



FEBRUARY 17, 2010

R.E.flections by a chaliceD.R.E.amer



Roberta Altamari
Director of Religious Exploration
and Youth Ministry

My colleague, Jolinda S., wrote in our religious educators' email group, "Imagine with me, not committees but Faith Development Ministry Associates who care for the ministries of multi-age faith development, adult faith development, very young family ministry, justice making, radical hospitality, and several others. ... Imagine that each of these Ministry Associates are in turn supported, enriched and nurtured in their spiritual lives by one another, the minister and me. Would we be on fire? Imagine with me."

Her words sparked my own imagination! Imagine a community here at First Parish where everything we think, say, and do nourishes our own spirits and the spirits of everyone directly and indirectly touched by us." What do you dream of here at First Parish? The Canvas season is coming with much talk about budgets and pledges. But so must come taking the time to dream of what you imagine First Parish can be! How can you give as generously as you financially can when you aren't considering the big picture of how important First Parish is to you and how amazing First Parish can be with your full support? What do you love about First Parish? What is so amazing about First Parish that you wish everyone in town knew about? What do you imagine that First Parish could grow to be in the coming year? What do you imagine that First Parish could grow to be in the next three years? What do you dream for First Parish?

I dream of a community that nurtures the spirit and soul of every person that walks through our doors. I dream of a community in which the joys and sorrows of each member are honored as our own. I dream of a community that inspires each member to share some of their abundance with those less fortunate than themselves. I dream of a community where there is never a sense of "us and them". I dream of a community that no matter how much we give financially or in volunteer time, our donations are given from the heart and are gratefully appreciated. I dream of a community where we feel so strong in our ideals that we can take our practicing of them out into the larger world. I dream of a community where striving to practice our principles and values can spread as endless ripples of positive effects reaching far beyond we could have ever dreamed. That's just the beginning of what I dream of for FPS?

I'm impressed by how often we are like my dreams! I'm inspired by how much the members of our community care and share with an abundance of love. I appreciate that First Parish is a community that challenges me to be my best possible self. I am grateful to be surrounded by so many people of all ages here who uniquely carry forth our Unitarian Universalist values in such creative and compassionate ways.

What do you dream for FPS? Blessed be.

Roberta ♥

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- ★ 4TH TUESDAY BYO LUNCH & DISCUSSION FEB 23 AT NOON PG. 5



Worship at the Meetinghouse

Sunday, February 21, 10 am

Being Dust

Rev. Dr. F. Jay Deacon

Wednesday this week is *Ash Wednesday*, launching another Lent. Isn't Lent a bit *grovelly* for UUs? We are an amalgam of god and dust. Emerson spoke of the "Supreme Critic on the errors of the past and the present, and the only prophet of that which must be." And what is *that*?

Rev. Dr. F. Jay Deacon has served congregations in Northampton and North Easton, MA.; Oak Park, IL; Hartford, Chicago, Orlando, London, and Aberdeen, Scotland. He conducts courses and intensive retreats on the Transcendentalist tradition and evolutionary spirituality and is working on a book titled *Magnificent Journey: Religion as Lock on the Past or Engine of Evolution*. Rev. Deacon lives in Western MA, where for two years he presented *Spirit*, a weekly radio broadcast on Northampton's WXOJ. He is a former UUA Director of the Office of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Concerns at and holds a Doctor of Ministry degree from McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago.

No Hearthside Chat this morning
so that you may attend the
Open Meeting on Stewardship and Parish
Finances in the Brackett Room at 11:45

Sunday, February 28, 10 am

The Beast That Has No Name:

Ms. Alorie P

Actually, the beast goes by many names, but no one description can include its many aspects— anxiety, loneliness, depression, fear, emptiness, grieving, and on and on. It's the "hole in the middle of the prettiest life" (Bob Franke), the ache somewhere in the middle of the chest, the lurking suspicion of impending disaster. Even the most optimistic among us carries a personal beast, perhaps temporarily dormant, but ever-present. The beast is part of our human story, which has both heroic potential and tragic dimensions.

From the most ancient of written legends comes the story of Gilgamesh, the great hero who fiercely sought immortality—and failed. His story is a metaphor that speaks to us all. What did he do with in his torment, facing loss and his ultimate demise? What do we do with our own recognition that we are mortal? How do we live with the beast that lurks?

