Meetings Begin Soon

- Lincoln - March 27
- Sudbury - April 5
- Concord - April 26
- Hudson - May 3
- Stow - May 3
- Framingham - May 4
- Wayland - May 10

Community Life: Fran Sharp – connect@fpsudbury.org;
Administrator and Newsletter Editor: Donna Scalcione – office@fpsudbury.org; **Office:** 978-443-2043;
Web address: www.fpsudbury.org

March 27th Coffee House to Benefit First Parish Sudbury and a Peruvian Music School



Captivated by the beauty and energy of the high altitude Peruvian town of Cusco and its people, Leslie B (a long time member of First Parish Sudbury Unitarian Universalist and musician in *Ergo Canto* duo --www.ergocanto.org) returned again and again. On her second visit she brought her flute so she could practice for an upcoming gig *Ergo Canto* was performing upon her return. Following a friend's recommendations for study, Leslie found herself on a tiny street asking the Music School Director for a practice room. Despite language challenges, Leslie found herself in a small open courtyard with several doors open to rehearsal and instruction rooms.

Spotting a concert announcement that very evening she returned to listen to student and faculty performances in a winter chilled glass ceiling auditorium at 10,000 ft. Wearing hat and gloves, Leslie particularly enjoyed the performance showcasing an original faculty member composition celebrating the Sacsayhuamón Incan fortress in Cusco that sounded ancient and modern simultaneously.

Founded by state resolution in 1950 as The Regional Music School of Cusco, in 1978 school came under the authority of the National Cultural Institute, in 1984 it became the Instituto Superior de Music "Leandro Alvinas Miranda". The instituto, with 250 current students, was authorized to train students for various music professions. It was the first music school at the national level to obtain that standing.

Practicing there daily, Leslie became a familiar face. One day the piano teacher offered to play piano and flute duets. It was then that Leslie discovered the terrible financial hardship the school suffered. The piano used at the concert had only 2 legs—the keyboard was supported by a wooden chair and a stack of boards. The only music available to staff was a closet sized room of photocopies. Leaving for home, Leslie offered payment for use of the practice room, but her offer was declined.

She decided the best way to repay the school for its kindness was to mail music books by various composers. Not once but as often as possible. Leslie is grateful for First Parish friends who have donated used copies of piano, voice, and instrument books. Last summer's visit enabled her to bring a flute and a trumpet (her friend Kim V's donation) to add to the flute she donated the previous visit. Quality instruments are hard to come by in a mountain city—even one known as a tourist destination. The city's classical music talents and symphony orchestra are largely unknown beyond the city limits and not included in tourist guidebooks. Leslie hopes to change this.



Leslie B will be performing at **Coffeehouse on the Rocky Plain March 27 at 7pm at First Parish Sudbury Unitarian Universalist at 327 Concord Road, Sudbury, MA, 01776. Tickets are \$12 at the door.** *Ergo Canto* www.ergocanto.org and *Dawn Kenney* www.myspace.com/dawnkenney are donating their performances. Twenty percent of proceeds of the evening go to the *Instituto Superior de Music Leandro Alvinas Miranda* and the remainder to First Parish Sudbury. For more information, visit www.fpsudbury.org

FPS Calendar March 17, 2010 to April 3, 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Mar 14</p>	<p>Mar 15</p>	<p>Mar 16</p>	<p>Mar 17</p> <p>7:00p Rental</p> <p>7:30p Grange honors Katie Lee, All invited.</p>	<p>Mar 18</p> <p>1:00p Meditation</p> <p>7:00p Rental</p> <p>7:30p Choir</p> <p>7:30p Carbon Consciousness</p>	<p>Mar 19</p>	<p>Mar 20</p> <p>10:30a Tempotime music program for kids 1 to 5 and their caregivers</p> <p>3:00p set up/clean up for Morris Dancers fundraiser</p> <p>6:30p Morris Dancers Fundraiser Dance Performance & Dinner</p>
<p>Mar 21</p> <p>10:00a Worship Service</p> <p>11:30a Rehearsal for Music Sunday-men only</p> <p>11:45a Rental: Morris Dancers</p> <p>11:45a Open Meeting on Stewardship & Parish Finances</p> <p>1:30p Jr. Youth group movie presentation: other Youth Groups from area invited</p> <p>4:45p Rental: Morris Dancers</p> <p>6:30p Rental</p>	<p>Mar 22</p> <p>6:00p Rental: Yoga</p> <p>7:30p SPTF</p>	<p>Mar 23</p> <p>12:00p 4th Tuesday BYO Lunch & Discussion</p> <p>7:00p Rental</p> <p>7:00p COA Workshop</p> <p>7:00p Parenting Workshop: Budgeting</p> <p>7:30p Pastoral Associates</p>	<p>Mar 24</p> <p>7:00p Rental</p> <p>7:00p Quilters</p> <p>7:00p Coffeehouse Task Force</p> <p>Connector deadline for March 31 edition</p>	<p>Mar 25</p> <p>1:00p Meditation</p> <p>7:30p Choir</p>	<p>Mar 26</p>	<p>Mar 27</p> <p>9:00a Rental: "Rising Sap" program</p> <p>2:00p set up/clean up for coffeehouse</p> <p>7:00p Coffee House on the Rocky Plain, Fundraiser for First Parish & Cusco School, Peru</p>
<p>Mar 28</p> <p>10:00a Worship Service</p> <p>11:30a Rehearsal for Music Sunday-women only</p> <p>11:45a Hearthside Chat</p> <p>11:45a Rental: Morris Dancers</p> <p>11:45a Community & Hospitality Committee</p> <p>4:45p Rental: Morris Dancers</p> <p>5:00p Women's Alliance Potluck supper & meeting</p> <p>6:30p Rental</p> <p>7:00p Youth Group</p>	<p>Mar 29</p> <p>6:00p Rental: Yoga</p>	<p>Mar 30</p> <p>7:00p Rental</p>	<p>Mar 31</p> <p>7:00p Rental</p> <p>7:00p Quilters</p> <p>7:30p Finance Committee</p>	<p>Apr 1</p> <p>1:00p Meditation</p> <p>7:30p Choir</p>	<p>Apr 2</p>	<p>Apr 3</p> <p>10:30a Tempotime music program for kids 1 to 5 and their c</p>