
First Parish of Sudbury News

March 19, 2006

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Next E-News Bulletin Deadline: March 22, 2006

Editor: Fran Sharp

Submissions to: office@fpsudbury.org

Next Newsletter Deadline: April 12, 2006

Making Meanings

Engage the senses. That's one of the major ways we nourish our spirits. It's a way of worshipping. It's a way of praying. It's a way to spiritual growth. It is a way of serving. It's even, I'll dare to say, a way to change the world.

Think of it. Walking at the edge of the sea and feeling yourself as connected to the expansive cosmos as to the tiniest single-celled life-form. Exploring a new-to-you piece of music and finding it moves you beyond words. Expressing yourself creatively and discovering that not only does it move others; it moves you to a new place, too.

Name a few films you've watched that have changed your perspective or, perhaps, even changed the way you relate to others. *Crash* did this for me most recently, and Jonas and I hope to show it at First Parish this spring so that we can discuss it with others. We know the discussion will deepen our understandings and engagement with its messages as we seek ways to understand our own racism and the systemic racism of our culture.

Engage the senses. It is what we try to do around here to support you in your spiritual explorations, in your spiritual growth and unfolding. It is also what we do to sustain you during the bleakest, hardest times, the times when your spirit feels dead or broken. In a Sunday morning worship service, you hear it in the music or a baby's gurgle or the siren of a rescue vehicle. You see it in the chalice flame, the cover of your order of service, the arrangement at the altar table. You even see it in the view out the window and, sometimes, in a wall hanging or object we bring into the sanctuary to enhance the message of the service.

Our Village Worship strives to engage the senses of everyone from the very youngest to the very oldest. In this multi-generational and interactive Saturday afternoon worship, we move together. We talk together. We dance and sing and create together. And, then, we feast together.

The wonderful new Spirit Play introduced this year to some of our children is a Montessori-based form of religious exploration. There, the children and their leaders tell stories with beautiful objects and wondering questions. It transforms the experience from "classroom" to "holy space" for making meanings, even at a very young age.

So I am eager to tell you of two special opportunities in April to engage your senses. Coming on April 2, you will have the chance to meet the Sudbury Faith Quilters and see the Interfaith Collaborative Quilt they have created together out of conversations about their different faiths. The quilt alone is a work of art. But so are the stories about their collaboration and about why and how they expressed their most deeply-held meanings through fabric, thread, conversation and collaboration.

That will just whet your appetite. Then you will want to travel to Boston's South End, to the Cyclorama at the Boston Center for the Arts, where more than 50 such faith quilts will be on display from April 7-10 in a citywide celebration of faith, arts and community. Muslim quilts. Hindu Quilts. Tibetan Buddhist quilts. Jewish Quilts. Interfaith Quilts. Multi-faith quilts. They are breathtaking; I have seen them. Now imagine that you are surrounded by those quilts while listening to a "jam session" of earth rhythms: flutes and drums from every culture – Peruvian and Japanese flutes, Hip Hop Bucket and American Jazz to name only a few. Imagine watching Sufi Whirling Dervishes, Chinese/Chu Ling, Indian/Triveni and Wampanoag dances. Imagine a joyful noise of gospel music and an interfaith choir singing the Halleluiah Chorus. It will all be there – and much, much more. And it will all be FREE. Fill your car with friends and engage your senses. Feel the spirit! Feed your spirit!

Then, on April 29 and 30, comes our own very special Music Sunday: *Acquaintance with Nature*. Actually, it a special weekend of events all inspired by the contemporary composition by Vermont artist, Gwyneth Walker. Based on mid 19th century texts from Henry David Thoreau's *Walden* along with his journals, the piece features our First Parish Choir, our own Matt M as Thoreau, along with special guests on Clarinet and Piano. Thoreau, says the composer, "is seeking the depth's of life's meaning, the truth that comes when one chooses to 'live deliberately, to live deep and suck out all the marrow of life'."

