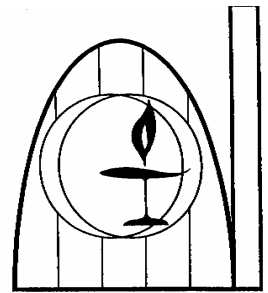


the UNIVERSALIST



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

Volume 44

February 11, 2007

Issue 11

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

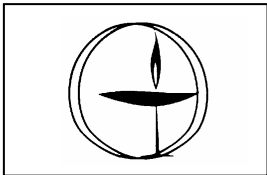
WORSHIP SERVICES

2/11/07 **“The Wildness of Nature”**
The Rev. Sandra D. Fitz-Henry
Please return you GAYT boxes today.

2/18/07 **“Transition”**
Marilyn Legg and the
Religious Services Committee

2/25/07 **“ The Question Box “**
The Rev. Sandra D. Fitz-Henry

3/4/07 **CANVASS SUNDAY**



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. 18thⁿ. – Late articles will appear in the following newsletter.

FROM THE MINISTER

“And who hasn’t leaned west, at least once? Caught in the longings for something far off, over a hill, around a bend – something just glimpsed in the falling sunlight of evening, and tinted gold ...” Sallie Tisdale

I have just returned from my January leave. It was restorative and invigorating. I am so grateful for the Board’s supporting this leave. And I return, glad to be home,

Part of my leave was spent on a road trip west. Yes, I know, a road trip in winter sounds a little strange, especially heading into the region that had just been blasted by a series of ice storms. But still, surely the ploughs, sand and salt trucks would have cleared it all up by the time we arrived? Not so! We encountered a very icy interstate, filled with traffic back-ups due to multiple overturned trucks. We inched forward. I recall noting the odometer and observing that though an hour had passed, the number hadn’t increased.

Being sensible folk, we decided that giving the sun another day or two to melt the situation, would be the better part of wisdom. And so we spent an unexpected day or two in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Being on a “road-trip,” without a tight schedule meant that the delay turned into an adventure. And maybe that’s why any trip when time has more latitude, and fewer fixed points, is so refreshing. There is spaciousness for the unexpected.

I have never been in Oklahoma City. This unexpected layover made time to visit the National Memorial and Museum there in the heart of the city. They mark the site of the bombing in April 1995 which destroyed the Federal Murrah Building and resulted in the deaths of 168 men, women and children. It is one of the most moving public memorials I have ever seen. I had seen pictures, of course, and though a picture is worth a thousand words, it does not compare to walking through this field of empty chairs, each with its name.

On Sunday morning we attended the Unitarian Universalist Church in Oklahoma City. It was wonderful to be part of their congregation for a morning. Because of the ice storms and perhaps expectation of cancellation, the minister announced that he hadn’t really written a sermon!! (Maybe I should try this!) But he proceeded to speak from notes and all was well. It is always a special pleasure to visit another UU church, elsewhere in the country, and to be reminded that “home,”

religiously speaking, can be found all across this land. And, of course, to be reminded as well of what makes Murray Church its uniquely wonderful religious home. I missed you!

“Traveling west,” is really a symbol for me. It stands for wide spaces and expanse of thought. It represents an invitation to awareness, to shaking off habits of mind -- assumptions, and any creeping rigidities of thought. It freshly reminds me of how I want to be as a Unitarian Universalist and as a human being, wherever I am. That is: open and on the look-out for the ways that silent or sub-conscious bias may lead to pre-judgment.

You don't actually have to travel west to engage in this kind of awareness! Our Unitarian Universalist faith and this religious community of Murray Church invite us at all times to *lean* toward living with vitality and fairness. Toward love and service. Seeking our truths in the spirit of love.

It is a joy to return home.

Sandra



QUESTIONS, QUESTIONS, QUESTIONS?

Look at the back of the Sanctuary and in the Unity room for THE QUESTION BOX. You are invited to write out a question you would like me to consider during “The Question Box” sermon. A question you’ve been hankering to ask...about Unitarian Universalism -- theology, UU history, or Murray’s history, or? PLEASE take this opportunity. If you’ve been wondering, you can be sure there are others who might be interested in hearing about it too.

