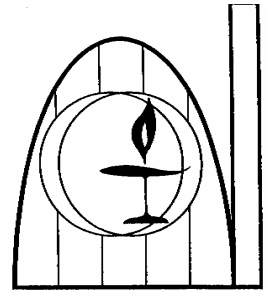


the UNIVERSALIST



Murray Unitarian Universalist Church
505 North Main Street, Attleboro, Massachusetts 02703

Volume 44

January 14, 2007

Issue 9

Worship and Church School 10:00 AM
Church Office Hours
Office hrs. Mon. – Fri. 8:30 AM– 12:30 PM
Phone: 508 222-0505
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Email: murray.ch@verizon.net
Website: murrayuuchurch.org

Minister ----- The Rev. Sandra D. Fitz-Henry
Moderator ----- Janet Richardi
Director of Music ----- Dennis E. Ferguson
Director of Religious Education ----- Nan Loggains
Administrative Assistant ----- Rosalie Gordon
Sexton ----- Larry Reilly

WORSHIP SERVICES

- 1/14/07 “Change”
The Rev. Sandra D. Fitz-Henry
Guest at Your Table
- 1/21/07 “Beyond Belief: Finding
away back, or forward, to
religious experience”
Dr. David Wulff,
Guest Speaker
- 1/28/07 “The Spirit of Jazz”
Religious Svcs. Com. &
Murray Music Com.
- 2/4/07 “Who Do I Call When I Die?”
The Rev. Richelle C. Russell,
Guest Minister

FROM THE MINISTER

“Our life is a journey. We are always ‘on the road,’” writes Joyce Rupp. And as old as this image is – of life as a journey – there is something essential that it expresses. There are times when the “travel” is smooth, times when it is bumpy. There are times we encounter roadblocks and detours, or dead ends; times of feeling stuck or lost, or as though we were moving backward. There are times we ignore a dead end or road closed sign and still drive on that road thinking that we can somehow get through! We can get stuck in old destructive behaviors, negative patterns, or abusive situations. We try to keep these old behaviors and still move on in life, even though they prove to be dead ends and closed roads to growth.

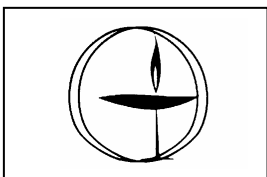
January is often a time in which many people do an inner inventory, taking stock of where they are and where they would like to be. How might we align ourselves more closely with our deepest longings? How do our longings and strengths and the world’s great needs intersect? ”

January is a good time to pause, to clear our vision, to take stock of our resources, and to refresh our dreams as we set out once more on the journey that is ours.

We may feel stuck in a rut, facing a dead end, or caught up in a very ordinary pattern of life.

Taking an inner inventory we might ask: “Have our spiritual suitcases worn thin with all the clutter we’ve stuffed into them along the way? What kind of nourishment will we provide for ourselves as we travel? Do we settle for only junk food for our minds and hearts?” Can we risk taking a new road, or a back road, an unfamiliar one, where hidden or unknown beauty might be found?

Sometimes when we pause to look deeper, we can often see that many people and events called us to growth. One of the great things about being part of Murray Church is being among a religious community of people who are fellow travelers. This Community is a wonderful “terra firma” in which to try out a different path. We set forth, then, in the company of those who covenant to walk together in the spirit of peace, to speak the truth in love and to help one another. It is part of how we support one another in growing and changing. In the company of kindred spirits, risking change is a present possibility.



OUR MISSION STATEMENT

We are an active congregation who come together in fellowship to maintain an environment that promotes spiritual growth for individuals and families and affirms diversity of belief.

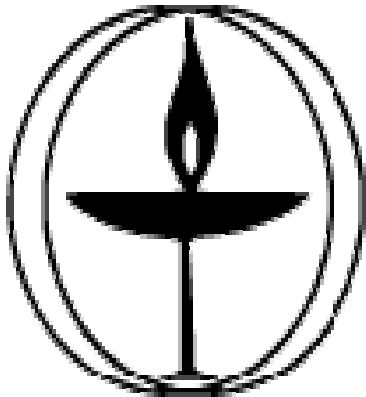
We reach out in a caring way within our church and beyond with a commitment to build a more loving community.

Next Universalist deadline – Jan. 21st.

We are living in a time of great uncertainty. Issues around the war in Iraq, and the possibilities (probabilities) of a “new” plan or “surge” are spoken of. It is a painful time; it is an anxious time; it is also a time of promise as more and more people engage with these complex questions of warmaking and peacemaking, and speak out.

