

FIRST RELIGIOUS SOCIETY

P.O. Box 817
Carlisle, MA 01741

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NEIGHBOURS & FELLOW CRETURES

The First Religious Society in Carlisle

Unitarian Universalist
A Welcoming Congregation

Volume XXXI, No. 15

April 2, 2007



WE ARE LOCATED IN CARLISLE CENTER OPPOSITE THE COMMON, JUST OFF ROUTE 225 AROUND THE CORNER FROM THE ONLY ROTARY IN TOWN. A CLASSIC NEW ENGLAND MEETING HOUSE WITH THE TOWN CLOCK IN THE STEEPLE. COME AS YOU ARE. "LOVE IS THE DOCTRINE OF THIS CHURCH, THE QUEST FOR TRUTH IS OUR SACRAMENT AND SERVICE IS OUR PRAYER."

Newsletter for April 2, 2007

CHURCH INFORMATION

Church Service and Sunday School: Sunday at 10:30 a.m.

Coffee Hour following services.

Dates and details of church events on the Calendar on page 7 in this newsletter.

Church Office: 978-369-5180; Fax no. 978-369-1891

Web site: www.uucarlisle.org **E-mail address:** frs@uucarlisle.org

Church Mailing Address: [including minister and all business]

PO Box 817, Carlisle, MA 01741-0817

Minister: Tim Jensen (study and home) 978-369-0284, (cell) 503-816-2859,

Email: uucleric@mindspring.com

Minister Emeritus: Dr. Eugene R. Widrick

Parish Committee Co-Chair: Suzanne Whitney Smith, 978-369-0922;

swsmeslrs@earthlink.net

Parish Committee Co-Chair: Lisa Sama, 978-692-6592, Email: lms@bostonbits.com

Office Administrator: Kathy Varney, 978-369-5180

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Minister of Music: Marguerite Shaw, 978-501-4220; Email: frsmusic@comcast.net

Collector of Funds: Charlie Davis, 978-371-2844; Email: cdavis@modavi.com

Lay Minister: Sally Hayen, 978-369-7591

Membership Contact: Sue Kirk, 978-371-0176

Coffee Committee: Gio DiNicola, Anne Ketchen, Richard Ketchen, Tom Rourk, Suzanne Whitney Smith, Jack O'Connor, Jenifer Bush

THE ECLECTIC CLERIC

What does it mean to belong to a "Community of Faith?" How is this related to being part of a congregation, or a member of a "Religious Society?"

What roles can (and should) Faith Communities play in shaping the larger communities around them? More specifically, what kinds of things might FRS do to better serve the changing town of Carlisle?

These questions evolved for me out of some work I've been doing lately with an *ad hoc* group called "A Livable Carlisle Community." In particular, they were inspired by the answers to three other questions I posed to a small group of our "Neighbours & Fellow Cretures" a couple of weeks ago at a public meeting in Town Hall. What originally brought you to Carlisle? What keeps you here? What (if anything) is missing from your experience in this community?

The answers to these three questions were remarkably consistent. The qualities people value about Carlisle are its open spaces and sense of "rurality," its excellent

educational system, and a certain attitude of individual self-reliance, autonomy, and volunteerism which in many ways seems to characterize the "personality" of the Town itself.

What was missing, however, was a sense of "Connectivity" -- not so much a feeling of connection *per se*, but rather simply the lack of places and opportunities for people to meet up, hang out, or just randomly cross paths in the course of their everyday lives. Despite its rural appearance, 21st century Carlisle is very much a bedroom community where people typically work and live their day to day lives at a distance, and see their neighbors only on Saturdays while taking out the garbage. The nickname "Lonelyville" is a reflection of the fact that even though Carlisle is only 30 minutes from everything, it is also 15 minutes from anything. Or as one teenager put it: "The reason this town is called Carlisle is because if you don't have a Car, it's like living on an Island."

But having lived on several islands myself, I know first hand there is one big difference between living on an island and living in the woods. On an island, you

THE ECLECTIC CLERIC *(continued)*

pretty much get to see your neighbors all the time whether you want to or not. There's no way to avoid it: it's an island. But here in the woods, you never have to see your neighbors if you don't want to. You can always just retreat a little further into the forest, until no one can see you through the trees.

