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February 2010 Newsletter

Upcoming Events:

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| January 31st | Introduction to Unitarian
Universalism and First Parish |
| February 6th | North Street Coffee House featuring
Howie Newman |
| February 7th | Social Action Sunday UU Urban
Ministry, Kate Wilkinson |
| February 27th | Bistro du Monde Charity Auction |
| February 28th | Music Sunday and Intergenerational
Service |

From the Minister

Dear Friends:

In the past seven years we have done a great job of keeping in touch with the young adult members of our congregation who are away at school or who are not at school but beginning careers following high school.

This connection begins at the end of every church year with our Bridging Ceremony that helps us establish a means of connecting with a graduating student during the years that immediately follow. In some cases the students have to look no further than their own college campuses. It also gives us a formal way of letting these young adults know that we love them and that we will always be here for them.

The students all know how to reach me and on occasion I get a note or an e-mail from them telling me about something that is going on in their lives. They have come to expect that at Christmastime we will invite them to participate in our Christmas Eve service. It is always a joy to see them and catch up on how they are doing and they often tell me how happy they are to be taking part.

This year for the eighth time we will be sending packages, called HUUGS (Hearty Unitarian Universalist Greetings) in early March to all those that I can identify as being away in high school, college, or beginning their careers “somewhere out there”.

If you want to participate in our HUUGS program it is very easy. The idea is to let the students know that we love them and that we know how hard they are working. Last year folks contributed note cards, letters, candy, cookies and small creative items that could be placed on a students desk or stuck to their fridge.

I will make the boxes available in the vestry on February 14th and 21st. I expect that we will be sending about 20 HUUGS this year.

If you don't feel you know these students very well, I still encourage you to send them a copy of your favorite poem or your own inspirational words.

In the past I have posted in the vestry many letters of thanks, and notes about what it felt like to receive this package from “home.” Many expressed their gratitude for our desire to stay connected with them.

In Faith,

Bob McKetchnie

Caring Touch at Norwood Hospital

Would you like to learn a new skill, meet new people, and make a difference? Norwood Hospital is seeking mature, supportive volunteers for a special program called, “Caring Touch”. Caring Touch is a free service provided to patients by volunteers who are specially trained in giving soothing hand rubs. This service provides patients with 15 minutes of pure relaxation and is offered both at the hospital and at our Cancer Center in Foxboro. Training for this program will be held in mid March.

Volunteer opportunities are also available for Hospitality positions to greet and escort patients and visitors to their destinations and in our retail shops.

For more information, please call the Volunteer Office at 781-278-6321.



Around First Parish ... Around Medfield... Around the UUA

North Street Coffeehouse, Saturday, February 6th

The North Street Coffeehouse will host a night of live music on **Saturday, February 6th, 2010**, at the First Parish U.U. Church, 26 North Street, Medfield. The evening will consist of both a featured performer and an open mic session. The event will be held 7 – 10 pm.

This month's North Street Coffeehouse will feature talented singer-songwriter Howie Newman. One of the most engaging performers on the New England folk circuit, Howie Newman combines music, comedy and audience participation to provide a truly unique entertainment experience.

His amusing compositions are up-tempo and catchy, and he keeps things lively with funny between-songs banter and short comedy. His newest album, released in 2006, is *Trust Me You'll Like It*, is a lively collection of funny and satirical songs as well as more serious songs. The album features some of the top local musicians, including guitarist Duke Levine (Mary Chapin Carpenter band), reed player Billy Novick (New Black Eagle Jazz Band) and keyboard whiz Jim Gambino (Swinging Steaks).

Visit Howie's website at <http://www.howienewman.com/bio.html> if you would like to read more about his performance history and hear samples of his music and comedy.

If **you** would like to perform at the open mic session, please contact Janet at imjanetm@gmail.com. Music of any genre, prose, poetry, or comedy is welcome. Please contact her in advance as the performer list fills up quickly. Refreshments are available. Admission is \$10 at the door, \$5 for open mikers.

See for yourself why the North Street Coffeehouse is becoming known as one of the best open mics around! For more information visit the North Street Coffeehouse website at

<https://sites.google.com/site/northstreetcoffeehouse/>

[Home](#)

Cakes for the Queen of Heaven: In Ancient Times, An Exploration of the Female Aspects of Theology.



Five Monday evenings in March, from March 1 through March 29. 7:15 to 9:15. We will gather in the Vestry at 7 PM to make tea and get settled. Facilitated by Allison Galley and Pat Clark. Our format is engaging and informal.

