

The Messenger

The Newsletter of
**THE NORTH PARISH OF NORTH ANDOVER,
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST**
A Welcoming Congregation

Volume XLIV January 19, 2007 No. 2

**Sunday Services for Worship and
Religious Education begin at 9am and 11am**

Speaking Frankly

One day this week I noticed the sky wasn't completely dark when I left for home at the end of the day! The sky was a beautiful dark bluish purple, and the new paint on our church seemed to glow as it reflected the twilight. This bit of remaining light lifted my spirits, because it reminded me that we are tilting back towards the sun now, and the days are getting longer.

I'm someone who likes the dark of winter. I see it as an invitation to slow down, a time to try to pay attention to my inner life. These winter nights are also a good time to read, or to have a meal with a friend, or to go to bed early! So I saw that fading light also as a warning or a wake up call—a reminder that these long nights won't last forever!

The next month or two are a good time to pay attention to one's inner life, to take up or renew a spiritual practice, to open one's heart to the mystery that the darkness holds. In that spirit, I share with you this poem from Rainer Maria Rilke:

You darkness, that I come from,
I love you more than all the fires
that fence in the world,
for the fire makes
a circle of light for everyone,
and then no one outside learns of you.

But the darkness pulls in everything;
shapes and fires, animals and myself,
how easily it gathers them!—
powers and people—

and it is possible a great energy
is moving near me.

I have faith in nights.

I have faith in the depth of the night sky, in the silence that surrounds us, in the fleeting light at the close of day. I have faith in these things because they evoke in me a sense of the sacred and offer a connection to the mystery that surrounds us.

I wish for you the time and opportunity in these winter days to draw close to this mystery and to the beauty of this season. I'd love to hear about your experiences, and I hope to see you in church!

--Frank

RE News

This is an extraordinary period of time for the North Parish. We are out of our beautiful building while upgrades are being made to enhance life/safety protections and to make the building more accessible to those with mobility impairments (including small children!) while we are in our "campsite" at Old Center Hall, we plan to take advantage of the situation to try out some new things. We're going to offer "active" and "quieter" groups for first through fourth graders following worship, and invite each child to choose every Sunday which group they'd like to be part of. For example, this Sunday the children will choose between a sheep and shepherd game outdoors and making a mural with sheep indoors. I'm hoping that trying a variety of things (and seeking teacher/kid feedback) will strengthen the program in subsequent years as we work to incorporate many different ways to engage children.

The second change is in the curriculum itself for children in grades one-six. The material I wrote and later revised for the "Jewish and Christian Heritage" year simply won't work in the current space. It involves costumes, props, etc, and all of those things are safely stored for now in our rented storage area out by the airport. What I have decided to do is focus this winter on the wisdom tradition of Judaism (found in Psalms and other writings) and on a central story of the Jewish tradition (King David). The story of David's life can be told in an episodic way and each episode has a "lesson." I intend to match each episode with one of the psalms, and to put the words of the psalm in the mouth of David. The psalms are hymns and poems, many attributed to David, which reflect basic human experience. They say things like "protect me!" and "help me!" and "why is this happening to me?" They also say "the world is

awesome” and “I’m grateful.” The basic metaphors of the psalms are very much a part of our Western culture and spiritual expression- I was very much reminded of that when I attended the NAACP Martin Luther King breakfast this week.

The seventh and eighth graders are continuing their focus on “families” by interviewing and photographing a number of different North Parish families. Look for their photo documentary in May.

The senior youth are getting closer to their February trip to New Orleans. They will be preparing for the trip at a retreat on January 28 at Rolling Ridge Conference Center. They will also be doing a youth coffee house as a fundraiser for the trip. Please support them by attending the coffee house on February 3 at Old Center Hall at 7:30.

A reminder: there are brochures in the entry way specifically for families of youth, of elementary-aged children, and of small children. I invite you to take a few home and give to your friends who are interested in this congregation as a spiritual home for themselves and their children.

See you Sunday!

Gail Forsyth-Vail

News around the Parish...

The Senior Youth Group announces a youth coffeehouse to benefit their trip to New Orleans in February to help with Katrina clean-up. The coffee house will feature local youth bands and groups. Tickets are \$7 and are available at the door.