These are complex issues. And they affect us all. “*We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.*” Those are the words of The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., whose birthday we celebrate this month. Dr. King deeply understood the simple truth that violence begets violence. As we begin 2007 together in community, may we each find ways to be peacemakers in our world.

Sandra



TIME AWAY

In September the Board of Governors of Murray Church voted to give Sandra some time-off in January of 2007. The reason for this is that she was unable to take her vacation /study leave time during the summer, as customary, due to the number of memorial services that occurred. She will be on leave, from January 15 – Feb 2.

Sunday services are already planned for this period. Ministerial coverage for this period has been arranged. Both Janet Richardi, Moderator, and Rosalie Gordon, Administrative Assistant will know how to reach Sandra.

FROM THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION DIRECTOR

“Doubt is part of all religion. All the religious thinkers were doubters.”

Issac Bashevis Singer

The next Murray Night is one of the most popular events of the church year—the Indoor **Drive-In Movie Night on Saturday evening, January 20th** in the Unity Room. We will be showing the Pixar animated film, *Cars*. *Cars* is rated G and is suitable for children (and adults) of all ages. The fun begins at 6:30 sharp. Be sure to arrive a few minutes early to select the best “car.” Bring along pillows and sleeping bags. Children are welcome to wear pajamas. Refreshments will be served. There will also be a parents’ room next door in the Purple Chat Room. Of course, parents will need to share in the responsibility of supervising the children during the event.

February’s Murray Night will be our first ever Mardi Gras on February 17th. Stay tuned for more details.

The Religious Services Committee will be presenting an **intergenerational jazz service on January 31st**. Children in first grade and above will remain in the sanctuary for the entire fun-filled service. Preschoolers, kindergartners, and children who are feeling antsy will have a classroom available for quiet play.

The Teen Book will be discussing *Catcher in the Rye* during their next meeting on Tuesday evening, February 6th. In addition, the First Sunday Book-and-Lunch Bunch will discuss *Under the Banner of Heaven* after church on February 4th. Philosophers’ Café, a discussion group for teens, will resume on Thursday evening, January 18th at seven o’clock in the Unity Room.

Ron Bernier has served as a youth group advisor for the past five years. He will be stepping down at the end of the current church year. He has enjoyed working with the youth group, but he will be embarking on a new adventure in about eight months—marriage. **The teens of Murray Church will need two dynamic adults to lead the youth group next fall.** It isn’t the easiest volunteer position at Murray Church, but it is certainly one of the most rewarding. You do not need vast experience, but you do need to have been active at Murray Church for at least one year.

Children are encouraged to have easy access to their coats during the winter months. Occasionally, classes go outside for a nature walk or play an outdoor game or even make snow angels (that is, if the snow ever arrives). Please be sure that your children take their coats to class or hang them in the RE wing.

If you are not yet receiving monthly Religious Education updates via e-mail (the only way they are sent) and you would like to receive them, please contact me to be added to the group list. This group list serves to provide information to parents and guardians about upcoming RE events and last minute changes.

Nan Loggains, DRE



Remember,

TURN TO CHANNEL 10 FOR ANY MURRAY CHURCH CLOSINGS DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER

A NEW YEAR GREETING FROM

ABIGAIL STOCKMAN

A greeting of hope and peace to you all in the New Year!

***MAY PEACE be YOURS
DURING THIS SEASON
OF HOPE.***

I remain grateful to Murray for a wonderful internship year – especially when I am called upon to share viable and strong examples of organization, leadership, ministry and faithful community experiences with the UU Fellowship of Northern Westchester, NY where I currently serve as Interim Minister.

It is wonderful to receive your newsletter and learn about all that is happening there.

Blessings, Abigail



MURRAY SOUP SALES

Hungry? Busy? Need Soup?

Our 3rd soup sale of the year will be taking place on **Sunday, Feb. 4th** during coffee hour. Stop by and enjoy some delicious hot soup. Buyers needed! We will have some tasty choices.

Please call Cynthia Eddy or Peggy Dixon if you'd like to make soup for a future Soup Sale.

Cooks generally prepare 3-4 quarts of their specialty. Containers are provided.

“BEYOND BELIEF” -SERMON AT MURRAY - JAN 21st.

Dr. David Wulff will conduct the Jan. 21st Service in conjunction with the Religious Services Committee. The entire title of the sermon is “Beyond Belief, Finding a Way Back, or Forward, to religious experience.

Dr. Wulff is a Professor of Psychology at Wheaton College and holds an honorary Doctor of Theology degree from the University of Lund, Sweden. He is the author of *Psychology of Religion: Classic and Contemporary*.



