

FIRST RELIGIOUS SOCIETY

P.O. Box 817
Carlisle, MA 01741

Address Service Requested

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit Number 10
Carlisle, MA 01741

NEIGHBOURS & FELLOW CREATURES

The First Religious Society in Carlisle

Unitarian Universalist
A Welcoming Congregation

Volume XXXI, No. 13

March 5, 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 March 5, 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

Religious Education Director: Molly Sorrows, 978-371-2217,

Email: frs_re@comcast.net

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

"Talk is Cheap, and Our Thoughts are Free"

One of my all-time favorite jokes comes from the deadpan comedian Stephen Wright (who I've been told owns a home right here in Carlisle). Have you ever noticed how it's "a penny for your thoughts" but you've got to "put in your two cents worth?" Somebody must be making a penny....

Last month approximately 50 of us began a conversation about our Vision(s) for the future of FRS. We invited individuals to "bring your passion, and create a plan," and that's exactly what they did. Not just one plan, but dozens -- some large, some small, some which can be accomplished right away, and others which will require a lot more cultivation before they finally bear fruit.

Now the Parish Committee is working to shape these ideas into actual, actionable initiatives which we can begin as a community to bring to life. As part of this process, there will also be additional opportunities to refine and "fine tune" our

plans, and for individuals who were not part of the initial conversation both to get on board and to put in their two cents worth.

One frequently overlooked benefit expressed in the aphorism "talk is cheap" is that it means we can afford to do a lot of it. Too often individuals rush into action because we are afraid we will lose momentum or won't be taken seriously if we first take the time to try to talk things out. Or worse, we may be worried that if we wait to listen to what other people are saying, we might change our minds, and not follow through on the things we've already decided we want to do before we stopped to think about it!

Now I'm not trying to suggest that all problems can be resolved simply by talking them to death. But I do know that the failure to talk can create all kinds of problems of its own. Talking is the main method by which individuals share their private thoughts with others—their insights, their reservations, their dreams, experiences, knowledge and wisdom. What a resource to a community of people committed to creating a congregation of freethinkers! No wonder that Unitarians are

THE ECLECTIC CLERIC *(continued)*

often accused of preferring a discussion about heaven to going there themselves.

"Talking the Talk" and "Walking the Walk" creates a false dichotomy. Generally, it takes a LOT of hot air if you want to get the big balloon off the ground and flying. Good communication is the first step in any great achievement. So let's make certain we all keep talking to one another as we walk together along the road toward a larger congregation, more inspiring worship, a more ambitious program, and the celebration of our 250th anniversary of ministry to this community. Indeed, it's the only way that we can be sure of remaining true to all we stand for.....twj

UPCOMING SERVICES

March 11

We will have a guest speaker. **KIDSKWIRE** will sing
Margaret and Sarah Darling will play piano and viola.

March 18

Fumito Nunoya, marimbist
All are invited to come to FRS at **10:15am** for a demonstration of the marimba, which will be played later during the service by Fumito Nunoya. Fumito is a prize-winning marimbist and his comments and demonstration prior to the service, as well as the music played later, should be of interest to people of all ages. Please welcome your friends and neighbors to join us.

March 25

The Spring Pageant *Sven's Bridge* during the morning worship service.

Inside this issue:

<i>Union Hall Coffee House</i>	4
<i>Interfaith Walk for Climate</i>	5
<i>Sven's Bridge</i>	5
<i>St. Patrick's Day Potluck</i>	5
<i>Clara Barton Spring Conference</i>	6
<i>Staff and Office Schedule</i>	6
<i>Calendar</i>	7

**General Assembly 2007
Portland, Oregon
June 20 - 24
www.uua.org/ga**

Registration and housing reservations open March 1, 2007

Program and agenda booklet available to look at in the church office.

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 March 12, 2007

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

UU HAPPENINGS

The Clara Barton Spring Conference will take place on Saturday, April 14, 2007. Keynote Speaker will be Kathleen Montgomery, Executive Vice President of the Unitarian Universalist Association. Registration begins at 8:00am that morning. Closing Worship is from 3:45 to 4:00pm. The Conference will be held at Nichols College in Dudley, MA. Directions to Nichols College and more information about the conference can be found on the website at www.cbd.uua.org.

Roger McGuinn, cofounder of The Byrds with Gene Clark and David Crosby will be at Firehouse Coffeehouse, Littleton on Friday, March 16 at 8:00pm. Tickets are \$25 and are available in advance at the Minor Chord in Acton via our website www.fculture.org or call 978-742-9957.

