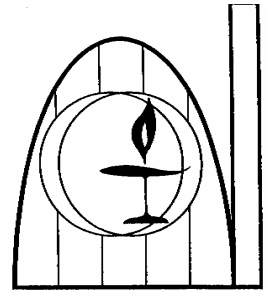


the UNIVERSALIST



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

Volume 44

January 28, 2007

Issue 10

Worship and Church School 10:00 AM
Church Office Hours
Office hrs. Mon. – Fri. 8:30 AM– 12:30 PM
Phone: 508 222-0505
Fax: 508 222-2859
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

- 1/28/07 “The Spirit of Jazz”
Religious Svcs. Com. &
Murray Music Com.
“Intergenerational Jazz Service”
- 2/4/07 “Who Do I Call When I Die?”
The Rev. Richelle C. Russell,
Guest Minister
- 2/11/07 “The Wildness of Nature”
The Rev. Sandra D. Fitz-Henry
- 2/18/07 “Transition”
Religious Services Committee

FROM THE MODERATOR

A Word from Your Moderator.....

Your gifts – whatever you discover them to be – can be used to bless or curse the world. The mind’s power, the strength of the hands, the reaches of the heart, the gift of speaking, listening, imagining, seeing, waiting, any of these can serve. You must answer this question: What will you do with your gifts? Choose to bless the world.

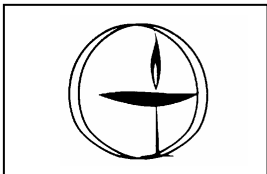
*The Rev. Dr. Rebecca Parker
President, Starr King School for the Ministry*

Back in December, Rev. Sandra asked me if I could write an article for the Universalist during her short leave in January. Of course, I said “sure, no problem” and here it is time to write that article. The above quote from the Rev. Dr. Parker is one that I have found inspiring for several years now. It has called me to action on several occasions at Murray, more recently when I agreed to become your Moderator.

As Moderator my job is to provide leadership to the work of the church, to ensure that the mission is implemented through the various committees’ work and that decisions made maintain the values and vision of Murray Unitarian Universalist Church. It truly is an ‘awe-inspiring’ task. And the first few months at this job have been just that – many challenges, but the gifts, your gifts, have far outweighed those challenges – totally ‘awe-inspiring’!

As we move toward the end of this fiscal year, I thought it would be appropriate in this space to give you a preview, if you will, of some of the work that is ahead for all of us at Murray. Elsewhere in the Universalist you will find an article from the Vice Moderator, Donna Palmer, which gives you an overview of the work that your Board of Governors has accomplished to date.

So what’s on the horizon? As some of you know in September the Board of Governors, Board of Trustees, Deacon and Deaconesses and past Moderators participated in a retreat, the outcome of which was a Strategic Plan to be focused on over the next two to three years. Due to the challenges of the fall this work and how it will proceed did not get started, however we are scheduled to begin the end of January. In addition to looking at the goals and action steps that came out of the retreat, the steering committee will be identifying plans of action that fall into one, two and three years. This process will need the work and energy of all of us here at Murray. As we form task groups to look at



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.

The next Universalist deadline is Feb. 4th. – Late articles will appear in the following newsletter.

how we communicate, how the property is maintained, how we promote social justice, or how we ensure the continued growth of the church, we will need everyone's help. Expect to hear more about the strategic plan and how you can get involved in the upcoming months.

The Board of Governors is in the process of looking at the financial picture and developing a budget for the upcoming fiscal year. This is where we can very literally use your gifts – your financial gifts. As many of you know the board formed an ad hoc task group, the Committee for a Sustainable Future (CSF), back in September that has spent much time and energy looking at ways to educate the congregation and turn around the financial picture here at Murray. You will also find an article, again from Donna Palmer, this time as a member of the CSF, in this newsletter.

In February 1957, a small group of Unitarian Universalists from Attleboro walked down Main St. to lay the cornerstone of the building that was to become the new Murray Unitarian Universalist Church. Not having the funds to build a traditional church with a spire, the members at that time, decided to have a Gothic Quonset Hut styled building erected. The building has served the congregation well and will be fifty years old in December. That group of Murray members, some still active today, shared their 'gifts' – their 'gifts' of vision, their 'gifts' of labor, their 'gifts' of money, and most important their 'gifts' of love. Over the next few months and into the fall of 2007, expect to hear more about our 50th year celebration.