Other planned fundraisers:

- A night at Fuddruckers on March 8. Ten per cent of all money spent between 4 PM and 8 PM that day at Fuddruckers will benefit the trip to New Orleans.
- Sale of hand-made greeting cards by youth as well as neck warmers made and donated by Ann Takvorian
- An informal bottle drive. You are invited to donate your bottle return receipts or ask a

youth group member to return your bottles and donate receipts.

- A benefit concert on March 17 featuring “The Goodhues.”

The youth group welcomes adult help with this trip in all kinds of ways- big and small. Please contact Gail Forsyth-Vail to offer assistance!

Thanks!

Gail

Center for Spiritual Renewal Upcoming Events

Knowledge and Tools for Living Long and Well, a presentation by Dr. Jim Manganiello

Wednesday, January 31, 7 to 9 PM

In this dynamic presentation, Dr. Jim Manganiello will present new knowledge generated by mindbody science, knowledge that is rendering obsolete “body-only” views about health, “inner fitness”, and well being. Properly applied, this knowledge is a reliable foundation for creating an exceptional life that enjoys ongoing spiritual renewal, a life that can be well lived, loved and understood. Manganiello will introduce participants to an experiential training practice for cultivating the conditions for health and well-being. Participants can use the practice during the course of daily life - anywhere, anytime.

Jim Manganiello made his first presentation to the North Parish community in 2005. He feels a strong connection to the UU vision and he is now a member of the CSR Steering Committee. Jim’s work focuses on the knowledge and tools necessary for optimal health, “inner fitness”, and ongoing spiritual renewal. He is an authorized contemplative practice instructor and the former Director of the New England Mindbody Institute and the Center for East-West Psychology and Contemplative Healing. Jim is a Fellow of the American Institute of Stress and he’s nationally registered as health service provider in psychology and as a diplomat level medical psychotherapist.

Healing and the Spiritual Journey from the perspective of Integrated Kabbalistic Healing, a path of healing and awakening. A conversation with Susan Van Drie, LICSW.

Friday, February 9, 1:30 to 4 PM

From the perspective of Integrated Kabbalistic Healing, the commitment to “waking up” spiritually cannot be separated from the commitment to heal. In the broadest sense, both the spiritual and the healing journeys help us to form a new relationship with Reality, a new way of experiencing ourselves and the world. Both bring us to the knowledge and acceptance of our Wholeness, our true nature as beings who are separate (individual) yet at the same time completely one with Reality, or God. Join us for an introduction to three of the Kabbalistic “universes,” which are worldviews or dimensions of awareness. As we get to know and integrate these universes, we become freer to be who we already are: whole human beings who can embrace our greatness and our smallness, our beauty and our imperfections, knowing that we are not separate from divinity in any way. Learn a meditation you can use to assist the process of awakening and healing.

Susan Van Drie is a licensed independent clinical social worker, a practicing Integrated Kabbalistic Healer, and an advanced student of IKH as a way of life. She has been a member of North Parish for four years, has led spiritual companioning groups through the church, and is now on the committee for the Center for Spiritual Renewal.

North Parish SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE!!!



The night is shaping up! We will warm-up with a social hour, then enjoy several skits, highlighting issues of concern to us all. And bring your dancing

shoes, because the SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE BAND will then energize our dance hall! Want to share the fun? Please at your name to our Sign-up Sheets at coffee hour! We need people for decorating, food preparation, and publicity. Actors and Actresses -- please joint us NOW -- Skit Auditions will be held on March 9!!! And if you have a talent for writing, please help polish our skits! Sign-up at coffee hour, or call Bill Daly at 978-475-8447, WCDalyMD@aol.com. Thank You!

Thank you to...

This is what I wanted to say a couple of weeks ago, but could not find my glasses to read my notes. (I probably packed them!) So here it is now. I am working on a little story for Steeple Talk, but until then, here is my “Thank you”. If I forgot you, please come up to me and say, “Hey! What about me?” Thanks again.
Kim



I am lighting this candle of great and humble joy for those friends, both old and brand new who helped Debb, Fred and me empty this deserving church in preparation for its renovation, starting tomorrow. This is also a candle of great hope that, in just a few months, more people will be “moved” to help next time we ask, when we move back home to a renewed North Parish.

