

First Parish Unitarian Universalist of Medfield

26 North Street, Medfield, MA

(508) 359-4594

www.firstparishmedfield.org

*As a Welcoming Congregation,
First Parish invites everyone
into our faith community*



February Newsletter 2013

Ministerial MUUsings...

In 2002, the Rev. Bill Sinkford, then president of the Unitarian Universalist Association, gave a sermon in Fort Worth, Texas titled, "Language of Reverence." The impact of that sermon was felt beyond the walls of that church. What Bill was asking for was a conversation among Unitarian Universalists as to what words we use when we talk about our faith; not Unitarian Universalism, but more specifically, our individual spiritual perspective, within the UU context. The sermon provoked passionate

responses along a humanist/theist divide. Ever since the issuance of the Humanist Manifesto in 1933

(http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Humanist_Manifesto) there has been a tension between the two groups. The humanists held sway for thirty or forty years until the 1980s when the "spiritualists" came back into ascendancy. Nevertheless, there is, what I hope, a *creative* tension between the two perspectives.

Patricia Hatch and I have been talking about co-teaching an adult education class beginning in late February. It will be based on the Rev. Jeanne

Harrison Nieuwejaar's book, *Fluent in Faith: A Unitarian Universalist Embrace of Religious Language*. Jeanne, raised a Universalist, was my co-supervisor along with her husband, Olav (a humanist), when I did my ministerial internship at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Milford, NH. I also co-wrote with Jeanne an adult education curriculum that is now out of print.

In her introduction, Jeanne writes, "The ways in which we use traditional religious language vary widely within our Unitarian Universalist congregations and families. In some congregations, worship and community life may be rich with the lexicon of God, prayer, salvation, and sin. In other congregations, although the hymns and anthems may be replete with words like holy, grace, and soul, it is only in the music that this vocabulary is used. For many, it seems easier to sing these sentiments than to say them. We allow a broader margin for metaphor and poetry in our singing than in our speaking. And, in still other congregations and families, these words may be not merely absent, but shunned."

If you are interested in participating in this class/discussion, please contact me at rstower@comcast.net. Please indicate whether you would like the class to be on a Tuesday or Thursday evening beginning at 7pm or Sunday after church service (brown bagging it). You will be required to buy the book. Copies from the UUA Bookstore are available at \$12. A Kindle edition costs \$9.60. But we are getting ahead of ourselves. In order for us to have a good discussion we need a minimum of 5 people, other than Patricia and I, to attend. The number of classes we have we can discuss at our first meeting (if there is interest.) Please let me know, I think this will be enlightening, and even fun.

Peace

Rich Stower

News and Views from the RE Desk

Patricia Hatch, Interim Director of Religious Education

Unitarian Universalists have a living tradition which draws inspiration from many sources. Six sources are named in the Bylaws of the Unitarian Universalist Association. This month, "The Six Sources of Our Faith" is our theme for RE. Here is a children's version of the Sources that I slightly adapted:

1. Our own experiences and the sense of wonder we all share.
2. Words and deeds of women and men long ago and today — people whose lives remind us to be kind and fair.
3. Wisdom from the world's religions.
4. Christian and Jewish teachings which encourage us to love others as we love ourselves.
5. The use of reason and the discoveries of science.
6. Earth-centered traditions which celebrate the sacred circle of life and call us to live in harmony with nature.

Which of these Sources do you resonate with? We all have experiences that inform our beliefs. Most Unitarian Universalists value reason. Which other Sources are meaningful to you? This would be a great conversation for families to have. How important is science to you? How inspiring do you find great leaders like Gandhi and Martin Luther King, Jr. and Mother Theresa? Is living in harmony with nature important to you? What about world religions? Good food for thought and conversation...

Warmly,
Patricia



Ministerial Search Committee News



Where is the Ministerial Search Committee? You won't see much of us during the month of February because we will be doing pre-candidating weekends with some of the applicants for the job of Minister at First Parish. Pre-candidating involves a weekend of interviews, food, and fun with the Search Committee, plus a Sunday morning hearing the applicant deliver the sermon at a "neutral pulpit," a local church where the congregation does not know us or the applicant. We have to protect the confidentiality of our pre-candidates and the Committee needs to go incognito to the neutral pulpit-- here we are working on our disguises!

