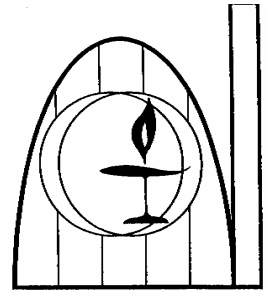


the UNIVERSALIST



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

Volume 44

March 1, 2007

Issue 12

Worship and Church School 10:00 AM
Church Office Hours
Office hrs. Mon. – Fri. 8:30 AM– 12:30 PM
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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

3/04/07 “Stewards of our Inheritance”
Committee for a Sustainable Future

3/11/07 “Turning the Kaleidoscope”
The Rev. Sandra D. Fitz-Henry
Daylight Savings Time begins

3/18/07 “Voices from the Past”
The Rev. Sandra D. Fitz-Henry

3/25/07 “Judith Sargent Murray” –
Forming a New Era in Female History
Bonnie Hurd Smith

FROM THE MINISTER

“Do not worry if you have built your castles in the air. They are where they should be. Now put foundations under them.” Henry David Thoreau

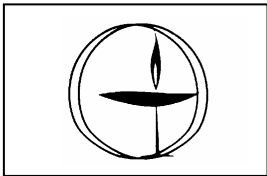
We are coming up on some important dates. I want to remind us all of the Anniversary Murray Unitarian Universalist Church will celebrate at the end of this month. Saturday, March 24, 2007 will mark precisely 50 years since a group of members and friends of Murray Universalist Church gathered on a day that looks, in the photographs, to have been a lot like the weather today. Bright and sunny, brisk, but not freezing. In the pictures men, women and children are wearing coats. Many of the women wear hats; as was the custom, in those “old” days, not very long ago. They stand on the uncleared lot amidst the dry waving high grass, reading together from an Order of service size paper.

They stand in a kind of semi circle around several men, one with a shovel. One, it appears, is leading a reading they are doing. Mr. Leonard Lamb, Moderator, and Mr. Lester W. Nerney, Chairman of the Building Committee are doing the ground breaking in the chancel area, surrounded by members of the Building and Standing Committees. Miss Frances Bottomley, represents the Congregation in the ceremony. Ruthie Clark, daughter of Betty and Richard Clark, representing the nursery and kindergarten (and chosen for perfect attendance!) dug in the kindergarten area and Virginia Halko, represented the church school (also chosen because of perfect attendance during the year).

I try to imagine what this must have felt like. In some ways this day was the culmination of years of planning and fundraising, of dreams and detours – the work of many people over a sustained period. Yes, it was a culmination. But it was also a beginning - of the next phase of realizing the dream they'd been nurturing and nudging into the reality. This was the very beginning of all that would happen on this spot of earth, where a new church would be built.

I stare at the faces of those in attendance. They look both happy and serious. I wonder about their hopes and dreams at the very beginning of this venture that came to be Murray Unitarian Universalist Church at 505 North Main Street. On this Birth Day, this Ground Breaking Ceremony, what were they imagining about life in their new church?

Whatever it was, the Unison Reading they spoke that day was surely a dedication of heart and mind. It read as follows:



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 March 11th. – Late articles will appear in the following newsletter.

**DON'T FORGET TO TURN YOUR
CLOCK BACK**

*We build upon God's earth a godly structure,
designed for worship, praise and prayer.*

*We build a Church; a Universalist Church that
believes in the ultimate conquest of Love.*

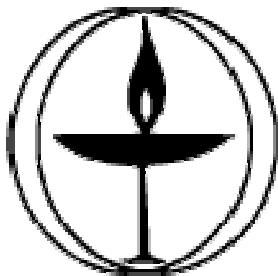
*Let untrammelled Truth be its doctrine and
unfenced Brotherhood its aim. Let Reason be its guide
and Prayer its Reason.*

*O God of all peoples, let this be a Church of all
souls. Be Thou our rod and our staff. O Thou who hast
so greatly blessed us, cause us to attempt to great
things in Thy name. Amen*

That's how it all began. We, today, are the inheritors of their dreams, the beneficiaries of their hard work and vision. Fifty years later many things have change – theologically and otherwise.