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SERVICE COMMITTEE

GUEST AT YOUR TABLE SUPPORTS UU SERVICE COMMITTEE

We can welcome the spirit of GUEST AT YOUR TABLE any time of year. Especially now.

- You might be at Murray when a woman and her three kids collect a bag full of groceries from our food pantry. Perhaps the father of the family is no longer around. Maybe the mother has a part-time job, and she has not had a raise in 10 years....The UUSC is hard at work to support a national effort to raise the hourly minimum wage from \$5.15, where it has been stuck for a decade. A raise would help.
- Or it could be that you felt the intense vibrations across the globe on the day after Christmas this year. In southeast Asia a multitude of eight countries that were battered by a devastating tsunami celebrated their survival so far and also honored their dead. Ceremonies were everywhere. Exactly two years ago--on the day after Christmas--entire villages were swept away. The UUSC and UUA raised \$2 million to help...Today the UUSC is still partnering with a group called Permata in Aceh, Indonesia, the

epicenter of the disaster. In Aceh, two-thirds of the destroyed homes have been rebuilt.

- Possibly you sensed the wrapt silence a few weeks before Christmas when two young men spoke from the pulpit at First Unitarian Church in Providence. Mohamed Igradi and Abu Asal had been captured and tortured in Darfur, in the first genocide of the 21st century. They and their stories mesmerized the congregation...The UUSC joined with hundreds of other faith groups to form SAVE DARFUR. Increasing support has formed to help increase pressure on the U.S. government to help stop a slaughter that is now engulfing much of central Africa.

MORE SUPPORT

- "Be the Light" was the theme of one of the UUSC holiday cards Murray members purchased this year. Being the light is not a bad thing to strive for. Our allotment of cards, designed by winners in a Service Committee contest, sold out in short order. Even so, we raised nearly \$300. A great starter.
- The Clara Barton Guild at Murray donated a major monetary gift to benefit the UUSC this fiscal year. The gift was put to work immediately; much appreciated.
- **GUEST AT YOUR TABLE** is a primary source of funds to keep the work of the UUSC going and growing. As we launch the program at Murray for 2007, GAYT boxes will be distributed. By keeping a box near your family table, and filling it with coins or checks, you can be the light for those being engulfed by darkness. You can also put a check, made out to UUSC, in the collection plate at any time.
- Becoming a member—or renewing your membership—in UUSC is also vital. On the bottom of the GAYT boxes, the variety of membership categories are spelled out:

- | | |
|----------------------|------|
| • General Membership | \$40 |
| • Senior (65+) | \$20 |
| • Student/Youth | \$10 |
| • Dual Membership | \$75 |

Many Murray members who join UUSC write checks way beyond the suggested membership amounts. For this, the Service Committee is extremely grateful. As a benefit of membership, everyone also receives a copy of "Rights Now," an excellent UUSC magazine, published three times a year. The stated goal of the magazine is "working to advance justice throughout the world."

—Nancy Doyle, UU Service Committee –Murray Representative

Food Pantry - Current needs:

Cereals, canned fruits, teas, coffee (1 lb cans), facial tissue and toilet paper.

Sue Kline, Food Pantry Co-coordinator

WANTED FLOWER PEOPLE

On most Sundays as you enter the sanctuary for our Sunday service, you undoubtedly notice the lovely floral arrangements on the chancel table. These flowers are usually given in memory of loved ones or to celebrate a special event. Some people choose to provide flowers for a particular Sunday on an annual basis. These people are contacted each year to see if they wish to continue this practice. I am looking for more people to do flowers on such an annual basis. There are Sundays available during various months of the church year (Sept – June). Right now I have some open Sundays. If you are interested in providing flowers, please contact me for complete details.

Irene Yutkins

GUS PEARSON SENDS this poem and warm greetings to share with all his Murray family and friends.

*One realizes that warmth is fleeting.
that human existence is fleeting.
that love is fleeting.
that human culture is fleeting
In terms of geologic time.*

*Our experience on this planet
Is in the blink of an eye.
To realize this, to be able to be open to warmth
when it comes to us,
is the essence of our being.*

Will Lyman

HONORING GIFTS

IF YOU WISH TO HONOR SOMEONE OR A SPECIAL OCCASION – YOU MAY NOW MAKE A SPECIAL DONATION TO MURRAY CHURCH.

If you'd like to publicly mark an anniversary, a special event, memorial date, birthday, with a donation to our church, you'd fill out an Honoring Gift Form (available in the office) and turn it into the office with your check attached. Later, the honoree and reason for your tribute will be listed in the newsletter.

Gifts of any amount are welcome. Is there someone you'd like to honor in this way? Please let us know.

Additional forms are available in the Church office.

