



CROSSROADS



The Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Area Church at First Parish in Sherborn

April 2011

Sunday Services	
April 10 th – Building Dedication and Potluck Celebration – Rev. Detering preaching	
April 17 – Kate Landis, student minister, preaching	
April 24 – Easter Sunday – Rev. Detering Preaching	
May 1 st – Service of Music and Song	

Minister's Message

By Reverend Nathan Detering

WE DID IT!



OUR APRIL 10TH BUILDING DEDICATION AND

OPEN HOUSE RECEPTION

It is with great anticipation and joy as we ready ourselves for the April 10th “unveiling” of our beautiful new expansion. We hope to see you all there, beginning with a worship service at 10:30 am.

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Reflections**Kate Holland, Director of Religious Education**

I have so many wonderful blessings that come with my job here at church. One that I have been particularly grateful for lately is the view I get of our religious Education program behind the scenes every Sunday. While most of you are enjoying a quiet peaceful worship with an amazing sermon, I get to walk the halls of R. E. I feel so lucky to peek in at babies blissfully asleep on the shoulders of our sr. youth and adult nursery workers, two and three year olds roaring like lions as they read the stories with their teachers, younger kids sitting and lighting their felt chalice together, spirit play classes working on their rugs in their classroom as they wonder together about “big” questions of life. I see children learning about Famous Unitarian and Universalists by building structures like Frank Lloyd Wright (a Universalist), and learning from our own congregation members about how we work in New Orleans on our service trips. We have children visiting other faith traditions to increase their knowledge of spiritual thought and to teach them to respect other ideas and thoughts on what “religion” is to different people.

Over the next few weeks the Religious Education committee, Tina Johnson our R.E Assistant and myself will be working on the registration materials for next years Religious Education program. We ask in those materials that families register for next years R.E. program so that we can begin to work on and plan for the program for the next church year, as well as assess how much space we need for classrooms and how best to put the classes together. We will also ask for volunteers to teach in our classrooms next year. To help us assess the new teaching commitment of working in a flex team we will be doing a survey on survey monkey. When you receive the invitation to the survey please take a few moments to take the survey so we can assess if the flexible teams are something we would like to continue in our R.E program.

I love the wonderful balcony seat my job gives to me and I feel so lucky to be able to in small ways help to open and create the space to allow our children and youth to find their own beloved community here in our congregation. I hope that many of you will be excited at the opportunity to minister to the children and youth in our congregation. I still deeply believe that there is no greater social action work that any of us can do than to make a difference in a child's life. The work we do in our Religious Education classrooms makes a difference in children's lives.

With Gratitude,

Kate

An Intern's Journey**by Kate Landis**

Roll or Stroll for Equality

This June the UUAC will be marching (or rolling) in Boston's Gay Pride Parade on June 11th. Details about when and where will follow, but plan on spending the day downtown with your family and church community as we support equal rights for every person. All ages and abilities are welcome!

Q: I am not gay. Is it weird if I am in the parade?

A: Nope, lots of “straight supporters” participate every year. I march in the Pride Parade because I support equal rights for everyone. As a woman I have faced sexism and it is thoroughly unpleasant- I don't want folks in the GLBTQ community to face heterosexism and homophobia.

Roll or Stroll in this parade in honor of the awesome lesbian mom's who help up in your child's class. Roll or Stroll in support of gay firefighters and police officers. Roll or Stroll out of love for those teenagers who are terrified to come out. Roll or Stroll because you believe someday there will be a world where people don't have to hide who they love for fear of gay bashing, housing discrimination, or loss of family and friends. Roll or Stroll because “Don't Ask Don't Tell” is finally over. Roll or Stroll because you are proud that Massachusetts is a state without marriage discrimination. Cont....

Roll or Stroll for Equality cont. from page 2...

I'll leave it up to you to decide whether or not your kids should participate in the Pride parade. Think about how your kids react to seeing people in unusual costumes, sometimes in drag or scantily clad. It is a meaningful experience to see so many friendly adults, soccer moms and PTO dads, and realize that these are people impacted by homophobia.

I am honored to lead the UUAC in the Pride Parade this year, and will do whatever I can to make the experience accessible to you. Send me an e-mail if you have any questions, or ask at coffee hour. Let's stroll or roll for a world without hate.

Communications

by Katherine McHugh

It is my privilege to keep you informed each week about the many programs and diverse activities we hold here at the UUAC as well as keeping you up to date on events outside our doors that engage our Unitarian Universalist faith.