To engage our senses even more, we will have a Spirit Walk through the woods on Saturday afternoon April 29 (rain date: Sunday afternoon). Imagine many of us of all ages and abilities ambling and exploring the very woods that Thoreau writes about in his journals. Imagine sitting a spell or playing the flute, just as he did. Imagine listening on Sunday to this transporting music surrounded by impressions of nature by our own First Parish artists. Imagine.

Engage your senses! It's spring.

Katie Lee

Seekers of the Light



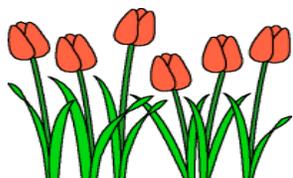
Listening Despite the Noise

I like my new shredder. It's cool to watch the papers go through so quickly and methodically, destroying at least one avenue for would-be identity thieves. What I don't like is *needing* a shredder. Too many loan offers, too much internet-available information are all part of the noise of life today. How come every new invention, carrying so much promise, ends up also complicating our lives in unforeseen ways? There's some kind of spiritual message here, something about the yin and yang, the eternal wheel, the net of samsara.

Two years ago a Tracy Duncan from Alabama decided to avoid her debt by filling out a change of address card to my address. The noise this is still causing is enormous. It includes dealing with the USPS Fraud Dept., collection agencies harassing me, private detectives hired to spy on my family and a lawyer's office threatening to take legal action against my property to secure the debt owed by the other Tracy Duncan. Despite all the information available, not one of them bothered to check with agencies that would confirm that I'm *not* who they seek. So much extra noise in my life caused by one little fraudulent click of a computer key that everyone took as fact. Nobody listened long enough to me or to sense to discover the truth.

I'll bet you have noise in your life. It makes it hard to listen. It's not just the time, it's the energy drain. As a faithful person, I need to separate the "urgent" from the "important." It's important to treat collection agents with respect, despite my urgency to have them off my back. It's important to walk each morning and listen to the birdsong, despite the urgency of my responsibilities. It's important for me to focus my heart and spirit on *people* amidst the urgent Sunday morning preparations. Noise is a net, ready to catch unwary spirits. While tough to untangle, nets have holes. Listening—to birdsong, to people, to your heart-- allows you through. Whatever path takes you to a place of listening, follow it and cultivate it by taking it often so it becomes a wide path to peace.

Peace, Tracy



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 First Parish website version of the newsletter. If you need information, contact the FPS office.

If you have news for this column, send it via email to the First Parish Office. (office@fpsudbury.org)

Donna

First Parish of Sudbury's Pastoral Associates

- Y Annmarie A Polly M
- Geneviève D Y Fred P
- Y Audrey K I Karen R
- Linda L Bev W
- I Susan McK

Y *Pastoral Associates On Call during March*

I *Pastoral Associates On Call during April*

Town Meetings in the Spring

Exercise the 5th UU Principle: The Right of Conscience and the Use of the Democratic Process...

Town Meetings (first night)

- Sudbury Monday, April 3
- Maynard Monday, May 15
- Wayland Thursday, April 27
- Framingham Tuesday, April 25
- Lincoln Saturday, March 25
- Natick Tuesday, April 11
- Stow Monday, May 1
- Hudson Monday, May 1
- Concord Monday, April 24

Board of Trustees Report

by Ginny S, Clerk

It's official: The Trustees have approved the charter of the Green Sanctuary Committee and have charged that group to carry out its mission. We will all participate and all be affected, as we increase our practice of the Seventh Principle of the UUA in our congregation and Meeting House, our community and private lives: "Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part." Watch for ways we can tread more lightly on this planet. Watch for religious exploration and worship to express even better our interconnectedness and our relationship with the Earth.

Deborah K brought to the last Board meeting a stack of proposals by landscape design firms that are bidding for the job of redesigning the "Sudbury Town Center" – including the First Parish vicinity. On March 26, after our worship service, there will be a forum in the Brackett Room to gather comment, ideas, questions, and suggestions on the design of the area around "the triangle." The Trustees hope you'll come and express your dreams or your concerns, so those who go to future meetings can best represent the congregation.