What will we be handing down to our children and grandchildren fifty years hence? Will our liberal religious home have been sustained and nurtured and our living tradition have grown and flourished under our stewardship? That is my dearest hope.

Faithfully yours,
Sandra



AN INCONVENIENT TRUTH

Mark your calendars for Wednesday, MARCH 14 for a showing of "AN INCONVENIENT TRUTH" here at Murray. Though you may already have seen it, this is an opportunity to view and discuss it with Murray members and friends. It will be a lively, maybe even inspiring evening. Everyone is welcome.

This movie will be the opening session for a three-part video and discussion series, meeting Wednesdays, 7:00-9:00, in the John Murray Room, March 14, 21 and 28. The sessions will be focused around Science and Religion, and "The Great Story."

Albert Einstein once wrote: Science without religion is lame. Religion without science is blind." Come and join the discussion that opens with "An Inconvenient Truth."
Sandra

FROM THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION DIRECTOR

"The beautiful thing about learning is that no one can take it away from you."
~ B.B. King

Our first ever Mardi Gras was a fun evening for all in attendance. In a tribute to our winter indoor beach parties of past years, the children even enjoyed a Mardi Gras limbo contest. Thank you to Claire Kenney for organizing the event and the Kenney family for setting up Fellowship Hall prior to the party. Thanks to everyone who stayed to clean up afterwards too.

The First Sunday Book-and-Lunch Bunch will hold its next book discussion after church on Sunday, March 4th from 11:45 to 1:15 in the John Murray Room. The group will be discussing *The Glass Castle* by Jeannette Walls. The group is open to adults and high school aged youth. A light lunch will be served.

The Teen Book Group has selected *The Haunting of Alaiabel Cray* by Chris Wooding for its March book discussion. The group will meet on Tuesday evening, March 6th from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in the Unity Room. All teens who have read the book are invited to join in the lively literary conversation.

The March Murray Night will be our annual Game Night on March 31st from 6:30 to 8 p.m. in the Unity Room. This is a fun-filled event for all ages. Bring along board games. Please bring a snack to share and a donation for the Murray Church food pantry.

A mandatory meeting for parents of young people who will be attending Our Whole Lives(OWL) next fall will take place after church on Sunday, March 25th at 11:30 in the Youth Group Room (Purple Chat Room). Parents who have attended the mandatory parents' meeting in the past need not attend again. However, for planning purposes, please let me know if your child will be attending OWL this coming fall. OWL will be offered to young people who will be entering grades seven through nine in September. We are fortunate to have Joe Beauvais and Leigh-Ann Larson teaching the class. Both instructors have been OWL trained and have taught OWL here at Murray Church.

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 e-mail list. This group list serves to provide information to parents and guardians about upcoming RE events and last minute changes. With the change to just one newsletter a month, please be sure to add your name to the group e-mail list to receive the latest news about the Religious Education program and family activities.

Nan Loggains, RE Director

THE JOYS AND CONCERNS OF RAISING TEENS

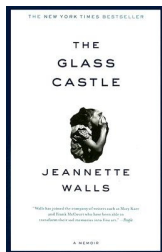
Contact Nan Loggains at 508 226 6262 or Barbara Clark at 508 222 6164 if you are interested in attending a discussion group focused on helping parents and guardians guide their children through the teen years.

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 Alai Isabel Gray* by Chris Wooding.

ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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, Jeannette 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 book selection for April 1st is "The Lovely Bones" by Alice Seabold. It's available in paperback.



JOYS AND CONCERNS

It was a joy to learn that Ben Legg, still teaching in Transylvania, is now part of a radio show that is broadcast far and wide. You are able to hear it over the Web. The address is www.unitarianradio.ro . Congratulations, Ben!

