



# *First Parish Unitarian Universalist of Medfield*

26 North Street, Medfield, MA  
(508) 359-4594

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

## February Newsletter 2012

### **Ministerial MUUsings...**

*Since I have been at FP Medfield for six months I thought it might be a good idea to let you know what I have been doing as your interim minister.*

*Of course, I have been meeting monthly with the Executive Board (and weekly with the Moderator, Fred Bunger) but I also meet monthly with the Worship and Music Committee and the new Pastoral Care Team which we introduced to the congregation earlier this month. I meet regularly with Joyce Fetteroll, our interim Director of Religious Education.*

*Over the past couple of weeks I have been meeting with Barbara Bunger, Membership Chair, to get an accurate number of members for the membership roll. This has a financial impact on the church and so, as we approach the canvass, I have met with Duncan Glover, giving him some thoughts and ideas about the canvass and church finances. We will also be working to consolidate church*

*committee files and have them located in the administrator's office in the U House. Fritz Fleischmann and I also will be working on revising and expanding a FP Medfield policy and procedures manual.*

*I have arranged for the Executive Board to meet later this month with the MassBay District's compensation consultant to discuss how a reasonable financial package offer is developed to attract a good list of ministerial candidates. In March, the District's Ministerial Representative, will come and preach and then meet with the congregation and the Executive Board to discuss in detail the ministerial search process and timeline. While I have arranged these meetings that is the extent of my involvement of the search process. I cannot take part in any discussion or give my thoughts on any particular candidate.*

*I am enjoying my time as your interim minister. If you have any suggestions and/or concerns about FP Medfield please come and talk with me. It is important work that we are all doing.*

*Peace*

**Rich**

## Coming of Age Program

The Coming of Age group at First Parish has been meeting quietly (not always!) twice a month since September, in preparation for our affirmation service June 3rd. The mentors joined their mentees at the beginning of January. This group of young people consists of Kelsey Chatterton (mentored by Eva Kendrick), Michael Elder (Chris Conley), Becky Flaherty (Jen Bartle), Jake Lester (Bill Wians), and Zach Cusanno (Glenn Capachin).

In addition to conversations about religion, spirituality, and philosophy including death, "ahh" moments, and any "-ism", the group (facilitated by Cissy Hull-Allen and David Maxson) has gone on a night hike up Noon Hill, viewed religion in art at the MFA (guided by Bill Wians) and will be having dinner and participating in a house meeting at the Lucy Stone Cooperative, an intentional living UU community in Roxbury.

The Coming of Age program at First Parish encourages spiritual exploration, while marking the transition to young adulthood. The culminating expression of beliefs shares with us where our young people are in this brief moment of their lives, guided by their mentors, reminding us all of our spiritual journeys.

## Executive Board Notes From Meeting held January 19th

- Fundraising Event: Cinco de Mayo

There will not be a charity auction this year and the plans to have a Valentine's Day fundraiser on February 11 didn't get off the ground. To help raise funds for the Church, an evening of fun, food and

music will be planned for Saturday evening May 5. Save the date and stay tuned for more news!

- Parish Meeting March 4

The usual December mid-year meeting has been deferred to March 4. This meeting will present the budget scenarios for 2013 and kick off the Annual Fund Drive. Plans for next year's Ministerial Search and other Church business will be conducted at that time.

- Yard Sale March 17

We are hoping to expand the annual "Indoor Yard Sale" this year to schedule home pick-up and include good condition furniture. It will depend upon getting enough volunteers to sort, price and sell. Plan an early Spring Cleaning. Start setting aside those treasures you are willing to part with to help the Church.

- 2013 Budget / Treasurer's Advisory

The Board is working with Committees to prepare the Budget for 2013. Three scenarios, bare bones, status quo and dream will be developed for planning the Annual Fund Drive.

The Treasurer's Advisory Board met in January to review financial status and review the progress on transitioning much of the day-to-day bookkeeping work from the Treasurer to the Administrator. Financial Policies are being updated to reflect the changes.