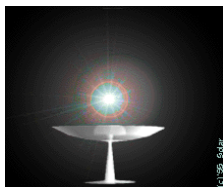
In my opinion, one of the deepest principles that unites us as Murray Unitarian Universalist Church is our belief in possibilities – possibilities of social justice, possibilities of growth, possibilities of better communication, possibilities of meeting our financial goals, possibilities of maintaining our historic 'Gothic Quonset Hut'. Each of these possibilities requires us as individuals to share our 'gifts'. By sharing our 'gifts' we walk together in faith and courage as a living model of good human relationships - working, creating, and disagreeing (occasionally) as we move toward the our 50th year and look at the possibilities.

Only you can answer this question: What will **you** do with your gifts? My hope is that you choose to bless Murray Unitarian Universalist Church.

Continuing to share my gifts,

Janet

Janet Richardi
Moderator



FROM THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION DIRECTOR

"If we are to respect others' religions as we would have them to respect our own, a friendly study of the world's religion is a sacred duty."

Mahatma Gandhi

The Murray Drive-In Movie was a huge success. More than sixty people attended the screening of the animated film, *Cars* this past Saturday evening. Thank you to the Samuel family for providing the projector and equipment, the Beauchamp family for running the concession stand, and the Samuels, Beauchamps, and Bev Hall for "building" the "cars." Finally, thanks to everyone who helped to clean up including the children who removed their "cars" in record time.

February's Murray Night will be our first ever Mardi Gras party on February 17th. from 6:30 to 8 p.m. The party will include the construction of miniature floats,, mask making, games, and food. All are welcome.

The Religious Services Committee will be presenting an intergenerational jazz service on Sunday morning, 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.

What Would Buffy Do? An Examination of the Religion and Philosophy of Buffy the Vampire Slayer will be offered on four consecutive Wednesday evenings in February, beginning on February 7th. The sessions will be held in the John Murray Room from 7 to 9 p.m. This Religious Education offering is open to adults and high school aged youth. High schools students who wish to attend must have parental permission. Class size is limited. Sign-up today.

For those who have already asked (and for those who haven't) we will be offering Our Whole Lives (OWL) during the 2007-2008 church year. The class will be for young people who will be entering seventh through ninth grade in the fall.. I am usually willing to shift children up or down a grade in the regular Religious Education program, but our OWL program is not suitable for children below the seventh grade. Parent orientations will be offered in late March or April.

This is the time of year when children often feel cooped up. However, it is important for our Murray children to be reminded that it is unsafe to run indoors. During coffee hour, most of the adults are drinking hot beverages and we would hate for anyone to be burned. Also, children seem to bounce right back up when they fall down, but those of us over about twenty-five may not

bundle up and run and play outside on the playground during coffee hour.

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 so you can 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



MURRAY SOUP SALES

Hungry? Busy? Need Soup?

Our 3rd soup sale of the year will be taking place on next **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.

MARDI GRAS NIGHT

SATURDAY EVENING. - FEB. 17TH – FH

**You are invited to
Murray's First Ever –Mardi Gras Party!**
All are invited to come for an evening of fun, games, and creative mask making. Come and celebrate Mardi Gras with your Murray friends.

**Festivities - 6:30 to 8:00 PM
Fellowship Hall**

Creative Mask making & mini floats

FOOD AND FUN

Food Pantry - Current needs:

**Cereals, canned soups ,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 call me for complete details.

Irene Yutkins

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 is on leave through – 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



For Murray Church cancellations due to weather,

TURN TO CHANNEL 10



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SERVICE COMMITTEE

GUEST AT YOUR TABLE

On February 11, we will wrap up our Guest at Your Table presentations—all by Murray members, who shared their different perspectives of the work of the UU Service Committee.

Kudos to Sandra, Russ Negus, Donna Palmer, Bruce Field, Janet Richardi, Allison & John MacDonald, and Melanie Samuel.

Whatta cast. Terrific.

A SHOW OF SUPPORT

All contributions are welcome.

As Russ announced, it will be much easier for him and his family crew, who folded the entire 150 boxes, to record the contents if coins are converted to, and thus included into, the total check amount. Let's do it. And many thanks, Russ and crew.