Executive Board Notes

The Executive Board Meeting was held on January 17th.

- ❖ **Church Membership:** The Membership Committee and Pledge Administrator completed the analysis of membership so that it can be reported to the UUA. Current FPUU voting membership is 98, not including 5 members who have signed the book, but who have not made the minimum financial contribution of \$77 as called for in the FPUU By-Laws. Last year membership count of 117 was reported to the UUA.
- ❖ **Welcome Messages:** The welcome message on the front of the Order of Service will now be "As a Welcoming Congregation, First Parish invites everyone into our faith community" On the back of the OOS will be the statement from our Mission: "This congregation affirms and promotes the full participation of persons in all our activities and endeavors including membership, programming, hiring practices, and the calling of religious professionals, without regard to race, color, gender, gender identity and expression, physical or mental ability, affectational or sexual orientation, class or national origin." In addition, a color rainbow flag will be shown on the front.
- ❖ **New Sign:** The sign committee (Barbara Bunger, Duncan Glover, Don Rolph, David Stephenson, and Susan Stromgren) agreed that a new sign will be placed in the location of the current wayside pulpit. Decision pending on exact placement and one-sided vs. two-sided. Wayside Pulpit will be located to the North driveway. Proposals on Wayside Pulpit are being sought.
- ❖ **Green Sanctuary:** The Board approved the plan for First Parish to seek Green Sanctuary designation from the UUA. Fritz Fleishmann will lead this effort to take action on improving the environment and addressing climate change. See article in this newsletter.
- ❖ **March Fundraiser:** The Board will sponsor a historically themed dinner with a guest speaker for early March. More details later. Save the date of March 9.
- ❖ **Indoor Yard Sale:** The 8th annual Indoor Yard Sale and Ye Olde Antique Shoppe will be held Saturday March 30. See flyer in this newsletter.

AMONG OURSELVES

Our condolences and sympathy are extended to Mary Finlay and her family upon on the death of Mary's father on January 22. A private service will be held in February.

Mary Finlay & Bob Luttman
53 Colonial Road
Medfield, MA 02052

The Green Sanctuary Committee at FPUU Medfield

Our congregation has a new standing committee: the Green Sanctuary Committee. This is a working committee with open membership – any interested member is invited to participate!

During the fall of 2012, a group of concerned parishioners was holding short meetings after coffee hour to discuss global warming. Out of these discussions arose the decision to seek UUA accreditation as a “green sanctuary.” Congregations that have entered this process have found it to be a transformative experience. The journey toward accreditation is outlined at <http://www.uua.org/environment/sanctuary/index.shtml>.

Step 1: To form a Green Sanctuary Committee as a standing committee of the congregation. On December 2, the members of the group then present (Fred Bunger, Pat Clark, Katrin Fischer, Fritz Fleischmann, Nancy Kingsbury, Eve Potts, Susan Stromgren, and David Temple) agreed to form such a committee. I agreed to serve as chair. (Kay Bennett, Chris Conley, Jeanette Ruyle, Nancy Savoie, David Stephenson, and Sarah Zitoli have also joined us for some of our meetings.)

Step 2: Create a charter that defines the committee’s purpose. The version below was finalized on January 13 and approved by the Executive Board on January 17.

The Green Sanctuary Committee seeks to affirm and promote our Seventh Principle, which asks us to behave with “respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.” In accordance with the goals of the UUA’s Green Sanctuary program, the committee aims to:

- raise consciousness about environmental issues, and specifically global warming;
- motivate members to undertake personal lifestyle changes;
- generate commitment to community action on environmental issues;
- address and seek to prevent environmental injustices.

The Green Sanctuary Committee plans to represent all areas of the Congregation’s life, including but not limited to Worship and Music; Religious Education; Social Justice; Buildings and Grounds, and Membership. The committee will conduct an environmental audit and create an action plan for the areas of worship and celebration, religious education, environmental justice, and sustainable living. These activities will involve all members of the Congregation.

It is our intention to seek accreditation as a Green Sanctuary and then to continue our work in eco-spirituality, environmental issues, and sustainable living through the ongoing efforts of the FPUU’s Green Sanctuary Committee.