You may have noticed that I sign off my correspondence to you, "Blessings on your week". Yet I am not unaware of the fact that blessing someone or wishing them blessed is a tricky business (particularly in our UU tradition). Yet Nathan often talks about his love for words and I agree. Taking words back to their rightful roots is reclaiming them again, making them work for us today. The word, like so much vocabulary that points to a larger spiritual reality can oftentimes feel put on, false, or holier than thou. Words that are commonly used in the religious realm oftentimes evoke the opposite reaction than is intended. Many people have suffered in a variety of ways from their childhood faith and the decrees of a religion that contradicts their heart.

In Latin, to bless is *benedicere*. This means literally to speak (*dicere*) well (*bene*) or to say good things. The benediction said at the end of our Unitarian Universalist services is to send those blessings, those good words out into the world.

I know that I want people in my life to speak well of me, and I'm pretty sure you do too. This notion is not to be confused with the ego's need to self-aggrandize, to be flattered, and then puffed up. No, it's something quite different. Blessing is more than pointing out someone's talents or good deeds. It is affirming the very being of another.

As Henri Nouwen points out in his book *Life of the Beloved*, "Without affirmation, it is hard to live well. To give someone a blessing is the most significant affirmation we can offer. It is more than a word of praise or appreciation; it is (even) more than putting someone in the light. To give a blessing is to affirm, to say 'yes' to a person's Belovedness. And more than that: to give a blessing creates the reality of which it speaks."

In our daily lives, the judging mind is very active. Without our awareness, we may say to ourselves, "I like this person; I don't like that person, what he did was wrong, what she said was right." This goes on and on. There is a lot of mutual admiration in the world, just as there is a lot of mutual condemnation. Nouwen continues, "A blessing goes beyond the distinction between admiration or condemnation, between virtue or vices, between good deeds or evil deeds. **A blessing touches the original goodness of the other and calls forth his or her Belovedness.**"

Whenever I send my three children a blessing, it is not a wish or a prayer that they get whatever they want in life. It is that I hold and affirm their very being, how cherished they are to me. Whether they get into too many fender benders, whether they 'succeed' in all the ways the world applauds or not, whether their choices at any given moment are less than stellar, I want to remind them again and again, "When you go into the world, know that YOU matter, that you are Beloved by God, and I am so glad that you are here. I hope that you can hear these words as spoken to you with all the tenderness and force that my love can hold."

These blessings work with everyone whose life you will touch today, including your own.

Blessings on your day, Katherine



Board Notes

Board Notes – February 2011 Meeting

Major topics at the UUAC board of directors' February meeting included:

- **Treasurer's Report** – Hank Rauch reported that liquidity is good, although the next construction bill will be large. The advantages of automatic pledge payments were discussed.
- **February special plate collection** – The Board voted to donate the February special plate collection to the Alzheimer's Association, as recommended by the Social Action Committee.
- **Building Dedication** – will be on April 10, the only possible date before June. During the service, people will be thanked and the space will be blessed; the reception will follow the service. Representatives from the Town of Sherborn, Mass Bay District, Pilgrim Church and St. Theresa's Parish will be invited.
- **Building & Grounds** - The removal of accumulated snow in the parking lot was discussed. B&G is still under budget overall.

Building Update - Peter Gormley reported that, in general, the building is on schedule. Room signage was discussed, as were furniture and the desire to use the new wall space to communicate UUAC's values and mission as well as those of Unitarian Universalism, in general.

Upcoming Adult Programs

Islam Program (Roots of Islam II)-- Katherine McHugh

Tues, April 26, 2011 7:30 - 9:00 PM Unity Hall

" Growing Elders" -- A Workshop Series with Polly Leland-Mayer

Wed April 13, 20, 27 and May 4, 11, 18 2011,
Evenings, 7-8:30 PM at Woodhaven in Living Room

"UUAC Art in Bloom" - with Cathie Healy

April 17 & 23 (RE Kids), Sunday May 15th

"Auras and Chakras and Meridians...Oh MY!" -- with Linda Crawford

Date TBD, stay tuned!

Visit to the Mosque in Wayland -- Islamic Center of Boston

Date TBD, stay tuned

People We Care About

We'd like to wish the Sr. Youth Group good luck and safe travels as they head to New Orleans the week of April break.



News from the Church Office



If you've recently left any personal items at the church, please swing into the church office. I'm accumulating quite a collection... water bottles, gloves, cameras... Thanks!