The list of people who helped are posted downstairs, but just in case...A huge thanks to Jerusha Ryan, MaryAnn Perry and Leslie Young-Lemire, Mark Lemire, Paul Stewart, Nancy Sarro, Ron Zelle, Keith Connors, Ann Ericson, Peter Reed, Pat Grimm, Tina Klein, Ruth Ellen Donnelly, Kevin and Allison Sparks, Lorre Fritch, Kevin Reed, Don Schemack, Jim Kazmer, Tad & Lani Lincoln, Micayla Voorhees, Anne Knowles and Harry Voorhees, Bob Johnson, Pat Scanlon, Joan Kulash, Loretta & Liz Middleton, Clem Carl, Bill Putnam, Don Bancroft, Liz Hsu, Gary Adams and some members of the choir and way back when, when we first started this process, Thank you to the pot luck/ sing-a-long group. Of course we could not have done this without the help of the staff, especially Richard Beaudoin, Gail Forsyth Vail and Carolyn Zimmer who had a few trial runs before the actual move.

... Keith Connors, Leslie Young-Lemire and Lanie Lincoln for putting a fresh coat of paint on our pulpit and the trim below the stage in Old Center Hall.

... Paul Stewart and Joe Bonanno for creating new signage to direct people to OCH during our renovation project.

... Peter Reed for engineering some great new bulletin boards.

... Ron Zelle and Jeff Lu for their work on the sound system in our OCH worship space.

... Mary Lou Montiero and Annie Barber for sewing children's choir robes in time for Christmas Eve.

... Leslie Young-Lemire and Debb Putnam for spending two days cleaning and straightening the Old Center Hall kitchen

... Steve Vail for rigging up the TV so that the senior youth could watch the playoff game at their meeting time.

... Janet Lacourse and her daughters and to Michelle Rosneck for serving as part of a panel sharing stories about growing up gay/lesbian for the *Our Whole Lives* class.

... All the families, youth, and teachers who are participating in the "Families" photo documentary project.

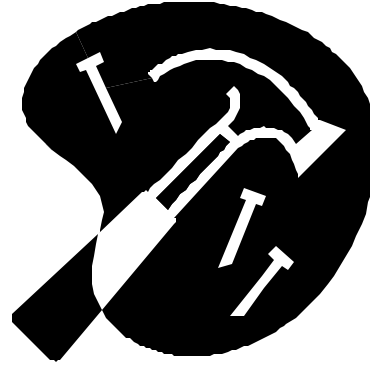
Condolences to...

Our love and sympathy to Gayle Apkarian and Renee Slack and their children Frank and Kate, Tori, Sean, and Uli, upon the death of Gayle's grandmother at the age of 106 years. She had lived next door to Gayle and Renee for many years and she will be greatly missed.

The Church Has Left the Building! Kudos to...

... Pat Grimm and Tina Klein, for standing for marriage equality outside the State House, holding the banner that hung in front of our church, and having their picture on the UUA website.

**HABITAT FOR HUMANITY, N Parish Work Day
SATURDAY, MARCH 17, 8:30-4:00 in Lawrence.**



Join future Habitat Homeowners and other volunteers, for a day of nail-pounding (etc),

hard work & camaraderie. We'll be helping to build an affordable Habitat home for a family in Lawrence.

Contact Joannie Warnshuis at coffee time for information or to sign up. Or contact at:

jpwarnshuis@yahoo.com

978-863-1127

On February 8, 2007, the Book and Movie Group will discuss the movie "The Constant Gardener". Watch the movie at your convenience and come to OCH at 7:30 for coffee, cookies and discussion.

On March 8, 2007 the group will discuss Ann Tyler's book Digging to America. All are welcome, no RSVP needed. Call Donna Cooper (978-470-2717) if you have questions.

January 2007 Flowers and Steeple Lighting

1.7.07 Flowers by Betty Hopping "In loving memory of Elizabeth Hopping by her family."

1.7.07 Steeple Lighting by Leslie Young-Lemire "In celebration of the life of John Naaykens, my best friend in high school, who died of AIDS in 1989 by Leslie Young- Lemire."

1.14.07 Flowers by Donna Cooper "In loving memory of Chloe Jarrell Cooper from the Cooper family."

1.14.07 Steeple Lighting by Anne Low "In loving memory of Gregory, George, and Anne Moss from the Low and Wood families."