UU's are good at asking questions, but do we have answers? Let us explore the possibilities.

There will be no Hearthside Chat this morning

If you missed the collection for the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee-Unitarian Universalist Association Joint Haiti Relief Fund, you can still add your donation to the total by mailing/bringing a check, payable to FPS (write "Haiti" in the memo line) through February 28.

First Parish of Sudbury's Pastoral Associates

Annamarie A, Audrey K, Polly M, Bruce P, Fred P, Paul R, Dawn S

In the event of a pastoral need, please call any of these Pastoral Associates.

Coming up in Religious Exploration:

Help Wanted

We need more people to help in RE. In addition to more volunteers for our regular classes (which are always most welcome), we need people

1. to chaperone for Junior Youth activities on Sunday afternoon
2. to chaperone for Senior Youth activities that are field trips and/or overnight.
3. to help Roberta with all kids together Sundays so our regular volunteers can take a much-deserved day off.

Please let Roberta know if you can help!

Faith in Action projects for kids, families, and everyone!

For the next month, we will be collecting supplies for the women and children at Renewal House, a shelter supported by the UU Urban Ministry. They are in eager need of feminine products (sanitary napkins and tampons) and body/hand lotion (regular size, not hotel samples). If you have any to spare, please bring some in to donate! They could also use arts and crafts supplies: glue (liquid and sticks), markers, paints (tempera and watercolors and finger paints), craft paper, stickers, glitter, etc. Any basic art supplies beside crayons and colored pencils (which they have more than enough of) would be MOST welcome.

The kids will be doing a special project for Renewal House sometime in February and some members of our Youth Group will be leading a sing-a-long at a party there in March. Please help us support them!!

NYC Social Justice Youth Group Presentation

Save the Date to learn about our youth group's adventures on their social justice trip to New York City. Join us on Tuesday, February 23 at 7:30pm to discover what happened when our teens learned about and worked with people who are homeless and visiting the Unitarian Universalist office of the United Nations. How were our youth inspired and transformed? Come find out!

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2010 Pledge Drive

Everyone who has chosen to be part of the First Parish community

– member or friend, deeply engaged or peripheral participant, living nearby or geographically afar – has a personally important relationship to this community. Think back to your beginnings with this congregation. What first attracted you? Why is it still important to you today?

Although there are many answers to these questions, some responses may be: religious exploration for children, youth and adults; the ministry – pastoral care, services of transition (i.e. marriage, death, dedication), worship, and other forms of ministry to us and by each other; music to enhance our Sunday mornings; living my values - faith in action, welcoming congregation, green sanctuary, etc. Sometimes there are no specific answers to these questions; we just want the comfort and security of a supportive community that embodies values important to us. And, occasionally we just believe First Parish UU of Sudbury should simply “be there.”

First Parish cannot “be there” in the manner to which we have become accustomed without everyone making the largest pledge possible for the next fiscal year which begins July 1.

As you know, some sources of revenue, on which we have relied for many years, have decreased. The good news is that a portion of our congregation is able to give generously; the bad news is they cannot fill the gap alone. We are all in this together. How can you step up to the challenge?

There is a separate communication from the 2010 Pledge Drive team leaders with specific information about the financial commitments needed this year. Please take the time to read it and ponder your personal commitment. Also, **there will be an information session on February 21 at 11:30 in the Brackett Room to ask questions and hear more.**

-- Colin A, Sheila D, Susan I
2010 Pledge Drive Team Leaders



**Men to Host
Taste of the North End
Pasta Festival
Fundraiser for FPS
Saturday, March 6
4:30-7:30 pm**

This will emphatically NOT be your typical parish-hall "spaghetti supper" under fluorescent lights -- This will be the real deal!

Pasta dishes for every taste – including vegetarian – from familiar rich red sauces to a tasty traditional penne-and-cannellini bean plate and a classic, white wine-and-garlic-simmered clam sauce.

Great salads, Italian desserts(!), wine and beer, and candlelight

Three-course dinners for \$11-12.50, priced MUCH lower than a comparable restaurant meal (and they WILL taste better than any restaurant's). You and your friends will get a great night out, the guys will do the dishes, and First Parish gets the loot -- everyone wins! (Well, not the dishwashers but you're not one of them!)