- Interesting Data

Worship Attendance (average, before RE leaves):  
This year to date = 53, Last Year same period = 52.  
Year 2011 = 56, Year 2010 = 60, Year 2009 = 59.  
New Visitors: Year to date = 13, Same period 2010 = 21, Same period 2009 = 23  
Religious Education: Enrollment K-8 = 22, Average attendance = 15

# *Did you know*

**FPUU is now a support congregation with Metrowest Interfaith Hospitality Network (mihn.org)?**

**Go for a Goodwill Deed with Gusto**

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***Metrowest Interfaith Hospitality Network provides -***

- Y Hope for homeless families w/children*
- Y Safe transitional shelter, meals, and support to permanent housing*

***Help with this initiative. Simply choose a good deed -***

- Y Provide meals*
- Y Assist guests*
- Y Coordinate an activity w/children*
- Y Donate needed items*



## ***Take Action***

*Check out their wiki site at*

*[mihn.pbworks.com](http://mihn.pbworks.com) for needs and*

*volunteer opportunities. Bookmark the site; it's updated frequently.*

*For more info contact Pat Clark, Alison Galley, Margaret Rolph, or Barbara Bunger*

From the Social Action Committee –

## A celebration of another successful Guest at Your Table program!

Friends, congratulations! This year, between box collections during our service in January and individual on-line donations, we were able to raise more than \$767 through our Guest at Your Table program. Plus, our gifts of \$100 or more are eligible to be matched dollar for dollar, thanks to the generosity of the UU Congregation at Shelter Rock in Manhasset, N.Y. Thank you, as always, for another successful year. For more on how your donations are put to good use, please visit

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

Nancy Kingsbury  
First Parish Guest at Your Table coordinator

## Among Ourselves

Our condolences go to Glenn Capachin and his family upon the death of his father Zigmund Capachin.



Food Pantry  
Donations Needed

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

- Small applesauce cups
- Juice
- Cookies
- Crackers
- 4 packs of toilet paper
- Single rolls of paper towels

Visit the Food Cupboard's new website at [www.medfieldfoodcupboard.org](http://www.medfieldfoodcupboard.org).

Please double check your food item to ensure that it is undented, unopened, and unexpired. Thanks for your efforts. The Food Cupboard tries to be specific so that people know what they really need, but as always, any donations are greatly appreciated and can be placed in the basket in the narthex.

Special thanks to Sam Flaherty who will be delivering all the donations from the FPUU to the Food Cupboard.

## LET'S LAUGH TODAY IS ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27TH



Let's beat the winter doldrums by attending *Let's Laugh Today* at the First Universalist Society in Franklin Meetinghouse, 262 Chestnut Street in Franklin on Monday, February 27th at 7:15pm to 8:30pm. We meet on every fourth Monday of the month. Laughter sessions are designed to bring the health benefits of laughter to your life! There are no contortions or fancy movements. You do not need to be in shape. Come and enjoy this unique exercise of simulated laughter combined with gentle breathing techniques known as laughter yoga. Everyone should experience this at least once! There is a \$5 donation per person with \$10 maximum per family. Please bring your water bottle because laughing is dehydrating. Linda and Bill Hamaker are Certified Laughter Yoga Teachers. Call 508-660-2223 or see [www.letslaughtoday.com](http://www.letslaughtoday.com) for more information and more opportunities to laugh.



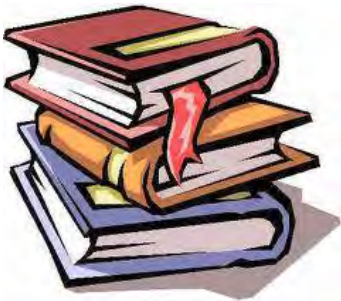
## Natasha Domeshek Kindness Scholarship Nominations Open in February



All members of the Medfield community are encouraged to nominate worthy students in the Medfield High School class of 2012 for the Natasha Domeshek Kindness Scholarship. Nominations are being accepted through **Feb. 29, 2012**; the online nomination form is available at [www.angelrun.org](http://www.angelrun.org). (Please note that family members may not nominate a relative.)