You are also welcome to email me your question(s). sandra.fitzhenry@verizon.net. Please put QUESTION BOX in the subject space. I hope to hear from you! The last time we did this we had a wild Sunday snow storm, and gathered in the Unity Room. Let’s see what happens this time! Sandra

FROM THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION DIRECTOR

“Houston, we have a problem.”

~ John Swigert, Jr. of the Apollo 13 Crew

Behavior. At the beginning of the church year, we ask all of our parents and guardians of the young people who attend Murray Church to sign a form about our behavior guidelines for children. It is part of the autumn back-to-church process. Your form was probably reviewed and tossed in the recycle bin months ago.

It is much easier to parent children either before you have them or after yours are grown or at least past a particularly difficult developmental stage. However, I think all of us can agree on a few basics. We want all of our Murray children to be kind and respectful of others. Adults are needed to guide our young people in this process.

A few problems have emerged. Maybe if we talk with our children and we all help each other out, we can work together to make Murray Church an even better place.

It would be extremely helpful if children would not bring toys to church. No, I am not asking you to wrestle a special stuffed animal away from a toddler or preschooler. However, school age children should be able to spend an hour at church without Game Boys, dolls, action figures, and Legos. At the very least, toys should be kept in your car until after Sunday school. These items cause a significant amount of distraction during Youth Worship and Sunday School. It places our teachers and me in the position of having to be the “bad guys” every Sunday.

It is also important to remember that our teachers are all volunteers. We are indeed fortunate to have such a wonderful group of men and women who volunteer their time each week. We expect the children of Murray Church to behave in an appropriate manner during Sunday School. All of our teachers are parents so they’re accustomed to the occasional cranky or misbehaving child. Of course, this should be the rare exception. Please remind your children that good behavior is expected at church—during their time in the Sanctuary, during Youth Worship in the Unity Room, during the Sunday school period, and during Coffee Hour.

Finally, children should not be running around unsupervised after church. I have found children as young as three roaming the halls in the office wing and playing in the Sanctuary. Hide-and-seek and similar games should be played outside. Fellowship Hall is a big open space, but it is not a gymnasium. The Unity Room is not designed for running, wrestling, or playing catch. While all of the adults and teens share in the

responsibility of looking out for our Murray children, it is the responsibility of parents to ensure that their children are not engaging in mischief during coffee hour.

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. This is a family-friendly Mardi Gras party. All are welcome and you may bring a friend. Please bring along cereal boxes, shoe boxes, and empty toilet paper and paper towel rolls. These will be used for the creation of miniature Mardi Gras floats. Please bring a snack to share and a donation for the Murray Church food pantry.

If you are not yet receiving periodic 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, RE Director



MURRAY SOUP SALES

Hungry? Busy? Need Soup?

Our 4TH & final soup sale of the year will be taking place on next **Sunday, Feb. 25th** during coffee hour. Stop by and enjoy some delicious hot soup. Buyers needed! We will have some tasty choices.

Please call Laurie Lawes if you'd like to make soup for the last Soup Sale.

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

Food Pantry - Current needs:

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

Sue Kline, Food Pantry Co-coordinator

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

NOTE FROM ROGER-

There are times in ones life when being fortunate and thankful coincide. When people and friends become your lifeline to sanity. When saying "Thank You", never seems to be enough.

I felt that I was never alone in going through my Kidney Transplant. There were Doctors, Surgeons, Supporting Staff, Transplant Nurses, A Transplant Support Group, Family, Linda, Nancy, Jane, Michelle, The Nurses and Technicians at the Dialysis Center, The Religious Services Committee, My Writing Group, and most all "YOU"... The Kind People of Murray Unitarian Universalist Church. Your support, kind words and inspiration, left me without adequate responses most of the time. I was always overwhelmed by your sincere kindnesses.

Sunday is for Church and I'm glad to be able to return in only two months. Seems like longer in truth. So the word is that I can do what I always did, but in moderation. I can't tell you how happy I was to see familiar faces, your smiles and words of encouragement, left me feeling like I had never left. So it is to you that I say "Thank You". It's good to be back.