An EASY, ONE-STEP way for you to sign up in advance: Email office @ fpsudbury.org with the words "We're coming to the Pasta Festival," along with your name & street address please.

We'll send back a full menu with a checklist for your party's orders plus prices – check off the boxes, tally up the tab, send First Parish a check in the enclosed return envelope and from there the rest is (literally) gravy! You'll get a confirmed reservation by mail.

Get your friends to come too!

There's a bonus for advance purchase (free seconds or extra dessert or wine/beer) -- so **sign up by Saturday, Feb. 20** so we'll know how much shopping to do, and the rest is Buon Appetito!

Enjoy a great night out and help First Parish!

Grazie Tante,
Steve T



**Open Meeting -
Stewardship and
Parish Finances
Sunday, Feb. 21
11:30 am**

Come to the Brackett Room after worship on Sunday, Feb. 21 to talk and learn about our three year budget and parish finances. Eat, learn and discuss. Childcare will be provided.



Dear Women,

Did you know...*all women* members and friends of First Parish of Sudbury are *automatically* members of the **Women's Alliance**? And, as such, are always warmly welcome at any Alliance event.

There are NO DUES. We meet for potluck meals and very brief business meetings. We hold occasional fundraisers and programs. We exist to foster deeper friendships between us and to do good works for the parish and for other non-profits, paid for by Alliance funds from a long-ago endowment and our fundraisers. Our events draw those who are younger and older, new to this congregation or denomination and not-so-new, diverse in many ways. We'd love to see *you* at the next two events coming up:

Sunday Feb. 28 from 5-8 for a potluck supper and brief meeting in the Commons and

May 14-16 for our 23rd annual weekend retreat (watch for the brochure in the lobby soon).

I hope you drop by and get to know some of the other women of First Parish. You won't regret it. We laugh, we eat, we talk, we plan, and we support each other.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact this year's president Sue C or VP Peg E (peggidy@verizon.net) or me (dscalcione@verizon.net). Hope to hear from you.

Sincerely yours,
Donna Scalcione, Retreat 2010 Registrar

Coming up in Religious Exploration:

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TempoTime!!

First Parish of Sudbury is pleased to offer TempoTime, a free and very popular "music and movement" program for children ages 2 to 6 and their parents/care-givers on Saturdays. The next one is on February 27th at 10:30am. Come sing, dance, and have fun with your child!! Then stay to enjoy a snack together. Everyone is welcome and you do not have to be a member of First Parish to attend! If you know someone in your neighborhood who would enjoy this program, please pass the word. For more information, contact Roberta at DRE@fpsudbury.org.



4th Tuesday at Noon Lunch & Discussion Feb 23

All are welcome to the Tuesday, Feb 23 lunch & discussion at Noon when First Parish member Ernie B will talk about really local history - the history of where you live or work or play. Ernie has researched and produced an album for a Sudbury family, about the history of their land, with pictures from various eras and associated stories. He will give us references to the tools we would need to do this ourselves. Using the internet and the local library or historical society, any of us can delve into the past of our chosen spot. Then we can share our newfound knowledge with our children or grandchildren, or our neighbors, by putting it all together in a self-published album. He is offering to help people create their own albums.

Bring your brown-bag lunch on Tuesday, Feb. 23, and start thinking about what you and your family would enjoy knowing about your particular place on this planet

Sudbury Food Pantry is in dire need of baby wipes, dry baby food (no jars please), and cans of fruit. Please double bag items in paper bags and leave them in the green donation box inside the double doors to the Parish Hall. Thank you!



Faith in Action News

Plan to Attend! Sunday, February 28 at First Parish Concord, 3-5pm.

First Parish Sudbury is a proud co-sponsor of this event on homelessness, not just in Boston, but in our communities. Rev. Liz Walker is the keynote speaker. We are planning to carpool from First Parish, including some who plan to return in time for the Alliance Potluck in the Brackett Room at 5 p.m. Contact Carolyn L or Judy D for more information.