The scholarship -- in memory of Medfield third-grader Natasha Domeshek, who died in 2002 -- has been funded by proceeds of the Angel Run. It will be awarded in June to one or more members of this year's MHS graduating class, in recognition of their kindness. Nominees will be evaluated and winners selected by a committee of eight people who bring a variety of perspectives to the process.

## Medfield Reads Invitation to an Interfaith Discussion



You and your congregations are cordially invited to participate in Medfield Reads:

Medfield Reads aims to bring the town together to read the same book at the same time, starting a community-wide conversation.

In conjunction with the Medfield Public Library's "Medfield Reads" program, members are invited to attend an interfaith discussion on the book *Outwitting History* led by librarian Andrea Fiorillo, with members of Westwood's Temple Beth David, Medfield's United Church of Christ (UCC) and other Medfield congregations. Join us **Wednesday, March 7th from 7 – 8:30 pm** in Fellowship Hall at UCC, 456 Main Street in Medfield.

RSVP to [JeanMineo@aol.com](mailto:JeanMineo@aol.com) or 508-242-9991. The interfaith book discussion is open to non-residents.

Books are available at the Library or Park Street Books in Medfield.

*Outwitting History* by Massachusetts resident Aaron Lansky is a hilarious, heartfelt, and down to earth memoir. In 1980, twenty-three-year-old Lansky set out to rescue the world's abandoned Yiddish books before it was too late. Thirty years and one and a half million books later, he's still in the midst of a great adventure. Filled with poignant and often laugh-out-loud tales from Lansky's travels across the country as he collected books from older Jewish immigrants—books their own children had no use for—*Outwitting History* also explores brilliant Yiddish writers and enables us to see how an almost-lost culture is the bridge between the Old World and the future. This memoir should appeal to young and old alike, those that love books, linguistics, lost causes with happy endings, and a good story.

Mr. Lansky will come for an author visit on March 12th at 7:00 pm at the Medfield High School auditorium.

Andrea Fiorillo  
Adult Services Librarian  
Medfield Public Library  
[508-359-4544 ext 8002](tel:508-359-4544)



## 7<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL FPUU INDOOR YARD SALE SATURDAY March 17<sup>th</sup>

9am-1pm

VESTRY DROP-OFFS: FRIDAY March 16<sup>th</sup> from 4-  
8pm

### How you can help:

1. Set aside your old and new items for donation.
  - Good sellers include: books, games, toys, kitchenware, knick-knacks, and small appliances.
  - We CANNOT accept: clothing, shoes, car seats, bicycles, TVs, computers, or any broken items.
2. Consider signing up for a 2 hr. commitment to set-up/price items on Friday eve 3/16, or to sell/clean up on Saturday 3/17. Sign-up with Gaby Harrison or Karen Wians:  
[chezgaby@verizon.net](mailto:chezgaby@verizon.net) or [wianskbad@verizon.net](mailto:wianskbad@verizon.net)

### New this year:

1. Pick-up service: contact Fed Bunger [fbunger@verizon.net](mailto:fbunger@verizon.net) to arrange for a pick-up of donations at your home.
2. Early drop-offs: we will be able to accept your donations at the Church Vestry beginning March 6<sup>th</sup>.