This course is Part One of a two-part curriculum for women on the feminist perspective in religion and society, which has been largely lost or ignored through the last two millennia. This part "introduces the pre-patriarchal Goddesses of prehistoric and early historic times, their early power, and their ultimate loss of power as patriarchy became the established social structure."

The course objectives are to:

- raise our consciousness to the religious myths and symbols of the ancient world where female images and experiences were central
- explore the psychological and social importance to women today of reclaiming our religious heritage

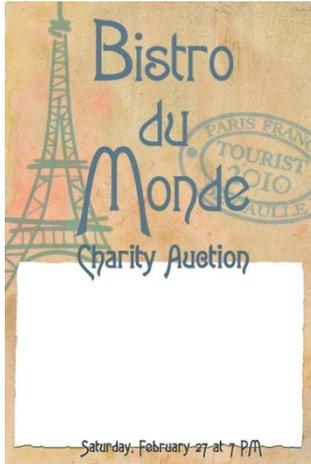
If you would like to attend, please let Pat or Allison know by Feb. 20.

Contact information: Pat at patclarkmillis@gmail.com or Alison at agalley@post03.curry.edu. or call 508-376-5832.

Bistro du Monde

Charity Auction

February 27th 7 PM First Parish Vestry



Get ready for an evening of food, wine, music, fun and fund-raising. The plans for **Bistro du Monde Charity Auction** are in full swing. The musicians are tuning up, the chef is warming the stove, the wine is selected and the auctioneers are in voice training. Members and merchants are donating an international variety of items and services, from Fenway Park to Provence, from the Garden to Genoa.

The auction proceeds will help continue the work of the church, to maintain our historic building and support local charities. Twenty percent of auction earnings will be given to the Food Pantries in Medfield, Millis, Medway, Norfolk and Walpole. Your participation in the Auction will help support these great programs.

Tickets go on sale February 6, but you can put your order in now. E-mail Linda Rondeau in the Church office (admin@firstparishmedfield.org) or Fred Bunger (fbunger@verizon.net) to make a reservation.

Now is the time for Members and friends of the Church to get a group together and encourage friends to join them at the auction. To attract new people, if you bring a friend, they will get in FREE!. (Regular admission is \$20 per person). It will be a great evening with entertainment, food, drink and both silent and live auctions.

If you have an item, a service, time or a talent to donate, please let Fred Bunger or Clayton Springer know. An auction letter and donation form are being sent out to everyone on the Church mailing list. If you did not receive a letter, please let Fred or Clayton know. (Fred 508-359-4058) (Clayton (508) 359-8876) Or call Linda in the Church Office at 508-359-4594.

Call your friends, pack your bags and join us at Le Bistro du Monde.

Bon Voyage!

More News Around First Parish ... Around Medfield... Around the UUA

5th Annual FPUU Indoor Winter Yard Sale – Saturday, March 20

It's that time again! Please start putting aside items to donate. Be sure they are usable and in good "yard sale" condition. Good sellers include books, CD's, DVD's, small appliances, games, puzzles, toys, kitchenware, electronics (not too old!), knick knacks, etc. We do NOT accept clothing, shoes, car seats, bicycles, furniture, or any item too large for us to move easily. Any particularly valuable items left over after the sale will go into our virtual yard sale on ebay! Email Janet McKetchnie at imjanetm@gmail.com with questions, and thanks!

PLEASE NOTE: In case of severe weather, check the First Parish website for a possible date change.

News From Our Committees

From the Chairman of the Executive Committee

The Executive Board has been busy with work getting the contract with T- Mobil and several of us attended the Zoning Board of Appeals in mid January. There was much discussion and a good presentation by the lawyer for T- Mobil. We will know the decision in late February. Thanks again to David Maxson for all his work in getting this project to this stage.

We are grateful for the generous contribution by Buck Buchanan for Kay Buchanan at our recent December Annual Meeting. Thank you Buck for your support.

Canvas is around the corner and the Canvas Committee has been planning this year's program. This will be the time that we can give feedback to the committee on ways that we can individually contribute to the church not only through pledging but also through serving on committees. Think about which area you would like to contribute to and please let the committee chairperson know. The nominations committee will be looking for volunteers to fill those committee chair positions that will come up this year in June. Jeanne Capachin is the nominating Chair so she will be letting us know what vacancies are available. Please call me with any questions or concerns
Rebecca Stephenson
508 740-0663

Message From Membership

We can bid the cold, short days of January good-bye. May the longer days of February herald a brighter, more tranquil month.

I am delighted to pass on the "Mystery Worshipper" report..... "we are not sure this report says it all... this was the best experience we've had visiting a church. These people have it down! Give our best to them when you deliver the report." High praise!