One of our next steps will be to take an inventory of past environmental efforts by the congregation. If you have a recollection of such efforts from the last 3-5 years, or any suggestions, please share them by writing to me at fleischmann@babson.edu.

Our meetings: we plan to continue our half-hour meetings every other Sunday at 11:30; our next meetings are on February 3 and February 17. Please join us if you are interested and can spare the time.

HAVE YOU BEEN WANTING TO BRING A FRIEND TO FIRST PARISH?
SUNDAY, FEB. 3RD MIGHT BE JUST THE PERFECT TIME.
IT'S OUR 5TH ANNUAL PANCAKE BREAKFAST!!
GOOD FOOD, LOTS OF FUN AND YOU CAN INTRODUCE THEM TO CHURCH AFTERWARDS.

★SUPER BOWL★

SUNDAY

FEB 3, 2013

START YOUR DAY AT FIRST PARISH

5TH ANNUAL PANCAKE BREAKFAST

BRING A FRIEND TO BREAKFAST AND THEN TO CHURCH.



BREAKFAST STARTS AT 8:30 AM

DONATIONS TO SUPPORT A UU URBAN MINISTRY YOUTH CAMPERSHIP.

Social Justice

The Countdown is
on to Saturday,
February 9th...

Family Promise
Metrowest's
4th Annual Walk
Away
Homelessness
Event!



2012 Family Promise Metrowest Walkers!

Please visit

<http://www.familypromisemetrowest.org/events.html>
to learn more about their programs and to register.

The year 2012 ended with many successes for Family Promise Metrowest and our families. Eve, Joana and LaDawn all secured employment and happily moved their families into homes of their own. Mallory earned her GED and enrolled in school to become a medical assistant. Krystal will complete her studies to become a dental assistant next month. Congratulations to our families for their successes and Thank You to all of you for providing the opportunity for their success.

The need for our existing program and the need to expand our services continues to grow. It is our hope in 2013, to continue with the success of our shelter program, to expand our new transitional housing program, and to establish our job readiness/workforce development program.

All of this will require much support. We have a strong foundation of 40 congregations and more than 1,800 volunteers, and we are quickly developing a support base of businesses in the community.

Poverty and homelessness are community issues. Working together, we can strengthen our community by helping families move out of poverty and into permanent, stable housing.

Pat Clark is putting together an FPUU team of walkers and/or participants. Our team name is First Parish. Pat's donation page is Pat Clark. If you want to sponsor the team or Pat, go to familypromisemetrowest.org. You will see a link "Click here for more information". When you go there, at the top are some choices. Choose "Sponsor a participant". It's pretty straight forward from that point. So far Pat is the only member of our team but it's not too late to register.



Unitarian Universalist
/ Urban Ministry

Please join with us for

HOPE OUT LOUD 2

A mid-winter celebration of MLK's WORLD HOUSE SPEECH
with music from Boston Community Choir
along with singers from UUUM member congregations;
dance and song with the Liturgical Dance Team and Radical Praise
from United Union Methodist Church, joined by young singers from Roxbury Youth Program and children
from UU congregations in Concord and Groton; spoken word performances and drumming, too!
Come sing, dance and make HOPE come alive!

Sunday, February 10, 2013

3:00 Children & Family banner making / 4:00 Concert

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST URBAN MINISTRY

10 Putnam St., Roxbury at John Eliot Square

All are welcome, and having heard some of the music selections recently, you will NOT want to miss it!

World UU Musicians, Anne Watson Born (Newton), Beth Norton and Gail Carey (both from Concord) will be bringing singers from their congregations to partner with Norris Welch and the Boston Community Choir; children from Union United Methodist Church's Liturgical Dance Team, co-directed by Lisa Palmer and Zalikah Lewis, and Radical Praise children's choir, directed by Angela Whetstone, will join Roxbury Youth Program children; UU multi-percussionist Matt Meyer will be drumming us together; and, the UU Urban Ministry's Sam Williams will be contributing spoken word along with guest artist, Kemi Alabi. Put it on your calendar, and plan to join us at 3:00 for a Children & Family banner-making; and 4:00 for the concert!

**Please contact Pat Clark would like to take part in this event to plan carpooling.*

We Did It For You!