### Can we expand the Yard Sale?

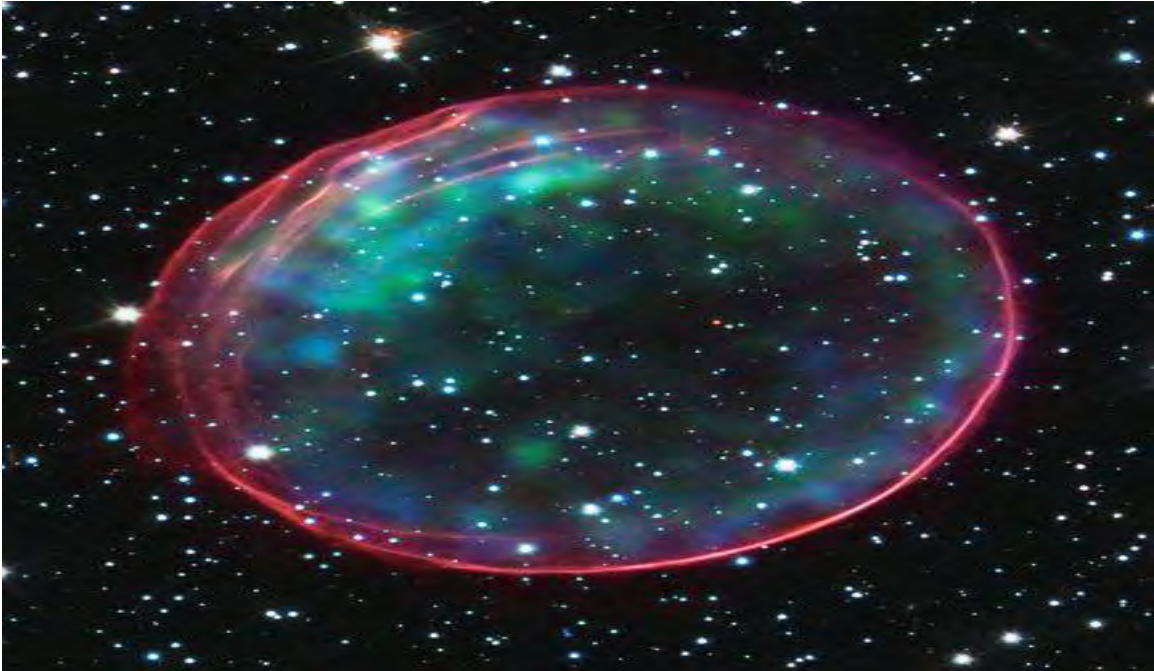
Given the lack of Coffeehouse events and an Auction Night, we have yet to meet our fundraising goals for this year.

Ideas for expanding the Yard Sale include:

- Historic Meeting House Yard Sale  
Ye Olde Meeting House theme – "ye olde antique shoppe"  
Furniture for sale, perhaps displayed in the U-House  
Antique-knowledgeable salespersons (FPUU members)
- Increased Publicity to draw attention to supporting the Meeting House
- Wine & cheese social for drop-off hours on Friday 3/16
- Your ideas?

If you are able to help us expand the Yard Sale, please contact Karen, Gaby, or Fred by **February 10<sup>th</sup>**.

## SAVE THE DATE!



**SATURDAY, MARCH 24TH**

Keeping with First Parish's tradition, the Annual Fund Drive will kick off with a celebration combining great company and food. The 2012-13 Annual Fund Drive Committee is pleased to announce a new event venue that promises to be an exciting departure from past gatherings.

### ***THE SKY'S THE LIMIT...***

At 7:00 pm on **Saturday March 24<sup>th</sup>** guests will gather  
at First Parish Medfield members/hosts' homes for

#### **Out-Of-This-World Hors D'oeuvre & Wine Pairings**

At 8:30 pm guests will proceed from the hosts' homes to the vestry for

#### **Heavenly Desserts & A Star-Studded Awards Presentation**

## SUBMIT YOUR NOMINATIONS FOR THE SKY'S THE LIMIT AWARDS RECIPIENTS!

- **The Mercury Award:** This award will go to a tenacious go-getter who, like Mercury the winged god of travel, moves with incredible speed and doesn't stop until she or he gets the job done.
- **Mother Earth Award:** This award will go to a grounded, nurturing woman who gives tirelessly of her time and resources.
- **Father Earth Award:** This award will go to a man who possesses the qualities listed above.
- **The Saturn Award:** This award will go to a resourceful 'gardener' who, like Saturn the god of farming, not only plants the seeds but also harvests the crop.
- **The Rising Star Award:** This award will go to a new or renewed member who radiates enthusiasm, energy and bright ideas.