If you have any suggestions or ideas for new articles/columns in Crossroads, please send me an email. I would love to hear what you have to say.

Deadline for May Crossroads will be Wed. April 20th.

Denominational Affairs

By Jill Carroll

During the month of April many UU Congregations will be celebrating **UUSC's Justice Sunday**. This year the theme is "**Justice is Aid with Dignity**". The work of UUSC's Rights in Humanitarian Crises Program is an ongoing partnership with many agencies in many parts of the world as noted in February's CROSSROADS article on Haiti. UUSC is starting a medical volunteer program in Haiti where clinicians will work with UUSC partners to help communities deal with cholera and other basic health concerns. There are also plans to offer opportunities for builders, teachers and gardeners to travel to Haiti to help rebuild that country. Information and applications can be found at www.uusc.org/haiti.

MUUsical Notes

Upcoming Events:

Music Sunday, May 22, 2011 - Gabriel Fauré's Requiem- This hauntingly beautiful work will be presented by the Celebration Choir and a guest orchestra in honor of Memorial Day.

Help wanted

Do you like the music you hear at church each Sunday? Would you like to add your opinion or bring new vision to the program? You don't have to be in the choir to have an impact on the music ministry of the church. The music committee is looking for new members. We meet once a month to plan the music program for worship services, special services and events. Contact Cathy Leonard at musiccomm@uuac-sherborn.org if you would like to learn more.

Hymnal Dedication

Have you noticed the bookplates in many of our hymnals? Would you like to dedicate a hymnal to a loved one? Members have the opportunity to purchase a hymnal bookplate on which we will honor you and a loved one in beautiful calligraphy. You will be able to place the dedicated hymnal in the pew of your choice. Bookplates are \$28 each (the cost of a hymnal). Proceeds will go into the general music fund to support our music ministry and offset the cost of new hymnals and other music. Just click here for the [form](#), fill it out and mail it in with your check.

UUA/UUSC Japan Relief Fund

Please join UUs throughout the U.S. by contributing to the UUA/UUSC Japan Relief Fund which will support the work of the recovery effort. Click on the link :

<https://www.uua.kintera.org/japan>

Social Action

1500 Acts to End Hunger, 2011 Program

Imagine not being able to feed your family – it's unimaginable to most of us. Yet that is happening to folks all around us. Luckily, they have A Place to Turn – the emergency food pantry serving the metrowest area. This is where our weekly donations go each week as we try to help those less fortunate than us. As you shop for you and your family this week, please pick up an item or two to donate to our 1500 Acts to End Hunger 2011 program – it's easy to do and can mean so much to those in need. Our marked baskets for donations are located at the rear of the sanctuary and the north entrance to the church. And remember, for each item donated, we give matching dollars to help purchase those needed perishable items. Thank you!!

Suggested Items to Donate: pasta and sauces, white rice, baked beans Submitted by Barbie Breer, Social Action Committee

Interfaith Hospitality Network Hosting

We will resume hosting homeless families with children on April 10. Help is needed for the setup on Sunday the 10th, after the dedication ceremony for our new space. Also, if you can help in the take-down on the following Sunday, April 17, we will begin at 7 AM.

You do not need a background check or training for either of these activities.

Contact Joan Hunter (jbh_11@verizon.net) if you have any questions about IHN.

Upcoming Events:

OUR APRIL 10TH BUILDING DEDICATION AND OPEN HOUSE RECEPTION

It is with great anticipation and joy as we ready ourselves for the April 10th "unveiling" of our beautiful new expansion. We hope to see you all there, beginning with a worship service at 10:30 am.

What Can you Bring? Our reception on April 10th is a potluck reception. We are hoping that each person or a group of people will contribute to our feast. Sign up this Sunday in Unity Hall; there will be a poster set up with food categories. We also have a special request. If at all possible, it would be wonderful if you could make something from our own UUAC Cookbook, *Seasoned with Love*. This would be a meaningful way to remind us that this is a celebration not only of our new space but of who we are. We are hoping that all of the food for the reception could come from the cookbook. Try a new recipe, cook your own, have fun, and together we can make our first luncheon in our new space a memorable one.