Seeking Volunteers to assist Haitians in the Boston area: The U.S. government has offered Temporary Protected Status (TPS) to all Haitians currently in this country. That means that if they complete a TPS form they have legal status for 18 months, regardless of when their earlier visa or entry permit might expire. Help is needed for these Haitians to successfully complete the TPS forms. In conjunction with UU Mass Action, we are soliciting names of individuals interested in undergoing a brief training and then assisting at locations in Boston. The exact dates and times for this are TBD. We seek an expression of willingness, depending on how your schedule meshes with the final one. This is not a final commitment. For more information or to add your name to the list of willing helpers, contact Judy D or Carolyn L.

News: This year First Parish collected a total of \$720 from 14 pledge units for the UUSC Guest At Your Table Program. We are most grateful to all those who gave as generously as they were able. Your faith in action committee members would be interested in understanding why the level of support for this most important program of the UUSC inspired so few to give.

Save the Date! May 2nd for the Walk for Hunger

We thank Beth R, who will be the First Parish team coordinator this year. Stay tuned for more information on how you can sign up to walk and/or to sponsor our walkers.

People We Care About

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Updates to UUA websites

Check out the changes on the Unitarian Universalist Association's redesigned home page and resources page, www.uua.org and www.uua.org/resources. The home page is designed to appeal to the 85% of visitors who are newcomers to Unitarian Universalism. And our resources page offers involved UUs leadership resources, most visited pages, posts from our blogs, multimedia, & more.

Pastoral Assistance Feb./March







While Katie Lee is on a brief sabbatical, the Pastoral Associates, backed-up by Ministerial Candidate in Residence Bev Waring and local UU ministers, are providing assistance for pastoral emergencies. If you have a question, concern, or request, call the minister's line (978 443-2043 ext 2) or call the office (open 9-noon, Monday-Friday).



Help Feed Someone in Need

Go to www.freerice.com and play games to increase your vocabulary, sharpen your math, test your world geography, and more. With each correct answer you accumulate grains of rice in a bowl. The accumulated rice is then donated by the sponsors of the website to needy people around the world. You learn something and you give something back. But watch out – it's addictive. You'll just want to keep filling that bowl.

Upcoming at First Parish

-  Saturday, March 6 – Fundraiser for FPS *Taste of the North End Pasta Festival*
4:30 pm See page 4 for details
-  Sunday, March 14
First Parish Open House 2:30-4:30
Invite your friends. Spread the word
-  Saturday, March 20
Morris Dance Performance & Dinner
Fundraiser to send the Pocket Flyers and Candy Rappers to DERT, 6:30 pm
-  Saturday, March 27 – *Rising Sap One Day Retreat for Men and Women*
9:00-3:00 See page 7 for details.
-  Saturday, March 27 – Fundraiser for FPS *Coffeehouse on the Rocky Plain*
7:00 pm See page 7 for details.
-  Saturday, April 10 – Fundraiser for FPS *Annual Service Auction*
6:00 pm

EMERGENCY CLOSING INFORMATION

To find out if worship and other events at First Parish are cancelled

By phone—check the recorded message at the First Parish number, 978/443-2043.

First Parish website -- Go to www.fpsudbury.org. The front page will show any emergency closing.

WBZ Radio website -- Go to www.wbz.com, click on "School Closings from the WBZ Storm Center" button, click on "Religious" and scroll down to look for "First Parish of Sudbury."

By radio -- Listen to 1030 AM *WBZ Storm Center* at :05 and :35 past the hour for cancellation of our Sunday worship service only. Other events cannot be listed. If you think a meeting or event might be cancelled, please contact the meeting leader.

New Coffeehouse Launches Mar. 27

We're launching "The Coffee House on the Rocky Plain" and becoming a musical destination! The coffee house will feature great local musicians in performance and great savories and sweet.

Additionally it will provide much needed funds for our budget and bring in new people to our Meeting House. We premiere on Saturday, March 27, at 7pm following up with our second May 8th, third in the fall. We are considering an open mike in late summer but our coffee house will feature polished performers.

Many hands doing small things will make this a success. To help, please sign up at the easel board in the Parish Hall during coffee hour. For information, contact Leslie L.



Need Childcare Before or After School?

Call Sudbury Extended Day 978-443-5829, right here at First Parish. SED offers programs for grades K-8, weekdays, early release days and some school holidays & vacations.



Help Wanted

The federal government is hiring census takers in your local community. Visit www.2010censusjobs.gov or call the toll free jobs line 1 866 861 2010 or see the flyer on bulletin board in the parish hall.