It was wonderful to hear that Phyllis Atkinson has come through her radiation treatments and eye surgeries with flying colors.

IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM THE CANVASS COMMITTEE FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

The Murray Church operating budget deficit and the resulting depletion of trust funds have persisted for the past 3 fiscal years. This is not a sustainable trend for the long term health of the church.

As stewards of Murray Church, we ask "What can we do as a church that will stimulate all of us to give more?" And often the answer is "I have an amount in my personal budget for charities, and I have several I like to support..." Please, as the upcoming canvass approaches, think of Murray Church not as one of many charities to which you contribute, but as your spiritual home and activity center. We all have many non-spiritual activities, some free, some requiring a use or membership fee, some having a specific pricetag. These may include fitness or golf club membership and use fees, vacations cruises, new truck or car, big screen TV, dining out . . . How important is Murray Church as part of your spiritual health, compared against your other activities? How does your financial contribution to Murray Church compare to these other expenses?

If Murray Church is just another charity, our future is uncertain. Most charities, unless you're a significant contributor, don't invite you to their events, and certainly don't invite you to vote on their leadership or budget. Your involvement is to just send money and someone else performs the work of the organization. At Murray, you're not just invited but encouraged and needed to participate in all the activities, to provide input regarding the direction of the church, to vote on the leadership and budget, and help nurture the health of the spiritual side of our church community.

If we were a club, we would probably set the membership fee at \$1000 for individuals and \$2000 for families. But we're not a club, we're a church. We don't want to discourage anyone from joining because they can't afford the dues. So, thankfully, some who can contribute more than the \$1000/\$2000, helping our revenues meet expenses. Please, if you are not yet pledging at the \$1000/\$2000 level, consider this level as a target for this canvass. If you're already over this level, we thank you for your continued strong support of Murray Church and ask you to consider if your financial health is such that you can consider an even more generous contribution.

The Canvass
Committee for a
Sustainable Future



For Murray Church cancellations due to weather,

TURN TO CHANNEL 10

**RELIGIOUS SERVICES COMMITTEE
ANNOUNCEMENT.**

On Sunday, March 25, 2007 when the Religious Services Committee has invited Bonnie Hurd Smith to join us for our Sunday morning worship service. The service is entitled "Judith Sargent Murray - Forming a New Era in Female History." Bonnie Hurd Smith is the founder of the **The Judith Sargent Murray Society** which was formed to honor the life work and legacy of Judith Sargent Murray as well as to bring her story into the present through research, publishing, speaking programs and outreach projects. Bonnie Hurd Smith has produced a number of publications on Judith Sargent Murray and is working on a multi-year project transcribing and publishing her letters.

HONORING GIFTS RECEIVED

An Honoring gift was received by Murray Church in memory of, Alma Beatrice Campbell Coakley, Janet's Richard's mother, from Bill & Peggy Dixon.

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 a unique way 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.

Special Honoring Gift Forms are always available in the Church office. You may request one at any time.



**Feb. 26th - MARCH 19TH - BIRTHDAYS)
Happy Birthday wishes go out to**

- 2/26 John Hourigan
- 2/27 Joan Macaulay
- Kristen Blackbird

MARCH

- 3/2 Gregory Gildea
- 3/4 Anna Seagrave
- Joan Buckler
- 3/5 Casey Blackbird
- Noah Grantham-Coogan
- 3/7 Stephen Medrano
- 3/8 Kathy Merck
- 3/9 Martin Pearson
- 3/11 Willa Hamant
- 3/11 Janet Plumb
- 3/12 Ingrid Hasselbaum
- 3/14 Evelyn Hunton
- 3/15 Staci MacDonald
- Jonathan Jacobs
- Sarah Parker
- 3/17 Carol Epstein
- 3/18 Meaghan Bordeleau
- Mary Rioux

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: March 6 and 13.