Book Club



- Friday, April 1, Marie Caradonna and Peter Maaser, 7 Harrington Drive, Ashland, 881-5706. **Just Kids** by Patti Smith
- Friday, May 6, Heather Banting, 190 Capt. Eames Circle, Ashland, 231-8705. **Saturday** by Ian McEwan
- Friday, June 3, Shin and Jim Freedman, 269 Rolling Meadow Drive, Holliston, 429-8248. **Travels in Siberia** by Ian Frazier
- Friday, July 8, location TBD. **Loving Frank** by Nancy Horan

The 2011 UUAC Auction

Bring your courage, your smarts, and most of all your love to this year's **Dreams Really Do Come True** auction!!

THE DATE FOR THIS EVENT IS SATURDAY, APRIL 9TH @ 6:30PM, at the Holliston Upper Town Hall. MARK YOUR CALENDAR TODAY! Tickets are \$30. per person (includes admission to the Auction, a fabulous dinner, and incredible items to bid on)!

This annual event is a major fundraiser for the UUAC. In addition to raising money for the church, 20% of the Auction's net proceeds are donated to charity.

So how can you help make the Auction a success? Attend the Auction... Donate items... Volunteer to help with the event...join the fun and send in your RSVPS today!

Donations forms are available on the UUAC website, at Coffee Hour, and in the UUAC office. Any questions? Email auction@uuac-sherborn.org or contact Alan Cantor or Alison Murchison for more information.

Caring Ministries - We, the Caring Ministries at UUAC, share a covenant with our congregation to help one another in time of need.

The **Caring Committee** provides short-term, physical help to individuals and families within our congregation who are in need. While we cannot offer emergency or ongoing services, we can offer our collective love through support with:

- meals
- rides for medical appointments, transportation to church events
- check-ins for those who feel isolated

cards for celebrations as well as hardships, and help to organize resources during times of crisis

Because it is sometimes difficult to ask for help, the Caring Committee relies upon our entire congregation to identify and communicate the needs of our parishioners.

Our **Lay Pastoral Care Ministers** offer emotional and spiritual support to individuals and families going through difficult challenges. We are called to be a caring presence and witness to those struggling with:

- bereavement, death and dying
- illness and medical difficulties
- marital and personal crises

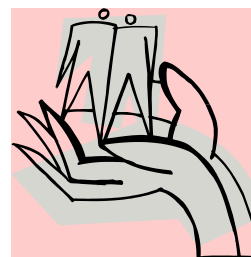
other life-altering events

Lay Pastoral Care Ministers participate in training to educate and enhance their ability to be a supportive, pastoral presence. We do not counsel, perform therapy or offer advice. In all contact, we honor confidentiality.

Contact

Caring Committee: caring@uuac-sherborn.org or Sara McKenzie (sarajane39@comcast.net) to ask for help or volunteer.

Lay Pastoral Care Ministers: caring@uuac-sherborn.org



**Unitarian Universalist Area Church
at First Parish in Sherborn**

11 Washington Street, P.O. Box 158
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(508) 653-1422
<http://www.uuac-sherborn.org>

Worship Service: Sunday Mornings at 10:30 a.m.
Crossroads, the newsletter of the UUAC, is mailed to all members and pledging friends via US or electronic mail. Non-members receive a complimentary three-month subscription. The newsletter may be viewed at the church website. Printed copies can be picked up at church.

Crossroads Listing Policy

Submissions to *Crossroads* are always welcome and may be e-mailed to uuac@uuac-sherborn.org (*word format preferred*); or typed/legibly handwritten copy may be dropped off in the Church Office by noon on the deadline date.

We are happy to publish any announcements about UUAC, UU-sponsored events and other non-profit activities of interest to the community. We are sorry we cannot list for-profit announcements.

UUAC Board of Directors

President: Jeff Barton
Treasurer: Hank Rauch
Clerk: Deb Boyce
At-Large: Peter Gormley
Buildings and Grounds: Roger Demler
Finance: Jon Treon
Personnel: Adrienne Walker
Minister (Ex-Officio): Reverend Detering

UUAC Ministry Council

Chair (Ex-Officio): Reverend Detering
Adult Programs: Gage Heath
Caring Committee: Sara McKenzie
Caring Ministries/Lay Pastorial Care: Becky Sheble-Hall
Denominational Affairs: Jill Carroll
Celebrations: Darrah Bryans
Membership: Katherine McHugh
Music: Cathy Leonard
Religious Education: Gary Leonard
Social Action: Vicky Diamond
Women's Alliance President: Dot Widmayer
Worship:
Youth Representative: Rachel Ansell
President (Ex-Officio): Jeff Barton

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Bookkeeper:
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Director of Religious Education:
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Sexton: Kevin O'Gorman
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