We on the Membership Committee are very pleased to share the above comments about this visit with you. Over the past two years we, along with Rev. Bob, Jeanette, and support from the congregation, have made several changes to the greeting and welcoming process at First Parish. We have felt that these changes have made a huge difference when new folks come to visit our church for the first time. And this report has confirmed our work. As background, The Executive Board requested the Mass Bay District have a Mystery Worshipper(s) visit First Parish Medfield to evaluate a first-time visitor's experience to our church, and to provide guidance on ways we could improve. They evaluated the entire process from getting information before attending, arriving at the service, accessibility, religious education, elements during

the service, after the service, and general observations.

The report, though, very complimentary, did leave suggestions for improvement—so there is more to be done!! And we are all ready making plans to move forward with this work.

As newcomers to our church this year, whom we hope had as favorable an experience as the Mystery Worshippers, we are very pleased to welcome three new members to our congregation. They are: [Allison Bryant and her son, William \(Skilly\)](#) [Sara and Mike Drumm, and their daughters, Molly and Samantha](#)

The Membership Committee: Barbara Bunger, Nancy Kingsbury, Margaret Rolph, Jim Stetson.

News from the Social Action Committee



News From Habitat

The First Parish construction workday with the South Shore Habitat for Humanity Group was scheduled for Saturday, January 9. Thank you to everyone who volunteered to help on building a house for a family in Medway; the response was truly overwhelming. However, because of the very cold weather and the windy conditions that day, the construction coordinator cancelled the event. They have re-scheduled First Parish for a work day in May. As soon as I get details, I will let you know.

Again, thank you so much for the willingness to pitch in on this project.

Our Christmas Eve collection was split this year between First Parish and the local South Shore Habitat Group. A very generous check for \$623.00 has been sent to the Habitat group and received with gratitude.

Margaret Rolph

Social Action Sunday February 7th

We welcome Rev. Kate Wilkinson, Coordinator of Congregational Outreach and Volunteers for the U.U. Urban Ministry in Roxbury as our guest Minister on Social Action Sunday. Rev. Wilkinson's sermon will be "Almost All I Really Need to Know I learned in Kindergarten". Kate hopes the sermon will get us to think about the basic lessons of fairness that we learned in kindergarten.

All proceeds from the collection on February 7, will go to the U.U. Urban Ministry to support their "summer camperships", unless you indicate otherwise. Last year the Urban Ministry was able to send 30 children to camp. The average cost of summer camp for one child for two weeks is \$325. Let's help them in this effort! Please make all checks out to FPUU and indicate whether you want your offertory to go to the Urban Ministry or to your Pledge. If you don't indicate a choice the money will go to the Urban Ministry "campership" fund. All cash proceeds will go to the Urban Ministry. Thank you for supporting this worthwhile cause.



From the D.R.E.



Building Peace Continues

Related to our Winterim children's religious education program, here are few things to look forward to *and* to think about:

- **BINGO AND POTLUCK fund-raiser** is (or was) Saturday night, **Jan. 30**. If it has not happened yet as you read this, please come and support the RE program's sponsorship of educational costs for a Unitarian student in India— support worldwide community. Potluck supper and fun! Starts at 5 pm, but come any time. \$2 per child, \$3 per adult.
- **UU PARTNER CHURCH COUNCIL MESSAGE** “We are just finishing the matching process and assembling the information we have received from the UUNEI (Unitarian Union of Northeast India). A selection committee made up of ministers from the UUNEI is in charge of identifying the students and providing contact information. Your student will be from the Khasi Hills in the state of Meghalaya. We will be in touch with you shortly with your student's name and information. We appreciate your patience!”
- **UU URBAN MINISTRY** comes to give a sermon to the adults on Feb. 7 at the invitation of the Social Action Committee. In Children's Worship Service we will learn something about this organization too.

Congregations learn together!

- **FAIR TRADE CHOCOLATE SALE** Sunday Feb. 14 in the vestry. Equal Exchange chocolate bars and hot cocoa mix will be on hand along with a few UUSC-Equal Exchange travel mugs for your fair trade beverage. All of these will be sold so that a small “profit” goes toward our service projects. You will still be getting a good bargain!
- **FAIR TRADE = SOCIAL ACTION** In addition to the social action of learning about, selling, and buying fair trade chocolate, Winterim RE participants have in the past written letters to Shaws and Roche Brothers requesting that they sell fair trade chocolate. Now both these supermarkets have Equal Exchange chocolate bars and cocoa on their shelves (and coffee too!) Last year we wrote to thank them. This year we may be asking them to sell *fair trade bananas*— we are going to learn more about this!
- **HUUGS BOXES** (Hearty UU Greetings) going to our First Parish college students will be out in the vestry February 14 & 21. Children in RE always contribute something handmade to put in the boxes! We will be working on that.
- **HELPING AUCTION NIGHT** Feb. 27. In Winterim we will be helping make some awesome decorations for this. Imagine an Eiffel Tower / Peace Tower !



