

**FIRST RELIGIOUS SOCIETY**

P.O. Box 817  
Carlisle, MA 01741

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**NEIGHBOURS & FELLOW CREATURES**

The First Religious Society in Carlisle

Unitarian Universalist  
A Welcoming Congregation

Volume XXXIII, No. 10

January 21, 2008



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 January 21, 2008**

**Church Service and Sunday School: Sunday at 10:00 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

**Interim Minister:** Victor H. Carpenter (study) 978-369-0284,

Email: victorcarpenter@dedhamuu.org

**Minister Emeritus:** Dr. Eugene R. Widrick

**Parish Committee Co-Chair:** Suzanne Whitney Smith, 978-369-0922; Suzanne\_w-s@comcast.net

**Parish Committee Co-Chair:** Lisa Sama, 978-692-6592, Email: LMSama@comcast.net

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**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

**Union Hall Coffee House:** Dian Cuccinello 978-278-5745,

Email: dianfrancesca@comcast.net

**In the Interim,**

unknown to me.

**Reflections on the MLK Birthday, 2007**

I did not march with King. I did not go to Selma, Alabama as did some 100 UU ministers in response to his call for help. During the "glory days" of the Civil Rights Movement (1963 - 1967) I was in South Africa engaged in a different kind of social struggle.

I began my ministry to the Cape Town Church in 1962; the year that Mandela was sent to Robbin Island (narrowly escaping being hanged).

I had gone to S.A. in the naive expectation that I would encounter a version of the American civil rights struggle. Instead I discovered a struggle that was both wider and deeper, an international power struggle pitting human freedom against colonialism that extended far beyond the borders of South Africa and involved most of the African continent south of the Sahara.

My knowledge of S.A. before I left the U.S. wasn't much beyond having read Alan Paton's "Cry The Beloved Country" (still a great and moving story). I had never heard of Robert Sobokwe (leader of the Pan African Congress), Albert Luthuli (first African to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize) was only a name. Oliver Tambo, Steve Biko, Patrice Lamumba were

But I learned. I learned that while the American Civil Rights struggle was occupying the attention of many UU liberals a much wider conflict, much of it covert, was being waged on the African continent (including South Africa) financed and endorsed by the US and operating out of US consulates such as the one in Cape Town.

At one point some folks at the American consulate attempted to recruit me as a source of information. An amount of money was suggested as an inducement for me to provide information. I was so naive about the "proposition" that I said I would gladly tell them anything I knew and wanted no "perks" or favors in return. Only later did I come to realize what had happened.

Both the American Civil Rights movement and the struggle against South Africa's "apartheid" are history but the struggle for human dignity and worth continues. Locally the issue of the moment is "immigration" and again the same old question, "Where do you stand?". If you are trying to make up your mind on this or any human rights issue I offer the 2nd Article of the new South African Constitution: "Everyone has inherent dignity and the right to have their dignity respected and protected". To that I can only say "Amen".

VC

**UPCOMING SERVICES**

**January 27:** "There Once Was a Woman Who Had Turned Into The Wrong Person"

It happens. More often than you might think. And not only to women; men too make this discovery. The good news is that it is curable. Here's how. VC

**February 3:** "Beyond Categorical Thinking"

A service conducted by the FRS Search Committee that helps to dispel thoughts that the "perfect minister" for FRS should fit a certain "category" that you may carry in your imagination. This is an important "get ready, get set" moment as the ministerial search process moves into high gear.

**February 10:** "Finding Your Religion"

Already found it? I doubt it. I'm still in the process of finding mine. As our lives change our religious perspective changes (at least it should change). If your beliefs remain the same as they were ten, twenty years ago you are in serious need of a tune up. VC

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**UU HAPPENINGS**

**General Assembly**, A Meeting of Congregations, June 25-29, 2008 in Fort Lauderdale, Florida: Common Threads.

**UU University is a gathering just before General Assembly (GA) of congregational leaders of all kinds.** If you want to increase your knowledge and ability to serve your congregation, UU University is for you! UU University 2008 starts at about noon on June 24 and concludes by 12:30 p.m. on June 25. This year's keynote speaker is Nick Carter, President of Andover Newton Theological School. Carter will teach strategies for leading theologically diverse congregations and how congregations might have a positive impact on a theologically diverse world. Go to the Clara Barton District website for more information.