★ WOMEN'S JOURNEY THROUGH HISTORY



There was a time when women had no rights in America. This is the story of how it changed, told by the women who were there.



We Did It For You! is a quick tour through history starting with the struggle women had in the 17th c. Puritan Revolution through to our 21st century. This amazing play has been touring California for the last 2 years.

"This is a fabulous program. The active participation of everyone in the reading was not only fun but gave a wonderful group spirit to the event."



"I am so glad I had this experience!"

"Highly educational in the most entertaining and fun format."



"Great information with lots of fun. Very organized from the start. So glad I came."

Shirley Riga has been performing in *We Did It For You!* for the past two years and is one of the producers.

WE NEED 22 PARTICIPANTS

Contact: Shirley Riga
413-537-7582
shirley_riga@yahoo.com

www.wediditforyou.org

Branch News

Laguna Beach: We Did It for You!

By Thea Iberall

When Lilly Ledbetter walked up to the producer of the show and said, "This play should go to Washington," she knew this was big. She was aware that *We Did It for You!* was more than just a play to entertain people, but to have the endorsement of the woman heading the fight for fair pay in America meant the show was destined to take a center stage role in the political war for women's rights.

We Did It for You! Women's Journey Through History was written by Dr. Thea Iberall initially for the 2010 Women's Journey Conference in Orange County, CA. The goal was to capture the story of how women got their rights in the United States into an entertaining jukebox musical for the hundreds of women attendees at the conference. And since the responses ranged from "awesome" to "phenomenal," the producers decided to try to book performances for women's organizations and college campuses.

Since that first performance, *We Did It for You!* has been performed for thousands of people in organizations, including the Daughters of the American Revolution, American Association of University Women, Women's Information Network, Women for Orange County, and U.N. Women of Orange County. California students in high schools and college women's studies programs have seen it. During Women's History Month, it was performed at the U.S. Army's Ft. Irwin National Training Center. Over 400 soldiers gave them a standing ovation and then shook the hands of all ten performers.

A real highlight was being invited to the California Women's Suffrage Centennial Celebration in October 2011. In a theatre that sat 900 people and against a 40-foot screen as backdrop, the performers brought these stories to Sacramento. Afterwards, when the playwright asked the audience who learned something, everyone raised their hands.

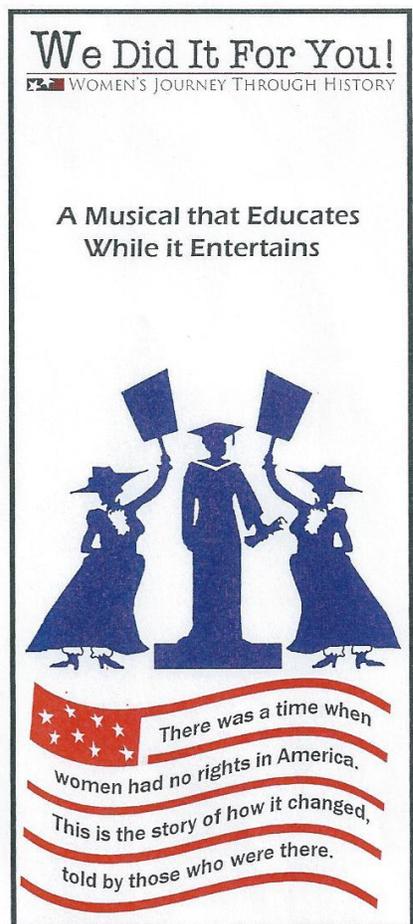
What exactly is *We Did It for You!* and what makes it so special? Playwright Thea Iberall didn't want to just tell the basic story of how the first wave of feminists like Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton put women's suffrage on the national agenda and then how the second wave of feminists like Betty Friedan and Bella Abzug helped women overcome employment and financial discrimination. She dug deeper, doing research that brought in early influences on the women's movement such as the Puritan Revolution and the civil war-era Abolitionist Movement. She also augmented the known stories of Anthony, Stanton, and Friedan with lesser-known activists such as Mary Wollstonecraft, Pauli Murray, and yes, even Lilly Ledbetter. And as a writer, she knew the more

particular the stories, the more universally they would be heard. Therefore, she constructed the play around specific anecdotes. It's not what the women did, but the how and why.