The Trustees studied the Letter of Agreement between First Parish and Sudbury Extended Day, finding many areas where it needs to be updated. We have excellent relations with our biggest and best tenant, but it was felt that what is written about these relations should more accurately reflect the realities of current usage.

Did you know that many people who make significant pledges during our annual canvass are not officially members of First Parish, but are "friends"? Whether you are an actual member or participate as a friend, your financial support is essential to the ongoing work of the our congregation. We can be what we are, and do what we do, for ourselves and for the larger community, if everyone gives what they can, in both energy and money.

The next Board meeting will be on **Monday, April 10**, at 7:00pm. (This date change from April 3 was made to enable participation at Sudbury's Town Meeting.) Board meetings are open and anyone is welcome to attend.

Daylight Savings Time



Remember to "**Spring Ahead**"
And change your clocks when you return from the First Parish Auction late on the evening of Sat. April 1.

No foolin'!



2006 Service Auction – Aprils Fool's Day!

Saturday, April 1st 2006

The Service Auction, or more informally, the Auction, is the most social of 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

occasions or even a vacation home! By the way, it is also a major fundraiser.

This year's theme: Apropos of the day - The Fool, a rich mythological character. In spiritual matters, the Fool means idea, thought, spirituality, that which endeavours to transcend earth. The fool has the eyes of a child, filled with wonder, free of preconceptions. In the most famous image of the fool, he forsake a pile of gold and walks carefree next to a cliff.

There will be delicious appetizers and dishes from the Wayside Inn, turkey, ham, veggies, desserts, so, bring an appetite. We will have beer and wine and soft drinks. This great evening, including food, only costs \$10 per person!

There will be babysitting provided by Cadence H – please contact Heather M to let us know how many children to expect. Children will be fed pizza, play games and watch a movie.

We still need a few volunteers. Please contact Jan H for more details.

Pledge News
from



The Finance
Committee

We are now approaching the end of the third quarter of our fiscal year, which ends June 30, 2006. Pledge payments are running a little behind normal for this time of year. If all the pledges that were made last year are paid by June 30, we should not run into any cash shortage in our fourth quarter. ***If you have a balance due for your pledge for the current year, your prompt payment would be much appreciated.*** Also, when you do make a payment to the Assistant Treasurer, it is very helpful if you can use the memo line on the check to designate how you want your contribution applied, particularly whether you are making a pledge payment or an additional gift. We want to be sure we are crediting your contribution properly.

Worship at



the Meeting House

Saturday, March 18, 4:30pm***Village Worship: "Mystery and 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***"What Does the Earth Require of Us?"***

Katie Lee Crane and Claudia K

Katie Lee preaches in collaboration with special guest, Claudia K, chair of the Board of Trustees for the Unitarian Universalist Ministry for the Earth (MFE, formerly "The Seventh Principle Project"). Claudia is a member of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the Upper Valley (Norwich, Vermont). In her volunteer work for MFE, she travels extensively to speak about her call to live more sustainably, to nurture and respect all life, and to find spiritual grounding in a love of Earth. This is, she says, where "my heart's deep gladness meets the world's great need." [Frederick Buechner]

Claudia joins us on this special occasion when First Parish officially launches its Green Sanctuary Program dedicated to reducing our own and our congregation's environmental footprint on the earth.

Sunday, March 26, 10am***"Creativity"***

The FPS Sr. Youth Group

Join our community as we celebrate Creativity--the theme chosen by the First Parish YRUU (Young Religious Universalists). This worship service will contain music, readings, and more--offered by members of our Youth Group. Come experience youth-style worship for yourself, and support our youth's efforts at the same time.