Please email your nominations for the above **The Sky's the Limit Awards**  
by February 10<sup>th</sup> to Duncan Glover at [duncanglover@comcast.net](mailto:duncanglover@comcast.net)



## Metrowest Pet Pantry



FPUU now has a donation box set up for the Metrowest Pet Pantry. The pet pantry, located in Millis, provides a variety of pet food and supplies for families in need, some of whom would have to surrender their pets to shelters without the pet pantry's assistance. Donations of opened or unopened food are accepted, as well as all manner of supplies. If you are interested in volunteering or learning more about the pet pantry feel free to talk to Brianna Cusanno, who is working with the pet pantry to earn her Girl Scout Gold Award.

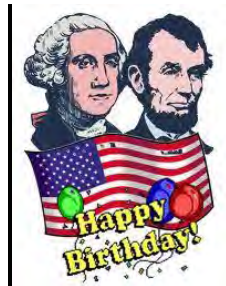
## Supporting FPUU through Amazon.com and Equal Exchange

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](http://www.firstparishmedfield.org) and click on the "Support First Parish-Amazon & Equal Exchange" link on the left. It's easy!



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: Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.

Telephone: 508-359-4594

Sandra Andreassi, Administrator.

Email: [admin@firstparishmedfield.org](mailto:admin@firstparishmedfield.org)

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

**February 5, 2012**

**"Fast Forward"**

**Rev. Michael F. Hall**

Despite our best intentions "to just slow down," many of us nonetheless end up spinning around in a frenetic cycle of working too much, sleeping too little and squeezing in a workout or a night on the town. Join Michael F. Hall our guest preacher as he considers the disorienting pace of post-modern life.

**February 12, 2012**

**"Belonging"**

**Rev. Richard M. Stower**

What does it mean to be a Unitarian Universalist? What does it mean to be a member of First Parish Medfield?

**February 19, 2012**

**"In A Dark Time, The Eye Begins to See"**

**Rev. Richard M. Stower**

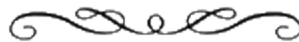
The woodcut, *Melancholia I*, by Albrecht Durer provides the inspiration for this sermon. At a time of the year when many of us are subject to Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD), we look at this human emotion.

**February 26, 2012**

**"Cutting Weeds, Planting Trees"**

**Rev. Richard M. Stower**

This is a sermon to inspire us to begin planning our spring-cleaning, not only our closets but our spirit as well. Henry David Thoreau advised, "Simplify, simplify. Instead of three meals a day, if it be necessary eat but one; instead of a hundred dishes, five; and reduce other things in proportion."



## FPUU Calendar of Events

Sunday, February 5	Coming of Age/Field Trip
Wednesday, February 8	Membership Committee Meeting/7:15pm/Bunger's
Thursday, February 9	Pastoral Care Committee Meeting/7:15 pm/U-House
Sunday, February 12	Cranes for Change/12:00 pm/Vestry
Tuesday, February 14	Worship & Music Committee Meeting/7:30 pm/Vestry
Thursday, February 16	Executive Board Meeting/7:30 pm/U-House
Sunday, February 19	Newsletter Deadline
Monday, February 20	President's Day- Office Closed
Sunday, February 26	Coming of Age/7:00 pm/Vestry
Tuesday, February 28	Pastoral Care Committee Meeting/6:30 pm/U-House
Sunday, March 4	First Parish Meeting/11:30 am/Sanctuary
Sunday, March 4	Coming of Age/7:00 pm/Vestry
Sunday, March 11	Cranes for Change/12:00 pm/Vestry
Tuesday, March 13	Worship & Music Committee Meeting/7:30 pm/Vestry
Thursday, March 15	Executive Board Meeting/7:30 pm/U-House
Saturday, March 17	FPUU Indoor Yard Sale/9:00 am/Vestry
Sunday, March 18	Coming of Age/7:00 pm/Vestry
Saturday, March 24	Annual Fund Drive/Vestry
Tuesday, March 27	Pastoral Care Committee Meeting/6:30 pm/U-House

For a complete listing of events, please visit our website at [www.firstparishmedfield.org](http://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](mailto:admin@firstparishmedfield.org)