**UU Mass Action Update:** UU Mass Action is tracking two bills as part of its Global Warming initiative - S534, The Global Warming Solutions Act, and H3965, The Green Communities Act/Comprehensive Energy Bill. For more information on how your congregation can join the Action Now! campaign go to [www.uumassaction.org/global\\_warming](http://www.uumassaction.org/global_warming). A Massachusetts Interfaith Witness will be held at the Statehouse in support of S534 on January 29 at 10:00. Details at [www.uumassaction.org/](http://www.uumassaction.org/).

**New Unitarian Universalist Video:** In "Voices of a Liberal Faith," members and ministers share their thoughts on worship and fellowship, explain the goals of religious education, explore the historic roots of our religion, and celebrate the spirit of social justice that inspires our faith.

**THE PALESTINIANS  
AND THE SEARCH FOR  
PEACE IN ISRAEL**

**February 10th  
7:00pm  
Union Hall**

**Speaker: Jeff Klein**

The human rights of two peoples (Israeli and Palestinian) are in conflict. Jeff Klein, peace activist and commentator on middle east issues, a regular traveler to Israel and a deep observer of the struggle for justice will speak on the issues that divide people which must be resolved if peace is to "have a chance" in that contested region.

**STAFF AND OFFICE SCHEDULE**

**Church Office Hours:** The church office is open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday between 8:00am and 1:00pm.

**Minister Office Hours:** Office hours are Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings. Vic is available for emergencies any time. You can reach him by email at victorcarpenter@dedhamuu.org or by phone at 781-648-3861.

**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).

**Minister of Music Office Hours:** Marguerite Shaw is at the church every weekday between 10:00am and 2:00pm, with occasional exceptions. Call 978-369-5180 or 978-501-4220.

**Music Rehearsals Schedule: The Choir** rehearses on Wednesday, at 7:30pm. The Sunday warm-up begins at 9:15am.

**KEYWORD:** Rehearsals are on Wednesday at 3:00pm.

If you have questions about any of the music programs please call Marguerite Shaw.

**BEYOND CATEGORICAL THINKING SERVICE & WORKSHOP  
February 3rd**

“Will the new minister hear me? Will my concerns and needs be met? Will the minister understand what I’m living with? How will the community respond to our minister?”

In answering these questions, a picture of the “ideal minister” (categorized by age, gender, gender identity, nationality, physical ability, race, and sexual orientation) comes to mind. With this picture in place, it can be easy to unintentionally exclude ministers who fall into certain categories. At times, as we get caught up in comparing candidates to our “picture,” we can even forget what it is we hoped for in a minister.

On Sunday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> FRS will host a Beyond Categorical Thinking (BCT) service and workshop, both of which are offered by the UUA for congregations involved in search and will be led by UUA facilitators.

The BCT program is designed to promote inclusive thinking and help prevent unfair discrimination in the search process. In the workshop, FRS members will:

- Consider the hopes, expectations, and concerns they have for a new minister
- Learn more about the ministerial search process, and Explore how thinking categorically about people sometimes interferes with choosing the best candidate.

**UPDATED:** Please bring your own lunch. The plan is to take a quick break after the service to relax and have lunch, and then head back to the sanctuary for the workshop, which could take several hours. If you need babysitting please call John Lyons ASAP (369-1216), so we can get an idea of the demand.

The FRS Search Committee invites all congregational leaders, members, and friends to come and participate. The selection of our next minister is probably the most important work for FRS this year. The BCT workshop is another opportunity for everyone in our congregation to be a part of that process, and think through some of our concerns together. This experience will provide guidance for the search committee in our work. Please come.

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.