Sunday, April 2, 10am***"Faith Evolving"***

Rev. Katie Lee Crane

Katie Lee is joined by several faith quilters from three congregations in Sudbury who contributed to the making of the Sudbury Interfaith Quilt. Of the eight who worked on the quilt – some serious quilters, others inexperienced – conclude: "We became a community as we worked together and watched the evolution of this beautiful quilt." Faith through the language of religion, they agree, has been used to commit terrible acts. But this effort shows how the practice of faith, even when speaking in different religious "languages," can also

bring people together. For the past three years, Katie Lee has served on a team planning The Faith Quilts Project which culminates in April with a grand Boston-wide celebration of Faith, Arts and Community. (Details on p.8.)

Sunday, April 9, 10am***"Holier Than Thou"***

Henry N

Some of us find Unitarian Universalism to be a retreat from the chaos or conflicts of the "external" world. While sympathetic to this view, Henry explores in his sermon the current environment of faith in this country. Religious beliefs and the practice of religion are less a matter of reflection and community today; they are used more as criteria for secular political decisions and even division of communities. Henry urges UUs to act from our beliefs and participate more vociferously.

Henry N grew up in Minnesota in a Lutheran environment. He began his broader explorations of religious beliefs in college where he studied social psychology. He found First Parish in 2001, and began writing about faith and religion a couple of years ago. His presentation reflects his own activism on civil liberties and the rule of law, but Henry continues to explore broader UU activism in the current American context of religion.

Sunday, April 16, 10am, Easter Sunday***"What Happens in the Tomb?"***

Rev. Katie Lee Crane

On this Easter Sunday, Katie Lee explores the human response to life's "deaths" – depression, disease, loss, the unexpected and unplanned – and how one comes to terms with dwelling in a place that is both unknown and unknowable until some possibility for growth or change presents itself.

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. The front page will show information about the emergency closing.

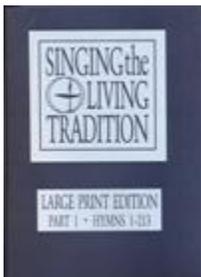
By radio and television—listen to or watch the WBZ Storm Center (news radio 1030-AM or CBS-TV Channel 4), for the cancellation of our Sunday worship service only. (Other events cannot be listed.)

Sudbury Center Improvement Project

by Deborah K

The Town of Sudbury is contracting with a design team to address the issues of the Town Center. This will be a multi-disciplined team of Landscape Architects, Traffic and Civil Engineers, and Historical and Archeological Preservationists. I am on the advisory committee representing First Parish's interests. It is also helpful that I am a member of the Design Review Board and the town's Permanent Landscape Committee. The committee is close to choosing which team (out of 14 excellent proposals) will proceed with this project. The cost of the design phase is being funded in part by the Sudbury Foundation.

Early on in the design process the team will conduct a public visioning session. This will be open all. However, First Parish in particular will be interviewed as to what our particular needs and visions are. I would like to present these as extensively and as accurately as possible. To achieve that end I will be holding a meeting following our worship service on March 26th at 11:30. If you have thoughts and concerns, or ideas of what you would like to see done to our historic center, please come. I will present a brief summary of issues already raised, but mostly want to hear from you.



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!

Women's Alliance Spring Retreat April 7-9, 2006

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.

The all-inclusive cost of the retreat is \$160. For more information, contact Donna S or pick up a flyer in the First Parish lobby. This is a favorite annual event for many women—this is the year to give it a try!



Invisible Hands Awards – Beautification Helpers:

**Betty B, Bunny V McQ,
and George McQ**

In this month of March, as we look at the brown First Parish lawn and bare trees and picture green grass, yellow daffodils blooming on the banks, and green and flowering trees in the Memorial Garden, we believe this is the time to make two separate Invisible Hands Awards for the innumerable, diligent efforts of some First Parish beautification helpers! One is awarded to Betty B and another to Bunny and George McQ, all of whom have given tirelessly to beautify the grounds and gardens around First Parish. Although the beautiful results of their tireless hours as members of the Landscape Committee are certainly *not invisible*, you probably did not know how much they had all given to help produce them!