In Service and Love, Roger Boucher



For Murray Church cancellations due to weather,

TURN TO CHANNEL 10



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SERVICE COMMITTEE

GUEST AT YOUR TABLE

SUPPORT FOR UUSC

The wrap up of GUEST AT YOUR TABLE will be on Sunday, February 11. Presentations from Murray members have been fun and information-filled.

Checks have been streaming in. To avoid confusion with Murray accounts:

Checks should be made out to UUSC. Monies are sent directly to UUSC by UUSC reps without using Murray Church systems. Checks for this promotion should not be made to Murray.

All donations-- equal to or greater than the required amount of UUSC dues will be credited as UUSC membership dues.

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 above 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.

Thank you for your support and interest in this very worthwhile cause.

--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. 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

Honoring gifts were received by Murray Church in honor of Mr. Donald Jacobs' 80th birthday on Feb. 28th (by Shiela Jacobs, his daughter-in-law) and in honor of Ken McNeil's 78th birthday by Shiela Jacobs as well.

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

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.

We have enclosed a form with this edition of your Universalist for your convenience in making an "Honoring Gift".

Additional forms are also 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.

SIGN UP SHEETS & INFORMATION REGARDING THESE TWO TRIPS AT ENTRANCE TO CHURCH

CIRCLE OF SPIRITS

The Circle of Spirits will be meeting on Feb. 23. at 7PM in the Youth Group Room. Everyone is welcomed. Guest speakers are welcome and encouraged to speak on a subject, or perform a ritual. Questions? Contact moderators, Jessica Brien or Claudia Cruz-Teixeira at our website, CircleofSpirits@gmail.com.

There is also a sign-up sheet at Coffee Hour for anyone who is interested in joining us.

BCD EVENTS

Feb. – May – Mass Bay District “The Learning Congregation” (leadership development workshops)

Information on these valuable workshops at <http://www.mbdoua.org/LC/LC2007.html#Spirituality>

The Ballous Channing District Notice is always on our Denominational Issues Bulletin Board at Murray. Be sure to check out this valuable source of BCD news.

Feb. 23-24 NE Young Adult & Campus Ministry Feb. Leadership Retreat – Boston, MA Information & registration I-

http://www.connectuu.com/events.php?action=view&event_id=1084.



MUSIC CORNER

The spirit of jazz music has certainly left lingering memories in our minds. It was indeed fortunate and gratifying to be able to listen to the talents of so many musicians, as we traveled through the exotic instrumentation of flute, keyboards, double bass, drums, voice, choir, accordion, trumpet, six-string guitar and bass guitar. We have also had the pleasure of hearing Mary Whelan playing the organ on occasion and Leo Larson playing tin whistle during many of the youth exit spots.

We look forward to our Scott Joplin series in February, along with a healthy selection of African-American choral and instrumental pieces.

In March we anticipate many Bach pieces on the organ and on the piano (an instrument that he intensely disliked –sorry Johann). Around March and April, we hope to hear from some instrumentalists who have expressed an interest in playing here again.

Dennis Ferguson, Director of Music

**8TH ANNUAL MUSIC CONFERENCE
AT MURRAY UU CHURCH – MARCH 3, 2007**

Learning, networking and having fun with people who like music

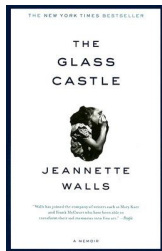
Murray will host a conference for music directors, choir members, worship and music committees, ministers, religious education directors and anyone interested in music in their church.

Early registration rec'd by Feb. 28th - \$25.
After Feb. 28 & at the door - \$30.
(includes lunch & the choral sample packet)

This conference will be presented by The NE UU Musicians Network. For additional information, contact Helene Gersuny at 401 789 0996 or gersu@uri.edu.

FIRST SUNDAY BOOK-AND-LUNCH BUNCH

The Glass Castle “is a remarkable memoir of resilience and redemption, and a revelatory look into a family at once deeply dysfunctional and uniquely vibrant.” This short book is a compelling read. With humor and poignancy, Jeanette Walls describes a life that, despite difficulty, fostered imagination and resiliency.