Thanks in no small part to the influence of our illustrious 19th century Concord neighbor Henry David Thoreau, the idea of Wilderness has become strongly associated with the values of solitude, self-reliance, and spirituality. But for much of human history, the forest has also represented a place of isolation and danger, where wild beasts and wicked witches threaten the safety of those who have wandered off the path and lost their way. The values of Community: of home and hearth and hospitality to friendly neighbors and traveling strangers alike, are an essential balance to the wilderness ideal. And here in New England, the "Meeting House" has always been an important venue for neighbors and strangers to come together to shed their isolation, and share the most

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THE ECLECTIC CLERIC

profoundly important moments of their lives. It's a tradition worth keeping alive here at The First Religious Society in Carlisle, as we prepare to celebrate our 250th year of service and ministry to this community.....twj

UPCOMING SERVICES

Maundy Thursday Service on April 5 at 7:30pm in the Sanctuary.

Easter Sunday: April 8:
Celebrate Easter at our sunrise service at Clark Farm at 6:10am. Join us for a potluck breakfast following at the home of Dot Clark.

Easter morning worship service at 10:30am in the Sanctuary.

The Choir will sing a short mass, St. Johannes de Deo, by Joseph Haydn. They will be accompanied by The Rosetta Trio (Sarah Darling, Abigail Karr, and Kate Haynes,) with Margaret Darling at the harpsichord. Please see the website www.rosettatrio.com. The string trio will also play prelude and postlude music.

Please view the FRS calendar on our website under "Calendar".

All are welcome to attend Parish Committee meetings, except in cases of executive sessions

FRS Committee meetings are open to any interested party. To address a committee on a specific issue please contact the committee chair.

Next Newsletter Deadline is April 9, 2007.

If you would like to be added to or removed from the newsletter mailing list please call or email the church office.

WALK FOR HUNGER

Hungry Families Need Your Help! Today in Massachusetts, nearly 450,000 people lack adequate food. They include the state's most vulnerable citizens: children, the elderly, the homeless, and the working poor. Project Bread is committed to providing nutritious food to all, right in their own neighborhood. This year the **Walk for Hunger will take place on Sunday, May 6.** There are pamphlets in the front entry way here at the church or contact the church office for more information.

27th Annual
Holocaust Memorial Observance
Coordinated by the Concord-Carlisle
Human Rights Council

April 22, 2007
7:30pm
Concord Town House

Speaker: Marika Barnett, Survivor

Music by Rosalie Gerut,
Daughter of Survivors

Admission is free

STAFF AND OFFICE SCHEDULE

Church Office Hours: The church office will be open between the hours of 8:00am and 1:30pm on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday. The office will be closed on Tuesdays.

Minister Office Hours: Tim is generally available at church most mornings when the church office is open and other times by appointment. It is always a good idea to call in advance. You can reach him at 978-369-0284 (study or home), 503-816-2859 (cell) or by email at uucleric@mindspring.com.

Director of Religious Education: Molly Sorrows, DRE and Youth Advisor, can be reached by email (frs_re@comcast.net) or phone (church, 978-369-5180; home, 978-371-2217).

Music Rehearsals Schedule

The Choir
Wednesdays at 7:30-9:00pm
Sundays at 9:45am

KIDSKWIRE

Wednesdays 3:15-3:45

OPEN SPACE TECHNOLOGY AT GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Portland, Oregon, June 20-24

Be in Portland this June for an unprecedented opportunity to shape the mission of our Association. GA attendees will engage in a unique open meeting process where our own questions and passions will determine our direction for the 21st century. All are welcome.

In Open Space meetings, event participants create and manage their own agenda of parallel working sessions around a central theme of strategic importance, such as: What difference should Unitarian Universalism make in the world?

Orientation to Open Space will be provided on Thursday, June 21 during Plenary II (8:30 - 10:00 a.m.). Open Space participants will then go to one of ten concurrent Domain sessions from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. These sessions, as well as subsequent Open Space workshops and Convergence sessions, will run simultaneously with other GA programming. Participation is voluntary; all GA registrants are invited.

At each Domain, participants will identify as many as 12 issues or topics that relate to the central question and will schedule their further discussion in designated meeting times and spaces.

This Domain process will produce as many as 120 participant-driven meetings over six available workshop times. A master schedule grid of all break-out workshops will be produced and made available to all GA attendees on Thursday afternoon. Any GA registrant may attend any Open Space workshop. However, attendance will be

limited to room capacity on a first come, first served basis. General Assembly ushers will be present at all Open Space workshops to ensure that rooms are not over-filled and that aisles remain clear and accessible.

On Saturday, June 23, workshop participants will return to the Domain rooms for Convergence sessions. The Convergence sessions will serve to bring together the ideas and themes produced by dozens of simultaneous workshops and identify points of emergent consensus.

From 4:30 - 6:30 p.m., Plenary time will be dedicated to presentations by OST participants of the ideas or convictions generated by OST workshops and Convergence sessions.

On Sunday, June 24, resolutions resulting from the OST process will be introduced to the Plenary for prioritization by GA delegates.