Betty B is first and foremost a gardener and has served as Landscape Committee Chair for the past several years. She has also just published a beautiful Memorial Garden Plantings brochure which lists and locates all the plants donated to the garden from 1999 to the present. Ask to see a copy! (One is posted on the Landscape Committee Bulletin Board). She has donated endless hours in the Memorial Garden watering, mulching, weeding, feeding, planting, and providing TLC. As soon as the ground thaws, she can be found lovingly tending an area of the garden near the cemetery road. She is also the designer and primary caretaker of the beautiful perennial garden in front of the church library. And if that isn't enough, she also sets up the watering schedule for the summer which keeps all of the plants going during the hot, dry months. She'd love to hear from you if you could volunteer for a week of watering! She personally filled in many weeks when no one else took it on, especially when the trench was being repaired/re-seeded. And she is one of the key individuals who organize and run the successful Fall Mum Sale.

Two other special beautification helpers are Bunny V McQ and George McQ. Both Bunny and George are members of the Landscape Committee. Both spend endless hours in the Memorial Garden. Bunny is the new shrub planting expert, the pruning czar, the invasive plant identifier, and the tender of the beautiful rock garden section of the Memorial Garden. George digs the planting holes, hauls and spreads mulch, kills the invasive plants, built a composting bin in the west end of the garden and he is king of the hoses (layout and maintenance!) Many thanks to Betty, Bunny and George—three very special people—for helping to create such a wonderful space for us all!

Faith in Action News



First Parish Music Sunday Celebrates Thoreau and the Art of Nature Sunday, April 30, 10:00 a.m.

Volunteers Welcome for RIM (Refugee Immigration Ministry) And Partakers

- Beth R and Sherri C can tell you more about RIM, an interfaith collaboration aimed at helping refugees (who will be housed at Sudbury’s St. Elizabeth’s rectory) move to independence.
•Annmarie A and Carol J can tell you more about the Partakers Program in which we have agreed to mentor one prison inmate through his college education.

Our Guest At Your Table Collection Thanks to the contributions of many of you, we collected \$1286.45 for our Unitarian Universalist Service Committee’s ongoing work to achieve justice throughout the world.

Learn More About Torture The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) reminds us that although the amendment sponsored by Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) prohibiting the use of cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment of detainees in U.S. custody is now written into the FY 2006 Defense Appropriations Act, President Bush has issued a "signing statement" in which he said he will construe the new law consistent with his constitutional authority as commander in chief to protect "the American people from further terrorist attacks." To further its work against torture, the UUSC has joined the National Religious Campaign Against Torture and has asked each of us to do the same. For more information, go to www.nrcat.org or speak with Judy D.

Next Faith in Action Meeting You will be very welcome at our next meeting, scheduled for Sunday, April 30, 2006 at 11:30 A.M. in the library. Please contact Beth or Judy for more information.



Katie Lee Away in early April

From Tuesday, April 4 through Sunday, April 9, Katie Lee will be away from First Parish, supporting the weeklong Faith, Arts, and Community celebration, with the blessing of First Parish’s Board of Trustees. (See more on page 1 and page 8.)

Katie Lee’s voicemailbox will be monitored daily. Feel free to contact Fran in the office regarding First Parish business during this time, or one of the Pastoral Associates on call during April—Susan McK or Karen R.

Join us for our spring Music Sunday service, when writer/philosopher/naturalist Henry David Thoreau comes to life through a special musical performance. Acquaintance With Nature, a nine-part piece for chorus, piano, clarinet and narrator (who plays the role of the young Thoreau), was written by Vermont composer Gwyneth Walker and will feature the First Parish Choir.

In the composers words, "Nine short excerpts of Thoreau’s writings have been chosen as the basis of the musical interpretation. The Prologue and Epilogue (#1 and #9) are spoken by a Narrator, with instrumental accompaniment. This is the young writer heading off into the woods, and later returning home. The seven central sections are sung by the chorus, with instrumental accompaniment. The listener might prefer to hear these choral settings as ‘journal entries’ rather than songs. These are brief observations on nature, each focusing on only one or two images or perceptions. One might imagine Thoreau stopping in his walk to examine each detail of the world around him—seeking acquaintance with nature."