There are plenty of places to return our contributions. Checks can be inside boxes and put into baskets at the back of the sanctuary. Or checks can be dropped into collection plates. They can be mailed to the church.

Right now the UUSC is calling to encourage contributions because most churches have finished their GAYT programs now. We like to keep a record here. So we prefer your giving be at Murray, and we send in the funds to UUSC. Feel free to let UUSC callers know you choose to give at Murray, if that is also your preference.

If you do choose to send directly to the UUSC, the address is on the bottom of the box: 130 Prospect St., Cambridge, MA 02139. Please specify your membership in Murray, though, so our church will be credited.

Either way, the good news is that UUSC membership begins at \$40 (or \$20 for seniors, and just \$10 for students and youth). Gifts of \$75 or more from a family or individual will be doubled through a matching grant.

Although we hope to finish gathering contributions by 2/11, we, of course, will be happy to receive them at any time. (continued next column)

NOT OVER YET

There's more! Our schedules didn't mesh so we agreed to get together in the spring.

Patricia Jones, the UUSC Manager of the Environmental Justice Program, will be returning from educating groups in Ecuador about critical water issues there. "Our challenge is to provide safe, affordable water to each person, and for future generations," she says, "by changing the way we think about water and our environment, and what we do with water."

Ms. Jones, an expert in international law, will give the sermon at Murray on April 29.

--Nancy Doyle, UUSC representative at Murray

LITERACY VOLUNTEERS TUTORS NEEDED:

The Literacy Center which is located at 80 North Main St., Attleboro announces tutor training classes.

Morning classes meet on Tuesdays from 9:30 AM to 12 noon on the following dates:
Feb. 6, 13, 20, 27 and March 6 and 13.

Evening training classes meet on Thursdays from 6:30 PM to 9 PM on the following dates:
Feb. 22, March 1, 8, and 15.

Once training is completed, volunteers are matched to an adult who wants to learn to read, improve his/her writing skills or math skills; prepare for GED, learn English as a 2nd language or obtain U.S. Citizenship. *For more information or to register, please call The Literacy Center at 508 226 3603.*

HONORING GIFTS RECEIVED

An honoring gift was given to Murray in memory of Alexander E. Ritter by Roberta Ritter.

Honoring gifts were also received in memory of Gail Rainey and Charlie Carpenter from a Murray member who wishes to remain anonymous.

We are grateful to the donors who chose to honor these people in such a meaningful way with these special gifts to Murray Church.

May you be blessed for your generosity and kindness.

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 unique way? Please let us know.

Additional forms are available in the Church office.

FUNDRAISING –MURRAY – CASINO 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 Capone. (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 26th. 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.

“Who Will You Call When you Die?”

Find out when The Rev. Richelle C. Russell will present a sermon called, “Who Do I Call When I Die?” at Murray Church on Sunday, February 4th. Rev. Russell, an active member of Murray Church is also a Unitarian Universalist minister and presently serves as a Spiritual Care Coordinator for Home & Hospice of Rhode Island. Please join us for this meaningful service.

News from the Ad Hoc Committee for a Sustainable Future

For the past several months our committee of six has been meeting individually with members and friends of Murray. We think these meetings have been informative and rewarding for all parties involved. Our goal as a committee is to raise funds to close our budget deficit for the fiscal year we are in now. We are pleased to report we have raised over \$13,000 as of this writing.

Simple math tells us that if each of us were to pledge an additional \$225. this year we would be able to close our budget gap. If this is something you are willing to do please telephone one of us on the committee. Although our goal remains to visit with each of you between now and May if you are able to increase your financial support we would be most interested in knowing it now.

There are so many ways we all give to our wonderful church. Your time and your many talents are appreciated and valued. We cannot continue to offer all we do if we are not financially supported as well. Please consider doing what you can and give from that place of generosity in your hearts.

