

Next Newsletter Deadline: Wed., Oct. 10, 2007

Next E-News Bulletin Deadline: Wed., Oct. 24, 2007

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***Making Sundays Special—
Coffee and Flowers***

Two of the many ways that we make our Sunday morning time together special is with the flowers in our sanctuary, and by enjoying a little refreshment and conversation together in coffee hour. Flowers and coffee are provided by members and friends, who sign up in advance.

How do you sign up? Simply by choosing the date you would like to provide flowers or prepare the coffee hour refreshments, 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 leading up to the Sunday you signed up for.

There are instructions posted in the kitchen that include all the details about preparing coffee and tea. If you are interested in providing coffee hour, but don't feel experienced, you could be paired with a mentor for your first Sunday or two. Just ask Margherita W or Nina P for more information, or call Fran in the office during the week. She can also provide information about providing flowers, if that's more to your liking.

We are very grateful to all who offer to provide coffee and flowers!

***If You Weren't Able to Attend General Assembly this year ...then make plans for:
"Ministry Matters: Strengthening Lay and Professional Leadership"***

Be sure to sign up to attend the UU New England Conference on **October 27** in Worcester. This GA-type conference, for all of us from the Mass Bay, Ballou Channing, and Clara Barton Districts of the UUA, will feature our UUA moderator Gini Courter and Rev. Rob Eller-Issacs, president of the UU Ministers' Association. Workshop choices include pastoral care, lifelong learning in congregations, stewardship, finances, lay-professional relationships, UU advocacy and witness, and mission.



*Contact Fran Sharp for more information about the New England conference.
(Receive a discount if you register by Oct. 10)*

106th Annual Harvest Craft Fair: Saturday,

Fair Hours: Saturday, October 13

Set Up: Friday October 13: 4 – 7pm; Clean Up: Saturday Oct. 14: 4-6pm



We appreciate all those who have already signed up to help at this year's fair. Fully staffed are all the kitchen chores and we have all the soups we need. Setup and cleanup can still use more help, but we are no longer desperate for help in these areas.

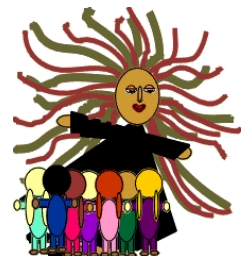
Most Urgent Needs are for people to work at the Admissions, Jams and Jellies, and Bake tables during the fair. Openings remain at all three tables through much of the day, and are especially needed for the opening. In addition, we are running a raffle this year for the first time. We have Youth ready to help us sell these tickets some of the time, but still need help with that during the morning.

On Sunday Oct 7 there will be flyers at church. If you can pick up a few and post them where you work and/or shop, that will help us get the attendance up. Also, talk it up with all your friends. We have filled all the available booth space with a wide variety of outstanding crafters. We now make the other 50% of our fair proceeds from the admissions and food sales – Great publicity does matter! Tell everyone how terrific our bread and soup lunch is!

We still need yeast breads for lunch, all kinds of baked goods for the bake table, and jams and jellies.

Please don't wait until the last minute. Call now and help us know this will be its usual fun and successful event. THANK YOU! Sherri C, Mary Ellen F, Elaine J and Carolyn L

You have an open invitation to visit and observe a **Spirit Play** class. What's Spirit Play? It's our Montessori-based curriculum for 5-12 year olds based on beautiful stories told with manipulatives, "wondering questions" and work time for the children to explore the story's meaning for themselves. It's interesting, beautiful, peaceful and energizing all at the same time. To witness the magic just contact Tracy (reducation@fpsudbury.org or 978-443-2043) to set up a date.



Register your children for Religious Exploration! All children and youth must be registered every year. Registration gives us critical information for serving your child and family. Please--don't wait for us to bug you--fill out a form in the Parish Hall during Coffee Hour or download a form from www.fpsudbury.org. (Scroll down the main page to "Religious Exploration for Children and Youth" to click on the link.) Thanks!

Donations of Gently Used Items Needed



Champion Dream Builders (CDB) is a non-profit organization dedicated to making education accessible to disadvantaged and orphaned children in Zimbabwe. CDB provides tuition and school supplies to children whose families have been negatively affected by AIDS and political turmoil.

In addition, they process donations of unwanted toys and clothing to distribute to families in need in Zimbabwe.

Our congregation will be donating proceeds from our October 21st "Share the Plate" and will be collecting donated items to send to Zimbabwe. In particular, donations of children's gently used clothing or toys would be appreciated. A box will be left near the Faith in Action bulletin board in the Parish Hall during the week of October 14-21 for toy and clothing donations.

If you have any questions regarding this collection, please call Amy P.

Open Forum: Looking Again at our UU Principles & Purposes

Katie Lee Crane and Donna S, co-facilitators

Wednesdays: Oct. 10, 17

7:00-9:00p in The Commons

Open to all—attend either or both of the remaining two sessions

No registration required.

A group gathered on Oct. 3 to explore and discuss our Unitarian Universalist principles and purposes and enjoyed a rich discussion—this week of our seven principles. We “wrestled with” (a term borrowed from one participant) the principles’ meaning and significance in our individual lives and in our congregational life. All are invited to bring in ideas for revisions to the seven principles at next Wednesday’s session, when we will also begin to explore the Sources from which our living tradition is drawn. Come join us. It’s not too late! This is your chance to help form the recommendations we will send to the Commission on Appraisal at the UUA. For more information, contact co-facilitators Donna S or Katie Lee Crane, or contact Fran Sharp in the FPS office.