The First Parish choir and guest musicians will be conducted by Debra Morris-Bennett, First Parish Music Director. First Parish member Matt M will serve as narrator, playing the part of young Thoreau.

Dr. Gwyneth Walker is a graduate of Brown University and the Hartt School of Music. A former faculty member of the Oberlin College Conservatory, Walker resigned from academic employment in 1982 in order to pursue a career as a full-time composer. She now lives on a dairy farm in Braintree, Vermont. Her catalog includes over 120 commissioned works for orchestra, band, chorus and chamber ensembles.

In a departure from past Music Sundays, the April 30 event will feature more than music. First Parish has invited four artists who specialize in nature themes, both photography and watercolor, to exhibit their works. As part of the weekend’s celebrations, a nature walk is planned on Saturday, April 29.

Spirit Walk Through Thoreau Country April 29 (Rain date April 30)

As part of our artistic celebration of Thoreau’s works, all are invited on a walk through woods beloved by the philosopher, with stops for experiential reflection. The walk is appropriate for all ages and will be our April Village Worship experience.



To First Parish of Sudbury...

We received letters of thanks to us for the gifts we gave during the holiday season through our "Undecorate the Christmas Tree" program. On the Faith in Action bulletin board in the Parish Hall you can see a letter on behalf of the Department of Social Services in Framingham, and two handwritten thank-you cards from Lisa and Christina, social workers at DSS, personally thanking us and letting us know how much our gifts meant to them and to the families they serve.

And, our thanks to Kathleen B and Alison K who again coordinated this program here at First Parish, helping all of us to help the children have a happier holiday season.

The Little Things We Do

Sanctuary Flowers On Sunday mornings, you've probably noticed the flowers that grace the front of our sanctuary. They are just one of the little things that are special about our sanctuary time together—a little thing that makes a big difference. A little bit of natural beauty that helps us to keep our time together sacred.

These flowers are provided by members and friends, who sign up in advance. These are sometimes a bouquet or arrangement, a plant, or a simple, beautiful stem or two. Some come from the florist, and some from our own gardens.

Those who provide these flowers often choose to dedicate them in memory or in honor of someone special to them, and we note that in the Sunday News. It's one way to bring someone into the sanctuary with us, maybe around the time of a birthday or anniversary.

How do you sign up? Simply by choosing the date you would like to provide flowers, and adding this to the signup sheet in the Parish Hall (next to the library door). Or, call the office, if that's more convenient. You will be reminded during the week you are scheduled to bring flowers, and asked about the dedication.

And, after the worship service, you are welcome to take the flowers home with you, or if you prefer, they can be shared with someone recovering from an illness, or in the hospital, or can be enjoyed at First Parish during the week.

Religious Coalition for the Freedom to Marry

"Stand Up for Equality: A Weekend of Witness and Action"

The RCFM, to which both First Parish and our minister, Rev. Katie Lee Crane belong, wants to inform us of and urge participation in this weekend-long initiative opposing an amendment that would end equal marriage rights in Massachusetts.

Watch for more information about FPS participation during this weekend.

If you would like to learn more, go to RCFM's website www.rcfm.org or see printed information in the First Parish office.

Spring Clean-up Day



Mark your calendar for Saturday, April 15 (raindate: Saturday, April 22) from 9am-2pm and plan to come for however much time you can. We welcome everyone's help, and there are a variety of tasks to do so everyone can pitch in. Many hands make light work! Please contact Peg P or Marge L if you have any questions.