**INNERHYTHM RHYTHM ROOM GROUP
LED BY RICH MORIN
PERFORMANCE AT MURRAY – SAT., JAN 27TH AT
7:00 PM. –Suggested donation –Adults \$5 groups of
two or more - \$10./group.**

A group of percussion instrumentalists lead by Rick Morin, a local percussionist who has led The Rhythm Room in many exciting performances locally including the Relay of Life and other events throughout New England. They will be performing music from a variety of modern and ethnic styles.

An inter-active concert for all age groups. Please come and enjoy an exciting evening with us.



FUNDRAISING –MURRAY BUS TRIPS

We have two great Casino trips planned -fun filled excursions for Murray Members and friends and we sure hope you'll join us. Relax and take the bus; have a fun-filled time with your Murray family. Part of the money comes back to Murray. Try your luck, have some fun & benefit Murray at the same time.

FOXWOODS TRIP – SAT. –MARCH 3RD.

ONLY \$29.00 PER PERSON – PACKAGE INCLUDES

- Round trip bus trip from Murray Church.
- \$10 food voucher & \$20 keno

8:45 AM departure from Murray and return by 4:30 PM.
(Casino time will be 10:00 AM till 3:00 PM)

If you'd like to join us: contact Brett (there is a 35 person minimum for this trip-invite a friend)

HORIZONS EDGE CASINO BOAT TRIP-Lynn, MA.

SAT., MAY 19TH. - Only \$39.00 per person.

Includes relaxing drive & casino boat ocean cruise, buffet luncheon and entertainment. Leaves Murray at 9:00 AM and returns at 6 or 6:30 PM.

Contact Brett Capone to reserve your seat for either or both trips.

CIRCLE OF SPIRITS

The Circle of Spirits will be meeting on January 19th. At 7PM in the Youth Group Room. Everyone is welcomed. Guest speakers are welcomed and encouraged to speak on a subject, or perform a ritual. Questions? Contact moderators, Jessica Brien or Claudia Cruz-Teixera at our website, CircleofSpirits@gmail.com. There is also a sign-up sheet at Coffee Hour for anyone who is interested in joining us.



MUSIC CORNER

Our Advent/Christmas season turned out to be one of the most interesting, as well as thrilling, of recent years. The Low Voices of the Church sang in Latin for the first time and made a powerful presentation to open the season. Quartetto Sine Nomine provided some old and new music on the 10th of Dec. The Choir gave us a wonderful reading of "Carol of the Bells" on the 17th and an expressive rendition of the Praetorius piece, "Lo, How a Rose" on the morning of Christmas Eve.

That night we were fortunate to have Allison MacDonald (clarinet), Mitchell Negus (clarinet) and Arva Ferguson (cello) to provide ensemble, replacing our brass ensemble at the last moment. We also benefited from the duo of Dwight Hardin (bass recorder) and Linda Saxton (cello), as well as the Clark Adler trio and the Murray Musicians recorder quartet. Thanks to all for making the holidays so memorable through your musical talent and dedication!

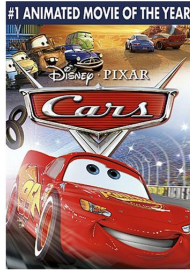
Dennis Ferguson, Director of Music

FAMILY NETWORK –HOME VISITING PROGRAM

Are you a parent of a child birth to three years? Do you live in Attleboro? Have you heard of the **FAMILY NETWORK**?

We have openings in our Parents as Teachers program. This monthly home visiting program addresses your child's development and answers your parenting questions. The Family Network also offers weekly playgroups, parenting workshops, fun family activities, a lending library and a monthly newsletter. This **FREE** program is open to **ALL** Attleboro residents!

To learn more call 508 226-2883 or visit our website www.attleboropublicschools.com and click on Project Connect Family Network link.

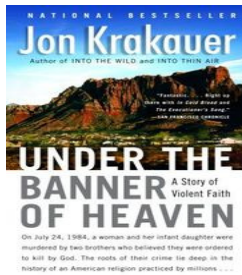


MURRAY CHURCH INDOOR DRIVE-IN MOVIE

A fun-filled evening – come & laugh with us
Saturday, January 20th

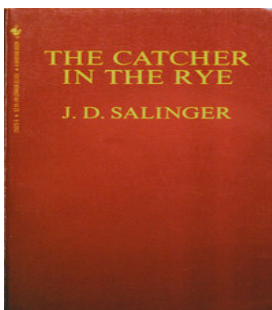
6:30 p.m. in the Unity Room

FIRST SUNDAY BOOK-AND-LUNCH BUNCH



Is the book selection for the First Sunday Book Bunch. It is written by Jon Krakauer, who has written about “*lives conducted on the outer limits. He now shifts his focus from extremes of physical adventure to extremes of religious belief within our own borders, taking readers inside isolated American communities where some 40,000 Mormon Fundamentalists still practice polygamy...*” In the process he raises provocative questions about the nature of religious belief. Join us in the John Murray Room on Sunday, February 4, 11:45 – 1:15, for discussion of this fascinating book (available in paperback). A light lunch will be served. If you need child care please let us know by January 21st.