- **Make your own Building Peace Tile** – and it will be added to the Building Peace Wall being created in the vestry. A tile for everyone in the congregation is our goal. Materials are available during coffee hour. It's a tessellation!
- **Thank you** to all who brought in your smallish throw-away items for the Peace Building Center. Be sure to try to see some of the creative building going on.
- **7th and 8th graders** in their **Neighboring Faiths** unit have explored Hinduism, Buddhism, Native American religion, and Sikhism so far this year, as well as many thoughts on *what is religion?*



It isn't enough to talk about peace. One must believe in it. And it isn't enough to believe in it. One must work at it. *Eleanor Roosevelt*

Peace be with you,
Jeanette Ruyle, Director of Religious Education



PENNIES FOR PEACE, the project we helped out last year in Winterim, received a modest donation from our penny collection during '09 Medfield Day. They have thanked us. Here is a link to Bill Moyer's recent interview of Greg Mortenson, author of *Three Cups of Tea*. What Greg says about his approach to building schools in rural Pakistan and Afghanistan is what we are aiming for in our RE Building Peace Winterim. **It is worth watching.**

More RE News

Brainstorming

WoRM*

Spring RE is just around the corner!

Come help plan Spring rotations III and IV—

When: Sunday **Feb. 7** after coffee hour at about 12 noon

Where: Vestry. You will get a free lunch!

Who: Anyone interested in Children's Religious Education, the grandeur of Solomon's Temple, and/or the wondrous infinitude of sand.

What we are talking about:

Rotation III (theme is Bible Stories): "Solomon's Temple" as told in Hebrew Scripture is the story, March 7, 14, 21.

Rotation IV (theme is The Interdependent Web): "Sand" a story from ancient nature, April 11, 18, 25.

What we will do: Three workshops for each rotation story must be chosen-- Games, Art, Drama, Science, Nature, Social Action... whatever floats the boats of the

workshop leader volunteers. Workshop activity ideas come from the brainstorming of the future Workshop Leaders, Group Guides, and all those who care about this.

Questions you might have:

- Can I come even if I am not sure I want to be a volunteer this spring?
- Will I find out what it means to be a Workshop Leader or a Group Guide for RE?
- In the unlikely event we can't think of any ideas, will we get help?
- Is it true that each rotation is **only** 3 Sundays??

Answers to all of the above: **YES**

But if you have more questions, please speak with Jeanette Ruyle ☺

*Workshop Rotation Model for religious education



2010 First Parish Calendar and Events outside of Sunday morning

Feb.

- 6 Coffee House
- 7 *Social Action Sunday* – UU Urban Ministry, Kate Wilkinson
- 27 Auction
- 28 Music Sunday and Intergenerational Service

Mar.

- 20 Yard Sale
- 27 Canvass Dinner

April

- 2* Seder Meal
- 3 Coffee House
- 4 *Easter Worship Service* – inter-generational
- 25 *Earth Day worship service* – 40th anniversary

May

- 1 Coffee House
- 2 Walk for Hunger/ Little Red Wagon Walk for Hunger
- 9* *Poetry and Prose Sunday worship*
- 23 *Coming of Age Worship Service* – inter-generational

June

- 13* *Bridging Service & last service* – inter-generational

*Needs confirmation

Services (All Services Begin at 10:00AM)

January 31st “The Aryan Jesus”

Today’s sermon will look at the scholarship of Susannah Heschel as she explores the ambivalent place of Judaism in contemporary Christian thought, how it came about, and what it means to us.

February 7th “Almost All I Really Need to Know I learned in Kindergarten”

Rev. Kate Wilkinson, will lead us and hopes the sermon will get us all thinking about those basic lessons about fairness that we learned in Kindergarten.

February 14th “Love and Commitment”

“Love is patient. Love is kind. Love is not jealous, not pompous, not inflated, not rude, it does not seek its own interests, it is not quick tempered, it does not rejoice over wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth’ (1 Cor 13:4-6) Knowing this already why is this so hard to live? In the spirit of Valentines Day we shall explore this question.

February 21st “Why Don’t We Listen”

Half the population communicates just fine but is anybody listening? Effective listening is an essential skill for living and thriving. It opens us to the world and the people around us. Today’s sermon will explore what keeps so many of us from listening well.

February 28th Music Sunday

This is our Annual Intergenerational music service led by our own Eva Kendrick.