Please join us on March 4th – 11:45 AM to 1:15 PM, for discussion and a light lunch. All are welcome. If you would like child care, please let the office know by Feb. 18th (508 222 0505). Sandra and Nan

The Teen Book Group of Murray will meet on Tues. evening, March 6th –7 to 8:30 PM in the Unity Room. The book we'll be discussing is *The Haunting of Alazabel Gray* by Chris Wooding.

NEWS FROM THE CARING COMMITTEE

ANOTHER “TREASURE” HONORED

On November 2, 2006 Joan Macaulay joined the Caring Committee honorees to be honored as one of the long-time members of our church community. Over a light lunch Joan related how she came to this country from England, and eventually found Murray Church, where she has shared so many talents. Questions were freely

answered, photos taken, with laughter and appreciation shared by all.

Claudia Binns & Joann Oberbeck, Co-Chairs.




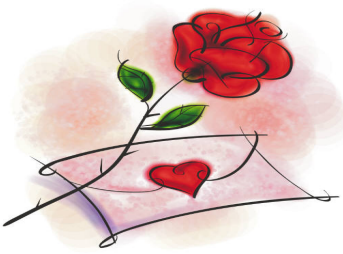
EASTER PLANTS

Think spring!! Would you believe that Easter (April 8) will be here soon. Start thinking if you want to put a spring plant on the chancel table for Easter.

Plant choices are tulips, daffodils, lilies, and hyacinths. Please call me at 508 226-3109 or see me at church.
Irene Yutkins

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

FEBRUARY 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Feb. 11 9:00 AM Choir Practice 10:00 AM Worship & Church School 11:45 AM Com. For Sustainable Future (CSF) – JM 7:30 PM AlAnon –FH*	12 6:30 PM-7:30 PM JM (private mtg.)* 7:00 PM Knitting Group-YGR 7:30 PM Meditation - JM 8:00 PM Pathways –FH*	13 7:15 PM BOG -JM	14 Happy Valentines Day  10:00 AM Small Group-JM 7:00 PM Adult RE 'What Would Buffy Do?'- JM	15 7:00 PM Philosophers' Café – YGR 7:30 PM Choir – Sanc. 7:30 Com. For a Sustainable Future –(CSF) JM 7:45 PM Miracles* FH	16 7:00 PM Healing Resources-JM	17 9:30 – 1:00 Sanct. –DF Private party (FH) afternoon 6:30 PM MARDI GRAS PARTY FH
18 Universalist deadline 9:00 AM Choir Practice/Sanc. 10:00 AM Worship Service & Church School 7:30 PM AlAnon –FH*	19 7:30 Meditation – JM 8:00 PM Pathways –FH*	20 8:30 AM – 3:00 PM –BCD – Ministers Mtg. (Sanc. & UR) 7:15 PM D&D's -JM	21 1:30 PM GoldDusters –FH* "Bingo" 7:00 PM Adult -RE "What Would Buffy Do?" - JM	22 7:30 PM Choir 7:45 PM Miracles FH*	23 7:00 PM Circle of Spirits - YGR	24 FOOD'N FRIENDS SOUP KITCHEN
25 9:00 AM Choir Practice 10:00 AM Worship & Church School 11:15 AM Com. For Sustain. Future –JM 7:30 PM Al Anon –FH*	26 7:00 PM Canvass –UR 7:00 PM Com. FSF – JM 7:00 PM Knitting Group YGR 7:30 Meditation - JM 8:00 PM Pathways-FH	27 7:00 PM Rel. Svcs. Com-JM 3:30 PM Caring Com. - JM	28 10:00 AM Small Group Ministry – JM 7:00 PM Adult RE -JM –"What Would Buffy Do?" 7:00 PM Property Mtg.			

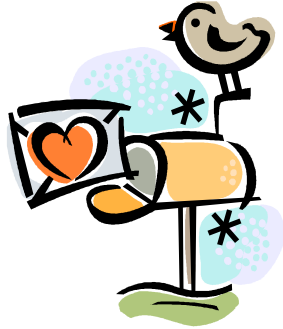
Abbreviation Codes

* = 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
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BULLETIN BOARD



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Feb. 14th – Happy Valentines Day

Feb. 17th Mardi Gras Night at Murray

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

Feb. 24th Flag Day