1.21.07 Flowers by Lora Stewart "In loving memory of J. Alfred Southworth and Barbara Southworth by their daughters Lora Stewart and Martha Acheson."

1.21.07 Steeple Lighting by Pat Grimm "In loving memory of Walter L. Grimm from Pat Grimm and Tina Klein."

1.28.07 Flowers by Brenda Myers "In loving memory of James T. Myers from Brenda Myers and Laura Landy."

1.28.07 Steeple Lighting by Kim Adami "In remembrance of Gene by Kim, Jack Lucas and Priscilla Adami"

SOS Botswana Children's Village Benefit

Annie Arnzen is sponsoring a fundraiser for the SOS Children's Village Orphanage in Botswana where she worked last winter. Come join us at Town Hall in Andover on Sunday, February 4th at 3 pm to hear internationally renowned storyteller, Jay O'Callahan, share his genius for storytelling. There will be festive feel with booths selling jewelry; home baked goods, CDs, etc.

The afternoon is recommended for families with children 12 and over. Suggested donation \$20. Family rates available. For more information, call the Arnzens at 978-749-8840 or e-mail Annie_Arnzen@concordacademy.org.

Master Calendar of All Congregation or Special Events, Jan – June—not including special Sundays....

January 28th **Great Pond Sangha Open Practice Day**, with Joel Baehr

February 2-4th **Music Ministry Visioning Workshop**, with Mark Slegers

February 3 **Youth-Led Coffeehouse**, to benefit Youth Trip for Hurricane Katrina Clean-up

February 18th - 24th **Youth Mission Trip** to New Orleans, LA/Biloxi, MI, for Katrina Clean-up

March 17th **St. Patrick Day Concert** with the Goodhues, to benefit Youth Trip for Katrina Clean-up

March 23rd North **Parish "Friday Night Live" Comedy Night**, to celebrate the 2007-2008 Pledge Campaign

April 7th **Art Show and Wine Tasting**

April 27-29th DRE **Covenanting Workshop**, with Gail Forsyth-Vail and Sandra Greenfield

May 5th Interweave Contra Dance

May 20th Annual **Meeting and Amelia Reeve Awards**

We know you are curious...

About what's going on in our Parish Hall, Sanctuary, and RE wing. And we know that many of you have keys to the building. However, please remember it is a construction site. Due to safety and liability concerns, anyone entering the building must be accompanied by construction personnel or a building task force member. We need your cooperation to ensure that no one gets hurt!

To keep up on the construction's progress, check the bulletin board just inside the first floor of Old Center Hall. Each week we post a few photos to show progress of the work. You can also check the Renovation/Preservation section of our website for periodic updates -- or ask any member of the Building Task Force.

Notes from the Personnel Committee

Looking for New Members

Would you like to help shape the mission of the North Parish? Are you interested in helping to support the employees of the North Parish? If you answered YES to either of these questions, then The Personnel Committee would love your help. Some of our members will be rotating off the committee this June and we need members to support our mission. The Personnel Committee works closely with the employees and the church leadership to support the human resources functions within the church. Meetings are usually once a month and work is project related. If you are interested in learning more or volunteering, please contact Brian Middleton-Cox at 978-683-7777 or middleton-cox@comcast.net.

The Schedule for upcoming Messenger deadlines and mailing:

Deadline	Mail-Out
Feb 1	Feb 5
Feb 15	Feb 19
March 1	March 5
March 15	March 19

The deadline for all information that needs to go into the Sunday Bulletin is 7am on Friday.

While packing up the kitchen a few weeks ago the following interesting articles were discovered.

Two small silver serving dishes we think they are called porringers. Each one has the following inscription....

James H. Hopping 1917-1932
Mary F. Driggs 1931-1940
William Drummond 1917-1942
Marion E. Nicol 1930-1939

We would like to find out more about the history of the objects and identify the people.

Please contact Anne Ericson with any info you might have 978-682-0086 or email her xathena57@aol.com

MassEquality will be holding an organizing meeting on February 13th at 7 PM at Olde Center Hall 2. so you can get more involved in the North Andover area. We will be planning and implementing the strategy to beat the anti-gay amendment in 2007. Please bring ideas, family, and friends.