"The result is like peering at history through a magnifying glass," Iberall said. But what really has stunned audiences are the accomplishments of women rolling on the screen behind the performers. Iberall continued, "It took a few tries to figure out how to convey how much women have done in history without it being a boring history lesson."

Women have contributed a great deal to the development of our country. Yet many women's stories have been lost. This point is brought out in workshops Iberall has been leading throughout the country in order for women to experience the play in a very active way. Participants are given the script and are assigned a role. After the reading, Iberall leads a discussion relating the play's stories to current culture assumptions. The workshops have been done for women's organizations, college classes, and national conventions such as the recent N.O.W. convention in Baltimore. Pen Women national president Sharyn Greberman and her husband watched one of the workshops when she was in California earlier this spring.

What about Ledbetter's comment about taking the play to Washington? The producers felt that to truly do the show on a national scale would take a full theatrical script. So playwright Iberall has been back at her computer rewriting the play into a two hour musical. "We'll get to Washington and everywhere else so that millions will see it and learn," Iberall says. "This story is too important." 



A Musical that Educates While it Entertains



There was a time when
women had no rights in America.
This is the story of how it changed,
told by those who were there.

PLEASE SAVE THE DATE: for **Saturday, March 9,** we are planning another fundraising dinner; similar in format to last May's evening of conversation, fellowship, and entertainment. As we look forward to raising our spire, Richard DeSorgher, Medfield Town Historian, will give a presentation on the history of our building and its place in the historic center of Medfield. Look for more announcements, but save the date! Fritz.



Annual Fund Drive 2013 – 2014

Our 2013-14 Annual Fund Drive will commence the week of March 17 – 23, with the Annual Fund Drive Sunday Service on March 24. Keeping with First Parish's tradition, the drive will kick off with a celebration combining great company and great food. This year the Annual Fund Drive Committee is planning yet another new event venue that promises to be an exciting departure from past gatherings. We will be in touch with you shortly with the details!

Our Committee is responsible for planning and conducting the annual fund drive each spring. Together with volunteer fund drive leaders, the Committee contacts every member and friend in the church to ask for a pledge. If you would like to participate, please contact any member of the Committee.

Our 2012-13 pledge total was \$117,515 - a 1% decrease from the previous year, with pledges from 56 households. In comparison, our total 2012-2013 budget is \$156,591. Over the next few months, the Committee will provide more information about First Parish finances so we all know why our pledges are important and how they work for us.

First Parish Medfield continues to be blessed by generous members and friends who understand that First Parish needs our financial support every year at the annual fund drive time, in addition to the many hours of volunteer work we contribute.

Whether you value First Parish for the Sunday worship services, the religious education programs, the social events, the opportunity for social action, or because it is important to you to have a home for liberal religious thought in the Medfield area and in this country – or for all of the above reasons – your support is most important.

The Annual Fund Drive Committee: Duncan Glover, Louise Rachin, Mark Samels, Marshall Sugarman



SATURDAY, MARCH 30th, 8am-2pm
8TH ANNUAL
FIRST PARISH MEDFIELD INDOOR YARD
SALE &
Ye Olde Antique Shoppe
Start saving your stuff!!

TOYS, KITCHEN, YARD, GARAGE, CHINA, BOOKS, PICTURES, TOOLS, DVDS,
CDS, FURNITURE, BIKES, EXERCISE EQUIPMENT, ETC.

We do not take outdated electronics or software, tube TVs, mattresses, clothing, shoes or car seats
Please make sure all items are usable and in good condition

DROP-OFF DONATIONS: FRIDAY, MARCH 29TH 4-8PM
OR TO SCHEDULE A PICK-UP
CALL 508-359-4594

Other Announcements

Sunday, MAY 12th is Mother's Day!

Would you like to donate flowers on Mother's Day in honor or memory of your mother or grandmother?

Please contact Debra Carbarnes at debra.carbarnes@gmail.com



Supporting FPUU through Amazon.com and Equal Exchange



There are many ways to support First Parish - becoming a member is one, volunteering is another. But you can also help by buying things through Amazon.com or by getting your coffees, teas, and chocolates through Equal Exchange. Getting the things that you would ordinarily order anyway, but using the links available on our website will let you do your part in supporting the work of this congregation, helping our social action agenda, and preserving our historic Meeting House.