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

For more information or to register, please call The Literacy Center at 508 226 3603.

FUNDRAISING –MURRAY – CASINO BUS TRIPS

We have a great Casino trip on The Horizons Edge Casino Boat planned 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.

If you'd like to join us: contact Brett Capone, a member of Murray. (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 (at number or e-mail above) to reserve your seat for either or both trips.

SIGN UP SHEETS & INFORMATION REGARDING THIS TRIP AT ENTRANCE TO CHURCH

CIRCLE OF SPIRITS

The Circle of Spirits will be meeting on March 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-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.

BCD EVENTS

Murray Church is hosting the BCD Spring Conference/Annual Meeting which is scheduled for Sat., April 28th. The Theme is "The Great Story." The conference keynote address and workshops will explore the epic of evolution, the long tradition of Universalism of connection to and reverence of nature and native people's understanding of their relationship to the earth. Keynote speaker is Michael Doud, lecturer, author and minister.

Ballou Channing District Notices are always posted on our Denominational Issues Bulletin Board. Be sure to check out this valuable source of BCD news.

Food Pantry - Current needs:

Cereals, soups, canned fruits, teas, coffee (1 lb cans), facial tissue and toilet paper, pampers.
(some patrons need baby items)

Sue Kline, Food Pantry Co-coordinator



MUSIC CORNER

During February there was an emphasis on music of African-American origin in honor of National Black History Month. In order to continue uncovering the wealth of music of this important part of American culture, it will be integrated into the remainder of the year along with the myriad choices that our society's diverse nature offers.

We have an abundance of Bach during March (his birthday month). Johann Sebastian Bach is the foundational composer for all organists worldwide. He also remains one of the most important church music composers for other genres. We look forward to several instrumentalists during the month.

As you may notice, our choir attendance wavers between seven and fourteen. Travel and illness take their toll from time to time. If anyone has an urge to join the choir on a permanent basis or temporarily, you would be most welcome. Please see me for details.

Dennis Ferguson, Director of Music

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

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 on Saturday, March 3rd. Registration at 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 gerson@uri.edu.



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. Plants are \$15. each and deadline for ordering is 3/23.
Irene Yutkins

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

The Board of Deacons and Deaconesses is now accepting scholarship applications. Anyone seeking financial assistance to help meet expenses incurred while attending church related educational courses or other denominational affairs must submit a scholarship application no later than Tuesday, April 17, 2007.

All applications will be reviewed and considered by the D&D's at their regular meeting on April 17, 2007. Scholarship applications and guidelines are available in the church office and should be returned to the office or to Cassandra Hill. If you have any questions please call Cassandra or see any member of the D&D's.
Cassandra Hill

COMMUNITY VNA HOSPICE CARE

The Community VNA Hospice Care Group needs volunteers. The Hospice program provides support to the terminally ill and their families. Volunteers are an important part of this wonderful program.

Volunteer training is scheduled to begin April 10th and continue through May 8. Training takes place at their offices at 10 Emory St., in Attleboro.

If you're interested in volunteering please contact Carolyn Woodruff, Volunteer Coordinator at 508 222 0118 Ext. 1371. Pre-registration for the training is required.

MISS A SERVICE??

All of our services are taped. If you have missed service or would like a copy of one, leave a 90 minute tape in Rosalie's box with your name and the date of the service you are requesting. Rosalie will duplicate the tape for you & you'll be notified when it is ready.

YOUTH CAMPS, CONFERENCES, RE, VACATIONS, POSSIBLE SUMMER JOBS....