## UNION HALL COFFEEHOUSE

February 2, 2008 - 7:30 PM: *Let The Good Times Roll!* Union Hall Coffeehouse does New Orleans in grand, festive style! The Squeezebox Stompers present a rollicking night of Cajun, Zydeco, Country Blues and so much more, while the old Union Hall Bayou Cafe will be serving up some hearty, "Put a little South in your mouth," appetizers, just to keep things hot. Some of us are off to New Orleans to assist with the re-building down there, and we need all the help we can get. If you've ever heard the song, "Brother, Can You Spare a Dime?", then you'll notice it plastered on a little red tool box perfectly stationed where you can see it, in the coffee house. So, if you have any spare change for some tools that are badly needed, well, fill up your pockets and bring it along. We'll look forward to hearing all that jingling as you walk through the front door. Tickets are \$20 with a percentage going to the cause. So, as they say down Baton Rouge way, L'Aisseez Les Bon Temps Rouler - Let the Good times roll! See you on Bourbon Street!

Call Dian at 978-287-5745, or Alison Saylor at 978-369-1809.

### Celebration Concert Series at The First Religious Society in Carlisle, MA Celebrating 250 Years

January 27, 2008 at 4:00pm  
Fumito Nunoya, marimbist  
Concerts are free and open to the public.  
The building is fully accessible.  
Donations will be appreciated at the  
reception immediately following each  
event. Additional concerts will be  
announced as the celebration year continues.

## HELP THE SHARING FOUNDATION ONCE AGAIN RECEIVE \$50,000

Our church has supported The Sharing Foundation for many years in many ways. TSF President Nancy Hendrie is a member of the FRS and of our social action committee. Now TSF is participating in the America's Giving Challenge sponsored by The Case Foundation, Global Giving and PARADE magazine to see who can motivate the most people to give at least \$10 to their favorite charity **online by January 31, 2008**. The **number** of donors is what counts toward winning. The top four charities in Global Giving will each win \$50,000 - and TSF can be one of them with your support!

The Sharing Foundation cares for more than 1,500 Cambodian children each and every day. \$50,000 would cover the annual expenses for our English Language School, attended by over 450 children in Roteang Village and the Khmer Literacy School attended by more than 140 of Roteang village's poorest children. It would also help support a portion of the operating costs for the Sharing Foundation's Roteang Orphanage, home to over 70 children; nearly half of whom have serious disabilities.

To donate go online to  
<http://www.sharingfoundation.org/america.htm>

Last year TSF received \$50,000 in a similar contest. Many from our church added to the numbers.



**Sunday Weather Policy:** If December is any indication, we can look forward to more Sundays this winter when bad weather will make coming to church difficult or even impossible for some people. Our policy is simple: there will be a service every Sunday. If you can't get out of your driveway or don't feel safe on the roads, by all means stay home. If you can make it, by all means come. There may not be a full choir, you may be part of a very small congregation, we may not even have a minister. (Vic lives in Arlington, after all, and we can hardly expect him to bed down in the sanctuary again as he did before the pageant on December 16.) But we will have a service. If you have a responsibility such as greeter, RE teacher or coffee hour provider, let someone in your network know that you can't make it, and those who can will adapt. We're New Englanders, for crying out loud! The Music & Worship Committee



**The Homeless Child in School: 96,000 children in Massachusetts have no permanent home.** The Advocacy Network to End Family Homelessness will hold its fourth annual forum, *The Homeless Child in School*, on Sunday, January 27<sup>th</sup> at the Trinitarian Congregational Church in Concord, from 7:00-8:45 P.M. This forum will focus on how being homeless severely compromises a youngster's ability to obtain a good education, and what is being done about it. This year's forum *The Homeless Child in School* will feature Robyn Frost, Executive Director of the Mass. Coalition for the Homeless, Mary William, Program Director of the Homeless Student Initiative for the Boston Public Schools; and Laurie Burnett, Homelessness Education Coordinator for the Framingham Public Schools. The forum is free and open to all.

**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 Sally Hayen at 978-369-7591 during the month of February.

### 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 January 28, 2008.

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