General Assembly Portland, Oregon, June 20-24. Please see the website uua.org/ga/proj.html. Contact the church office (978-369-5180) for application.

The First Religious Society in Carlisle is an inclusive community bound together in the Unitarian Universalist tradition of friendship, free inquiry and service to humanity.

We recognize our commonality as spiritual seekers, and welcome and celebrate the participation of all people, without regard to age, race, religious heritage, political opinion, gender identity, sexual or affectional orientation, socio-economic status, disability or ethnicity.

We are committed to continual learning and growth toward affirmation of the enriching diversity of humankind, and to working to create a more just, sustainable and loving world.

HELPING HANDS SURVEY

Dear friends,

“Love is the doctrine of this church and service is our prayer” – in this spirit, the Pastoral Concerns Committee organizes a program for outreach to people in our church who need our special support and friendship. We will arrange rides to appointments, meal preparation during times of crisis, visits to those who find it difficult to get out, and anything else that lends a helping hand.

We need you! We would like to update our database of those willing to help out. If you can help with any of these tasks, please fill in the form enclosed with this newsletter and return it to The First Religious Society of Carlisle, Box 817, Carlisle, MA 01741, bring it to church, or leave it at the church office. Even if your ability to help has not changed since our last survey, please complete it as we will not assume previous data remains current.

We also need your help in identifying people who may need special support on a short or long-term basis. To arrange for assistance you may either contact a member of the Pastoral Concerns Committee or Tim.

Without your help, this program of service and caring will not work. Please take a moment and let us have your response by April 15th.

Thank you,

Sally Hayen
Chair, Pastoral Concerns

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

by Molly Sorrows

It's Spring, and I'm feeling the rush of excitement and renewal as the warmth of the sun returns and the snowdrops come up. There was some great discussion at our Visioning Event in February about youth involvement, and this spring is a great time to start working over those ideas to see how we can implement some of them in the religious education program. We have strong enthusiasm for our social action activities and have just completed a winter of special Bible times activities and an engaging spring pageant.

One discussion group at the Visioning event focused on how we can create conditions that lead to more involvement of youth in the church. Youth at both the junior high and senior high level like to feel responsible and useful at FRS, and we can work to provide opportunities for them as well as to help them develop their own creative ideas and bring them to fruition.

I will attend a DRE class called the “Youth Renaissance Module” April 24-25. The topics will include characteristics and qualities of youth, building community, programming variety, youth & congregational connections, and youth programming structure at all levels of UU churches. I welcome your ideas or questions that I might take with me to focus on.

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO WORKED ON THE SPRING PAGEANT

“SVEN’S BRIDGE” by Alison Saylor

On Sunday March 25th a few clever props made by the children transformed the Sanctuary back in time into a country village somewhere in Sweden. The wonderful, make that wonderful, costumes from Kathy Booth and the Concord Players helped all the actors portray their various and sometimes multiple roles as villager, royalty, military personnel, or carpenter.

The story of Sven's Bridge was told through narration, acting, and song. The lead parts were wonderfully portrayed by high schoolers Eric Stengrevics as Sven, Evan Tierney as the King, and Blair Robinson as the Queen. Each one was very suited to their roles; Eric with his marvelous singing and cheerful friendly manner, Evan as the handsome tall King with a big voice and Blair who looked both glamorous and miserable after falling into the river. Gavin Saylor and Chely Watson-Badell both spoke clearly and with perfect timing as the narrators of the story.

Dian Cuccinello not only sang "Summertime" so beautifully, but provided all the materials to make the new bridge, and brought those tasty cinnamon buns to coffee hour. Marguerite Shaw was instrumental (pun intended) in choosing the music that helped keep the drama lively. She composed that haunting clarinet solo played so well by Kevin Barrow after the tragic destruction of the drawbridge. Margaret Darling was indispensable as the piano accompanist and music consultant for this drama.

Many thanks to Molly Sorrows and the RE committee for helping to plan the rehearsals and workshops that were needed to prepare for Sven's Bridge. Team work, planning and thinking on your feet; all good lessons learned by the intergenerational actors and behind-the-scenes workers who pulled together to make Sven's Bridge a success!

Pastoral Concerns Committee: We serve as a means of outreach to people in our church who need our special support and friendship. We will arrange rides, visits, childcare, meals or anything else that lends a helping hand during short or long-term crises. If you are or know of anyone in need of this support, please contact Natalie Ives at 978-369-6581 during the month of April.

Mark Your Calendars! There will be an all church calendar planning meeting on April 26 at 7:30pm in Union Hall. All are invited to attend.

All Church Annual Meeting will take place on Sunday, May 20 at 4:00pm in Union Hall.