Who, Me? I’m Not Homophobic! Workshop Series Begins October 28th

Peg E and Mary McC would like to remind you that their four-session workshop entitled "Who, Me? I'm Not Homophobic!" begins on October 28, from 6 to 8 p.m., and continues for four consecutive weeks. Please sign up soon--they are looking for a diverse group who are willing to admit that the work to combat homophobia, biphobia and transphobia within our church and ourselves, as well as in the community at large, is by no means finished. There is a sign-up sheet on the WCC bulletin board in the Parish hall, or you may call or email one of the workshop leaders to sign up or ask questions about it.

Sudbury Angels ...Just Imagine

- Imagine how comforting it would be to know that a network of “Angels” in your community was standing by ready to help if a crisis struck you or a family member.
- Imagine dinner arriving for your family when you are just not up to preparing it yourself.
- Imagine your spouse/friend/family member getting back to work while an Angel drives you to your doctor’s appt.
- Imagine someone who can help install your air conditioner when the temperature is close to ninety and you cannot handle this task.
- Imagine someone wrapping those birthday gifts when the task is beyond you.
- Imagine being an Angel!

There are Angel Networks in Sudbury, Wayland, Northborough, Medway, Upton, Concord/Carlisle and soon Marlborough and Andover. They encourage us to try sprouting our wings - it’s good for you and great for your community.

For more information, contact Susan Grayson-Johnson at sudburyangels@comcast.net
(www.sudburyangels.org)

“My Heart Is Moved”—a concert to launch a new CD by Carolyn McDade and Friends

Sunday October 21, 4:00pm

First Universalist Society of Franklin

262 Chestnut Street, Franklin, MA

Carolyn McDade and Friends invite the community to sing the music from this new release ~ songs giving us an emotional entry into the profound wisdom of the Earth Charter and songs that pull us beyond the curve of time to establish our grounding in the community of life.

*Home phone numbers are not included in the E-News Bulletin.
Please check your First Parish directory, or call the office at 978/443-2043 for help.*

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Two Letters from Unitarian Universalist Association President, Rev. William G. Sinkford

September 28, 2007: Response to Recent Events in the Country of Myanmar (formerly Known as Burma)

The people of Burma/Myanmar are in our thoughts and prayers. The images we've seen and the stories we've heard of the brave and inspirational witness offered by Buddhist religious leaders and citizens have touched our hearts and souls. Their peaceful protest against a cruel and repressive government is a notable moment in the multi-generational struggle for peace, liberty and justice in our world. The arrests, the killings, and all the forms of violence which they have suffered in response from the government are entirely unjustified. We stand in spiritual solidarity with the people of Burma as they risk their safety even as further governmental reprisals occur. We pray for their well-being, their vision, and their commitment.

We call upon United States government and the United Nations to pressure the government of Myanmar to refrain from violent responses and to release political prisoners, including Nobel Peace Prize recipient Aung San Suu Kyi, who has been under house arrest for nearly seventeen years. Unitarian Universalists are asked to engage in advocacy for the people of Burma with their elected representatives, and to hold the people of Burma in their thoughts and prayers during worship this weekend, and in the weeks to come.

This statement can be found on UUA.org at <http://www.uua.org/news/newssubmissions/47339.shtml> .

Please contact the UUA International Resources Office (email: international@uua.org) to share the ways in which your congregation aligns itself with the people's movement in Burma, or for further information on constructive methods of engagement.

October 4, 2007:

The start of a new church year is always a time of great energy and optimism. We are gathered together once again in our sanctuaries and classrooms, and we delight in our connections to one another and to a shared past. Each autumn I am reminded that, for us, relationship is holy. Many of us will endeavor to live out this belief by inviting and welcoming newcomers, and this year we have a unique opportunity to open wide our doors and our hearts.

Our national marketing partnership with TIME magazine will promote our faith and encourage spiritually engaged dialog in the public arena. It will also bring seekers to our doors. They will be bringing gifts, and in order to accept these gifts we will need to reconsider what it means to be hospitable. We need to be ready not just to greet visitors, but to welcome them into relationship within our faith community.

To help congregations in this vital work, the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) has developed new resources for hospitality and welcoming. Please visit UUA.org to find ideas for receiving, retaining, and integrating visitors, as well as advertising graphics to incorporate into your own outreach materials. Our new DVD, "Voices of a Liberal Faith," was recently mailed to all congregations, and on October 3rd, just prior to the official launch date of the national campaign, we will release the first of our full-page TIME magazine ads (PDF) for use by congregations. We have never before been so well prepared for major outreach work, so I encourage you to make good use of these high-quality resources.

I know that Unitarian Universalists can be shy about sharing the blessings of our faith. We are reluctant to be pushy, reluctant to assume that what brings us joy and fulfillment would do the same for another. But, my friends, while that stance is a safe one, it is limiting-both to us and to those who yearn for the blessing of liberal religious community. If we truly believe in the inherent worth and dignity of every person, we are called to say to every visitor, "Come on in. Join us." Each newcomer is another opportunity to encounter the holy.

My friend and colleague Peter Morales has written, "Hospitality is not something to be proclaimed; it must be lived. Hospitality is both a spiritual discipline and an expression of spiritual health." Peter's insight is a valuable one. A healthy community has abundant emotional resources and can extend loving attention to newcomers. When we are truly hospitable, we are alert to the needs of others, and-perhaps more importantly-we are receptive to their transforming gifts. Because, while the practice of hospitality is indeed about welcoming the stranger, at a deeper spiritual level hospitality is really about cultivating openness in ourselves.

As we learn to welcome the stranger, we learn also to welcome change and growth within our congregations. As we greet this unique opportunity, let us all remember that, for us, relationship is sacred.

Together in faith and in community, may our spirits be nurtured, may our world be healed.

In faith, Rev. William G. Sinkford, President, Unitarian Universalist Association