TEEN BOOK GROUP – FEB. 6TH 7:00 PM in the Unity Room



Please scroll down to the next page to view our Monthly Calendar of current activities and events...

JANUARY 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Jan. 14 9:00 AM Choir Practice 10:00 AM Worship & Church School 7:30 PM AIAnon –FH*	15 MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY (OFF. CLOSED) 8:00 AM – 4 PM Markman –FH* Staff Training 7:30 PM Meditation - JM 8:00 PM Pathways –FH*	16 7:15 PM D&D's JM	17 1:30 PM GoldDusters Penny Social –FH* Wrentham Dev. Center Dance FH* 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM	18 7:00 PM Philosophers' Café – YGR 7:30 PM Choir – Sanc. 7:45 PM Miracles* FH	19 7:00 PM Circle of Spirits YGR 7:00 PM Healing Resources -JM	20 9:30 – 1:00 Sanct. –DF 6:30 – 8:00 PM Drive In Movie Night UR
21 9:00 AM Choir Practice/Sanc. 10:00 AM Worship Service with Dr. David Wulff & Church School 7:30 PM AIAnon –FH*	22 7:00 PM Canvass – UR 7:00 PM Knitting Group – YGR 7:30 Meditation – JM 8:00 PM Pathways –FH*	23 7:00 PM Rel. Svcs. Com JM	24 10 AM Small Group Ministry - JM 7:00 PM Property Com. –YGR 7:30 PM BOT JM	25 7:30 PM Choir 7:45 PM Miracles FH*	26 7:00 PM Circle of Spirits YGR	27 9:30AM-1 pm D.F. Sanct. FOOD'N FRIENDS SOUP KITCHEN 6:00 PM INNERHYTH CONCERT Murray Church
28 Universalist deadline 9:00 AM Choir Practice 10:00 AM Worship & Church School 7:30 PM AI Anon –FH*	29 7:30 Meditation - JM 8:00 PM Pathways-FH	30	31	Feb. 1 7:00 PM Philosophers' Café - YGR 7:30 PM Choir 7:45 PM Miracles –FH*	2 -----	3 10:00 AM Music Com. JM

Our next Universalist deadline is January 21st. – Late articles will be put into the following newsletter.

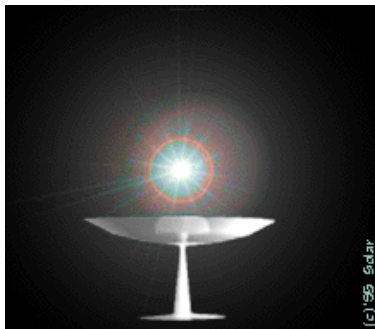
Abbreviation Codes

* = non-church activity – renter; RE = Religious Education; BCD = Ballou Channing District; UUA = Unitarian Universalist Association; JM = John Murray Room; FH = Fellowship Hall; UR = Unity Room; YGR = Youth Group Room; N = Nursery; HR = Historical Room; Office = Church Office; Study = Minister's Office; Sanc = Sanctuary

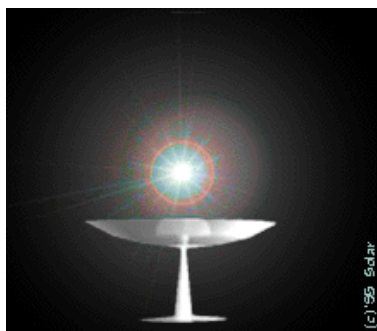
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BULLETIN BOARD



JAN 15th – MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY (office closed)

JAN. 20th – 6:30 PM -Drive In Movie Night - UR
“Cars” –A fun filled evening

JAN 21st. SUNDAY SERVICE -“BEYOND BELIEF. . .”
with Dr. David Wulff

JAN 27TH – 7:00 PM
VOCAL & Percussion Concert-Murray Church
with Rick Morin & the Rhythm Room

FEB. 4TH – 11:45 AM to 1:15 PM –JM Room
First Sunday Book and Lunch Bunch
***Under the Banner of Heaven* –Jon Krakauer**

FEB. 6TH – 7:00 PM – UR
TEEN BOOK GROUP
The Catcher in the Rye