The Ad Hoc Committee for A Sustainable Future

Lucia Field-Chairperson 508-384-9098

Donna Palmer 508-226-0672

Diane Jones 508-226-3184

Barbara Clark 508-222-6164

Jim Richardi 508-285-6078

Patrick Kenney 508-285-7749

NEWS FROM THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

The Board of Governors meets the second Tuesday of every month. It consists of seven Governors as well as the Moderator and Vice Moderator. The Clerk, Treasurer and Minister also attend. The Governors are of Property, Worship, Adult Activities, Religious Education, Finance, Trust Funds and Membership. The Moderator chairs the meeting, which always opens with a reading, chalice lighting and brief check-in. The minutes are reviewed from the last meeting and accepted. The Minister gives a report of activity during the previous month. The Treasurer also reads a report of financial information. Each Governor gives a brief report of activity within their particular discipline. *There is an open forum opportunity at 8 p.m. for anyone wishing to address the BOG who has spoken to the Moderator ahead of time.* This past fall we discussed many subjects. We began the year with an all day retreat to help us identify areas we would like to concentrate on. We are developing a strategic planning group. We have discussed financial matters and some new fundraising ideas. Our minutes are available in the church office and are also posted on the bulletin board.

Donna Palmer, Vice Moderator

NEW HOPE SEEKING VOLUNTEERS

The local Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Agency is looking for passionate and enthusiastic individuals to serve as volunteers with their agency.

Volunteer opportunities include:

- Hotline/Shelter Advocate
- Medical Advocate (on call)
- Legal Advocate
- Prevention Specialist

Volunteer requirements include a screening interview/application; CORI check, 18 years of age or older; must have own transportation and complete the New Hopes training program. More information at 508 226 4015 (Ext. 104)

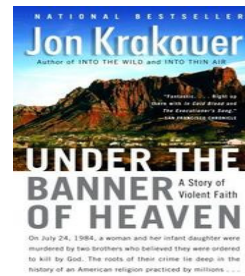
FAMILY NETWORK –HOME VISITING PROGRAM

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.


FIRST SUNDAY BOOK-AND-LUNCH BUNCH



Is the book selection for the First Sunday Book Bunch. 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 next Sunday, February 4, 11:45 – 1:15, for discussion of this fascinating book (available in paperback). A light lunch will be served.

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

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Jan. 28 9:00 AM Choir Practice 10:00 AM Worship & Church School 7:30 PM AIAnon –FH*	29 7:30 PM Meditation - JM 8:00 PM Pathways –FH*	30	31	Feb. 1 7:00 PM Philosophers' Café – YGR 7:30 PM Choir – Sanc. 7:30 Com. For a Sustainable Future - JM 7:45 PM Miracles* FH	2	3 9:30 – 1:00 Sanct. –DF 10:00 AM Music Com. JM
4 Universalist deadline 9:00 AM Choir Practice/Sanc. 10:00 AM Worship Service & Church School 11:00 SOUP SALE – UR (during coffee hr) 11:45 AM Book & Lunch Bunch –JM 7:30 PM AIAnon –FH*	5 1:30 PM GoldDusters Bd. Mtg. - FH* 7:30 Meditation – JM 8:00 PM Pathways –FH*	6 7:00 PM Membership Com. – JM 7:00 PM Teen Bk. Group UR “Catcher in the Rye”	7 7:00 PM Adult/& Highschool RE – “What Would Buffy the Vampire Slayer Do?” - UR	8 7:30 PM Choir 7:45 PM Miracles FH*	9	10 9:30AM-1 pm D.F. Sanct.
11 Universalist deadline 9:00 AM Choir Practice 10:00 AM Worship & Church School 11:15 AM Com. For Sustain. Future –JM 7:30 PM AI Anon –FH*	12 7:00 PM Knitting Group YGR 7:30 Meditation - JM 8:00 PM Pathways-FH	13 BOG MTG. -JM	14 Valentine's Day 10:00 AM Small Group Ministry – JM 7:00 PM Adult RE -JM 	15 7:00 PM Philosophers' Café - YGR 7:30 PM Choir 7:45 PM Miracles –FH*	16 7:00 PM Healing Resources - JM	17 10:00 AM Music Com. JM 6:30 PM – Mardi Gras Night –FH (mask making, games & food) –All are welcome!~

Our next Universalist deadline is Feb. 4th. – Late articles will appear in 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

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

Return Service Requested



Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit 103
Attleboro, MA
02703

BULLETIN BOARD



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

FEB. 4TH –MURRAY SOUP SALE (DURING COFFEE HR.)

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

Feb. 14th – Happy Valentines Day

Feb. 17th Mardi Gras Night at Murray

Feb. 19th President's Day (Office closed)

Feb. 24th Flag Day