First Parish of Sudbury Unitarian Universalist

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978 443-2043

fax: 978 443-4391

www.fpsudbury.org

email: 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: minister@fpsudbury.org

Director of Music: Debra Morris-Bennett
email: music@fpsudbury.org

Director of Religious Education: Tracy Duncan
email: reducation@fpsudbury.org

Youth Advisor: Greta Stone

Administrator: Fran Sharp

Chair, Bd. of Trustees: Jan H

Treasurer: Jan P



What's New with UU?

The 2006 Congregational Handbook is now available (from the UUA Congregational Services) on the website: www.uua.org/cde/handbook. This annually published resource contains lots of valuable information, and the 2006 version features many new sections including:

- The Membership Journey
- Congregational Growth
- Effective Congregational Committees
- Governance for UU Congregations
- Our Congregation's Facilities

General Assembly 2006 Planning From June 21-25, the General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association will take place in St. Louis. If you would like to see the packet of information about registration, hotel reservations, and travel, stop by the First Parish office. Or, go to the UUA website: www.uua.org/ga

If you plan to go to G.A. and would like to be considered to be an elected delegate of First Parish, contact a member of the Nominating Committee—Nina P, Ted J, or Bette R.

UU University at G.A. New this year will be the first biennial gathering of congregational leaders serving their congregations at "UU University" on the two days preceding GA. Programming will include such topics as membership, stewardship, money management, and marks of a healthy congregation. For more information, see www.uua.org/uuuniversity, or the flyer on the FPS bulletin board.

Annual Meeting and Colloquium of the Mass Bay District of the UUA

Saturday, April 8 at Andover Newton Theological School. Don't miss this year's keynote speaker, Ms. Gini Courter (Moderator of the UUA), deliver the address "Issuing a Challenge to a District Poised for Change". Workshop topics include religious education, UU identity, stewardship, leadership issues, and growth. There will also be a Social Action Fair!

For more information or to register, go to www.mbd@mbduua.org or contact Fran in the office.

"Mystery Worshipers"...a new program of the Mass Bay District of UU Congregations. Would you be interested in visiting and helping to evaluate other congregations in our area? A new Growth Team program of the Mass Bay District needs volunteers to visit another congregation twice, and report on the experience from the point of view of the newcomer. If you are interested or would like more information, contact Hilary Green at 617/484-0396 or mbd@mbduua.org.

Faith, Arts And Community

An Exhibit of Faith Quilts and Much More



**We Bostonians: Intersecting
Spiritual Journeys**

More than 50 faith quilts will be brought together for the first time at the Cyclorama (Boston Center for the Arts) from April 7-10 (Exhibit hours 10 am – 10 pm). Within the circle of quilts there will be a number of **FREE** events and performances that explore faith through a variety of art forms.

FRIDAY, APRIL 7

8pm **Earth Rhythms** ~ Flute Circle (Japanese bamboo, Native American, Peruvian, Turkish, Irish and American jazz) and Drum Circle (Native American, Afro Cuban, Hip Hop Bucket, Japanese, Indian Tabla and Haitian Steel Pan)

SATURDAY, APRIL 8

8pm **Faith and Celebration** ~ Sacred Dance with Indian/Triveni Dance, Chinese/Chu Ling, Cambodian/Angkor, Native American/Wampanoag, and Sufi/ Whirling Dervishes

SUNDAY, APRIL 9

2pm and 5pm **A Joyful Noise** ~ Gospel, Hallelujah Chorus (Arlington Street Church & Follen Church) & Interfaith Ensembles (*Ali Ufki Sacred Music Project*)

4pm **The Artist as Cassandra: Searching for direction in response to tragedy** ~ Panel discussion following The Huntington Theatre's production of Marc Wolf's *The Road Home, Remembering America*.

MONDAY, APRIL 10

7pm **Spiritual Leadership in Difficult Times** ~ Panel and Dialogue

9pm **Closing Ceremony**

ALL WEEKEND: THE Q&A CAFÉ, organized by Maggie Herzig of the Public Conversations Project, will be a place to bring your reflections and curiosity. Join quilters in talks about their faith and collaboration.

All programs subject to change: see www.faithquilts.org for the most current information.