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

Handbell Choir

TBA

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS *by Molly Sorrows*

Church Sleep-over for kindergarten to Grade 5 Friday March 16th 5:30 PM to Saturday March 17th 9:30 AM. There is something magical about sharing an evening of activities, sleeping in Union Hall next to a parent, then enjoying breakfast with everyone the next day. For these children, following a sleep-over, church truly feels like a welcoming, friendly safe haven. This year we ask that everyone contribute to a potluck supper and bring one breakfast item to complement the pancake breakfast. The theme this year will be preparing for the Spring Pageant "Sven's Bridge". We will make props, rehearse lines and learn some songs. Each child needs to come with a parent who is willing to "camp out" in Union Hall. Inflatable mattresses are a wonderful modern convenience for parents who would otherwise cringe at the thought of sleeping on the hard floor in a sleeping bag. Some children might choose to return home to their beds and return for breakfast. We are willing to be flexible in this area. Please call or e-mail Alison Saylor at saylorfarm@comcast.net (978) 369-1809 or Molly Sorrows at msorrows@comcast.net (978) 371 2217

There are a number of things going on behind the scenes in religious education right now. I have been to two interesting meetings in our district this winter. One session focused on the roles of the religious education committee and program director. We talked about how to evaluate the many aspects of a religious education program, how responsibilities are divided up, and how to coordinate them. The second meeting was led by Rev. Aaron Pason of the Holden Street church in Worcester who has extensive experience in ministry during large scale traumas such as September 11 and New Orleans. I look forward to sharing suggestions from his experiences with our ministry and religious education teams.

I am very excited to be attending a two day class March 6-7 on Unitarian Universalist Identity. I have had many valuable conversations over the past several years as DRE with people who are long time Unitarian Universalists and those who are new to our faith. I hope that this class will give me more tools to help shape our RE program and give us ideas for programs that will help families and adults explore their religious journeys.

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.

Our Sympathy

Our hearts go out to Janet and Julia Blanco and their family and friends. Paul Blanco died in a snowmobile accident in Maine. When a tragedy happens we wish for the magic words to say that will provide comfort, hope and healing. Janet has worked for about 8 years as a teacher in the Red Balloon nursery school in our building. The other staff and I see and visit with her in the office regularly. Our prayers are with all of them.

UNION HALL COFFEE HOUSE OPENING NIGHT!

You're in for a dynamic performance on March 31st, 2007, at 7:30 PM, when we kick off our grand opening of The Union Hall Coffee House, here at FRS, with the gorgeous harmonic trio of City of Roses. Fresh and spicy one minute, comfortable and almost familiar - in the 'wish I'd said that' kind of way - the next, defying any one category, the music slides from country to folk to rock, upbeat to funk to ballad, Linda Blaze, Michelle Tanguay and Stephen Gilligan match their lyrics with complex and interesting compositions, their sophisticated musicianship with intricate vocals. There are no weak links here, just a chain of melodies and poetry held together with voices as clear and smooth as glass. Rounder Records says: "High energy, three part harmonies, great songs, chicks with guitars, tall dark and handsome bass player - what more could you ask for in a night of good down home entertainment?" Steve, Michelle and Linda will wow you with their upbeat vocal blends and virtuoso musicianship."

Tickets are \$12 at the door. Expect two 45 minute sets with a 20 minute intermission to mingle among friends. Refreshments will be available to purchase. Available will be Fair traded coffees, chocolate paninis, hot cider swirls, and so much more. Also, BYOB, if you're so inclined. Our web site is a work in progress, but for any further information, please contact Dian Francesca Cuccinello at dianfrancesca@comcast.net, or call her at 978-287-5745, or FRS at 978-369-5180, and ask for Kathy.

The Union Hall Coffee House is a nonprofit, volunteer-run folk music club hosted by The First Religious Society of Carlisle. Revenue from the sale of refreshments goes to any approved expenses the coffee house may incur, with the majority going to our outreach programs.

Hope to see you all there for an evening of comfortable, friendly family entertainment.

PROGRAM NEWS

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 Barbara Ritz at 978-392-0442 during the month of March.

Religious Witness for the Earth, founded by UU Minister Fred Small of Littleton, is organizing an Interfaith Walk for Climate Rescue, from Northampton to Boston, on March 18 - 24. The walk culminates in a Climate Rescue Day rally on Saturday, March 24. Here's the schedule: 11:30 am: Walk from Cambridge to Copley Square, Boston. 2 pm: Interfaith worship at Old South Church on Boylston Street. 3 pm: Rally in Copley Square. This event will be the largest public event about global warming in our nation's history, and FRS needs to be well represented. For information, contact Bob Luoma. For more information and to register online, visit www.climatewalk.org.

Now Available: The First Religious Society as a "village piece" from The Cat's Meow! Place it above a doorway, window, or on a windowsill. There is one in the church office to see. They are available for \$15 each. You can order them through the church office or Marje Stickler.

St. Patrick's Day Potluck - Saturday, March 17th - 6:30pm: Join us to celebrate the "Wearing o' the Green" with a Party and Potluck in Union Hall. Please feel free to bring a friend or neighbor. Marguerite promises festive Irish music and sing-along fare. Bring your favorite Irish dish or contact Sue Kirk for Irish recipe suggestions. We will have some popular Irish recipes available at coffee hour or contact Sue at sukirk@aol.com or 978-371-0176. (The Celebration of Young People's Social Action Work previously scheduled in conjunction with the pot luck will take place at a later date.)

Sven's Bridge Sunday March 25 10:30: The Spring Pageant this year will be a dramatization of a charming children's book *Sven's Bridge* by Anita Lobel. The story is set over a hundred years ago in Sweden, so we will be using old fashioned country clothing with aprons and bonnets for the girls and vests and rolled up pants for the boys. We need to make some cardboard props of bridges and ships, so we are looking for large boxes or cardboard. Do you have any? Active work on this Spring Pageant will begin in early March. Please contact Alison Saylor (978) 369-1809 saylorfarm@comcast.net with any questions, suggestions or offers to help with this project.