If you know of other job openings, please email details to office@fpsudbury.org for publication in the next *Connector*

THE PSALMS AS POEMS, SONGS, AND PRAYERS taught by Rev. Dr. Carl Scovel March 9, 16, 23, and 30, from 6:00-7:30 p.m. at King's Chapel House. To inquire about the course, please call Rev. Dianne Arakawa, 617/227-2155, x310 or email bgoad@kings-chapel.org by Mar. 1

Rising Sap: One Day Retreat for men and women – at FPS Saturday, March 27 from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm led by CC King and Pam Swing sponsored by First Parish of Sudbury

As winter yields to spring and sap begins to rise, what is stirring within you? What has been incubating in the darkness? Join us as we explore ways of sensing newfound awakenings within us. Drawing from the creative processes of Interplay and SoulCollage[®], we will tap the energy of transformation and renewal that comes as the earth thaws. We will play with shifting from discovery to intentionality, identifying practices you can continue at home to nurture these tender shoots.

Previous experience in either Interplay or SoulCollage is not needed. Just bring yourself, and see what is ready to unfold!

To register: contact CC King sammykat@comcast.net or Pam Swing pam.swing@gmail.com, www.blumooncreativity.com
Cost: \$85.00 (incl. snacks and materials).
First Parish members pay half price.

CC King is a certified InterPlay Leader and Boston-area coordinator. She has been practicing the joyous unfolding of Interplay for nine years. She is a visual artist, teacher and community activist.

Pam Swing is deeply interested in how we access and sustain creativity, both for her own artistic practice and as an offering to others. She was trained as a SoulCollage[®] facilitator by Seena Frost, who originated the process.

Contacts:

Minister: Rev. Katie Lee Crane - minister@fpsudbury.org

Ministerial Candidate in Residence: Beverly Waring – office@fpsudbury.org

Music Dir.: Debra Morris-Bennett – musicdir@fpsudbury.org

Dir. of Religious Exploration & Youth Ministry: Roberta Altamari – dre@fpsudbury.org

Community Life: Fran Sharp – connect@fpsudbury.org

Administrator and Newsletter Editor: Donna Scalcione – office@fpsudbury.org

Office: 978-443-2043 **Web address:** www.fpsudbury.org

FPS Calendar Feb. 17 to March 6, 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Feb 14	Feb 15	Feb 16	Feb 17 7:00p Rental 7:00p Quilters 7:30p Coffeehouse Task Force	Feb 18 1:00p Meditation 7:30p Choir	Feb 19	Feb 20
Feb 21 10:00a Worship Service 11:45a Rental: Morris Dancers 11:30a Open Meeting on Stewardship & Parish Finances 3:00p Rental 4:45p Rental: Morris Dancers 6:30p Rental	Feb 22 6:00p Rental: Yoga 7:30p SPTF 7:30p Finance Committee	Feb 23 12:00p 4th Tues. BYO Lunch/Discussion\Ernie Beer on History 7:00p Rental 7:00p Youth Present Social Justice Trip to Congregation at 7:30pm 7:30p Pastoral Associates	Feb 24 1:00p Girl Scout Troop 7:00p Rental 7:00p Quilters 5:00p deadline for Connector submissions for March 3 edition	Feb 25 1:00p Meditation 7:30p Choir	Feb 26 4:00p Prep for Pasta Dinner	Feb 27 9:00a Rental: Girl Scouts 10:30a Tempotime music program for kids 1 to 5 and their caregivers 7:00p Spiritual Circle Dance
Feb 28 10:00a Worship Service 11:45a Rental: Morris Dancers 11:45a FIA 3:00p Rental 4:45p Rental: Morris Dancers 5:00p Women's Alliance Pot Luck Supper & Brief Meeting 6:30p Rental 7:00p Youth group movie presentation: other Youth Groups from area invited	Mar 1 12:00p Rental: SED 6:00p Rental: Yoga 7:00p Board of Trustees	Mar 2 7:00p Rental	Mar 3 7:00p Rental 7:00p Quilters	Mar 4 1:00p Meditation 7:30p Choir	Mar 5 4:00p Prep for pasta dinner	Mar 6 12:00p prep for pasta dinner 4:30-730p "Taste of North End" Pasta Festival - First Parish Fundraiser