Cold, snowy winter is the perfect time for thinking about and planning summer vacations. The summer 2007 program booklet and brochures for Ferry Beach Camp and Conference Center are here! Check out the bulletin boards at church. Ferry Beach is on Saco Bay in southern Maine, near Old Orchard Beach and Portland; Camp Ellis is a 10-minute walk down the beach. Ferry Beach is located on 32 acres of oceanfront land with guest accommodations at the Quillen, an old Boston & Maine Railroad Hotel, and dormitory lodging at Underwood and Rowland Hall, as well as camping facilities in the Grove pinewoods. It's a fine place for singles, couples and families seeking vacation time, learning opportunities in a conference setting, or a stop-off place on a trip. **Early registration deadline is March 31.**

Dave Sumner, a seasoned Ferry Beacher is acting as volunteer "Booster" for "The Beach". He will be available with printed and personal information during several coffee hours for the next several weeks after church. You can reach Dave with questions. The Ferry Beach website is www.ferrybeach.org. Sign up early, some conferences fill up quickly.

CLARA BARTON SEMI-ANNUAL RUMMAGE SALE COMING SOON – April 13th & 14th. – 9:00 AM-1:00 PM

Please save all your gently worn used clothing and household items for our sale. You may leave them in Fellowship Hall. We ask that you mark your boxes or bags "Clara Barton Rummage Sale". If you need help carrying things in, please come during the sexton's working hours 6:30 AM through 10:30 AM. Thank you!

MARCH 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				March 1st 7:00 PM Philosophers' Café – YGR ' 7:30 PM Choir – Sanc. 7:45 PM Miracles* FH	2	3 UUMN/BCD SPRING CONFERENCE 8:30 AM – 2:30 PM
4 9:00 AM Choir Practice/Sanc. 10:00 AM Worship Service & Church School 11:45 AM Book & Lunch Bunch –JM 7:30 PM AIAnon –FH*	5 1:30 PM GoldDusters-FH* 7:15 RE Com-YGR 7:30 Meditation – JM 8:00 PM Pathways –FH*	6 7:00 PM Membership Com. –JM 7:00 PM Teen Bk. Group UR	7	8 6:00 PM Wedding Rehearsal Sanctuary 7:30 PM Choir 7:45 PM Miracles FH*	9 5:30 PM Wedding	10 Turn your clocks back tonight. Daylight savings begins 3/11.
11 <i>Universal Deadline</i> Daylight Savings begins. 9:00 AM Choir Practice 10:00 AM Worship & Church School 7:30 PM AI Anon –FH*	12 7:00 PM Knitting Group YGR- First Anniversary 7:30 Meditation - JM 8:00 PM Pathways- FH*	13 7:15 PM BOG --JM	14 10:00 AM Small Group Ministry – JM 7:00 pm Adult R.E. "An Inconvenient Truth" -JM	15 7:00 pm Philosopher's Café YGR 7:30 Choir 7:45 Miracles-FH*	16	17 <i>Happy St. Patricks Day</i>
18 9:00 AM Choir Practice 10:00 AM Worship & Church School 7:30 PM AI Anon-FH*	19 7:30 PM Meditation –JM 8:00 PM Pathways-FH*	20 7:15 PM D&D's –JM	21 1:30 PM GoldDusters-FH* (St. Patricks Day Dinner) 7:00 pm Adult R.E. "Science & Religion" -JM	22 7:30 PM Choir 7:45 PM Miracles- JM*	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 3:00 PM Concert (Marilynn Legg) Sanctuary 7:30 PM AI Anon-FH*	26 7:00 PM Knitting Group YGR 7:30 PM Meditation – JM 8:00 PM Pathways-FH*	27 7:00 PM Rel. Svcs. Com JM	28 10:00 AM Small Group-JM 7:00 PM Property Com.-FH 7:00 pm Adult R.E. "Science & Religion" -JM 7:30 PM BOT – UR	29 7:30 PM Choir 7:45 PM Miracles –JM*	30	31 Murray Night FH

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



Global Warming, everyone's problem

SAVE THE DATES

March 10th – Remember to turn your clocks back tonight.

March 11th – Daylight Savings begins.

March 14th – “An Inconvenient Truth” –(7:00 PM JM)

March 17th – HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY

March 21st. – FIRST DAY OF SPRING