Go to our website www.firstparishmedfield.org and click on the "Support First Parish-Amazon & Equal Exchange" link on the left. It's easy!



The Medfield Food Cupboard has requested the following from our church for the month of February:

- ✓ Cookies
- ✓ Crackers
- ✓ Juice
- ✓ Canned pasta
- ✓ Beef stew

Please double check your food item to ensure that it is undented, unopened, and unexpired. Thanks for your efforts. Any donations are greatly appreciated and can be placed in the basket in the narthex.

Notes from the Church Office: Please remember the following deadlines:

Church Newsletter: Third Sunday of the month.

Order of Service: Wednesdays by 5:00 pm. If you miss this deadline but have an announcement to be made at the church service, please submit a typed announcement to the service manager for that given Sunday and send a copy to the office.

Church Office Hours: Mondays & Thursdays from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm.

Email: admin@firstparishmedfield.org

Sandra Andreassi-Administrator

Upcoming Services (All Services Begin at 10:00 AM)

February 3, 2013

"Solitude"

Rev. Richard M. Stower

In the dark days of mid-winter many of us hunker down, trying our best to stay inside and keep warm. Winter, for the most part is a solitary time. Solitude has been recognized by the world's religions as an activity which promotes insight and change. Many pilgrims retreat from the world before "returning" to it to share what has been revealed to them.

February 10, 2013

"Abe Lincoln, Infidel"

Rev. Richard M. Stower

From his youth, Abraham Lincoln had a feeling that his destiny was controlled by some larger force, some Higher Power. He moved away from the orthodox Christianity of his family because of what he saw were the emotional excesses he saw of evangelicalism of Kentucky and Southern Illinois. The sermon will look at Lincoln's religious faith.

February 17, 2013

"There's A Lion in the Street"

Rev. Richard M. Stower

Given the choice who wouldn't want to stay in bed? But sloth, or laziness, is one of the Seven Deadly Sins and there is good reason for that. We are called to live our life, not make excuses for inaction, or worse, to waste our lives.

February 24, 2013

"We Did it for You"

On Sunday, February 24th, we are doing something inspiring and educational for the morning service!! There was a time when women had no rights in America. This is the story of how it changed, told by the women who were there. A 50 minute play reading with music is entertaining and fun.

FPUU Calendar of Events

Sunday, Feb 3	5 th Annual Pancake Breakfast/8:30 am/Vestry OWL Meeting/7-9 pm/Vestry
Sunday, Feb 10	OWL Meeting/7-9 pm/Vestry
Thursday, Feb 14	Worship & Music Committee Meeting/7:30 pm/Vestry
Sunday, Feb 17	OWL Meeting/7-9 pm/Vestry
Monday, Feb 18	President's Day/Office Closed
Tuesday, Feb 19	Membership Committee Meeting/7:15 pm/Bunger's
Thursday, Feb 21	Executive Board Meeting/7:30 pm/U-House
Sunday, February 24	OWL Meeting/7-9 pm/Vestry
Sunday, March 3	OWL Meeting/7-9 pm/Vestry
Saturday, March 9	FPUU Historical Fundraising Dinner/Vestry
Sunday, March 10	OWL Meeting/7-9 pm/Vestry
Thursday, March 14	Worship & Music Committee Meeting/7:30 pm/Vestry
Sunday, March 17	OWL Meeting/7-9 pm/Vestry
Tuesday, March 19	Membership Meeting/7:15 pm/Bunger's
Thursday, March 21	Executive Board Meeting/7:30 pm/U-House
Saturday, March 23	Annual Fund Drive Evening Event/ 7:00 pm/ Vestry
Sunday, March 24	OWL Meeting/7-9 pm/Vestry
Saturday, March 30	FPUU Great Indoor Yard Sale/8-2 pm
Sunday, March 31	Easter Sunday

For a complete listing of events, please visit our website at www.firstparishmedfield.org. If you would like to book the Sanctuary, Vestry or U-House for an event or meeting, please check availability and then contact the church office at admin@firstparishmedfield.org