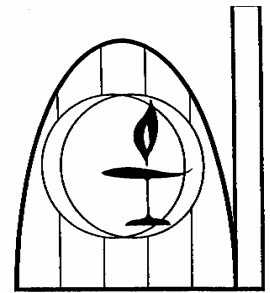


the UNIVERSALIST



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

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April 1, 2007

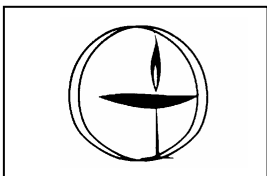
Issue 14

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

- 4/1/07 **“Fools for Life”**
 The Rev. Sandra D. Fitz-Henry
- 4/8/07 **EASTER SUNDAY**
 “Awakening: Housecleaning the Spirit”
 The Rev. Sandra D. Fitz-Henry
- 4/15/07 **“Poets and Scientists:**
 On Being Unsettled”
 The Rev. Sandra D. Fitz-Henry
- 4/22/07 **“Stories From Ferry Beach”**
 Craig Lentz & Rel. Svcs. Com.
- 4/29/07 **“Water Apartheid and the**
 Right to Water: Hope, Faith
 and Justice” Patricia A. Jones,
 Manager of Environmental
 Justice Programs, UUSC



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
April 8. – Late articles will appear in the following newsletter.

FROM THE MINISTER

“i who have died am alive again today...”

e.e. cummings

We’ve been hit by several surprise storms this March. After an almost snowless winter, the unexpected arrived and reminded us, once again, that there is unpredictability in our lives. After yesterday’s surprise, it is sunny and beautiful today. Spring has “officially” arrived now, and with the warmer sun, we can be (almost) sure that soon this latest snowfall will soon have melted into memory.

e.e.comings poem, a part of which is quoted above, expresses a moment of awakening after a period of “deadness” in his life. The deadness is not named. But it might be any of the kinds of things in our lives that prevent us from feeling alive. Things like fear or cowardice, lack of purpose. Things like the loneliness, grief and boredom that numb us to life. Things like old habits of thought, old patterns of behavior. “Deadness,” is the background out of which this poem emerges. As he breaks free from what has been in some way a “living death,” cummings begins in a burst of hallelujah and thanksgiving:

*“i thank You God for most this amazing
day: for the leaping greenly spirits of trees
and a blue true dream of sky; and for everything
which is natural which is infinite which is yes*

*(i who have died am alive again today,
and this is the sun’s birthday; this is the birth
day of life and of love and wings ...))*

*(now the ears of my ears awake and
now the eyes of my eyes are opened)*

He has truly been reborn into “aliveness.”

The possibility of transformation and renewal, of re-awakening, is offered to us over and over again in Life. Sometimes we can see and hear it call. Sometimes not. But it is a present possibility. Almost everyone has felt at times the death-like darkness of despair. And we have known people whose lives, in large or small ways have been transformed and renewed. It is the nature of Life, or perhaps the nature of Nature, that it continues to invite us back into greater life, greater wholeness, into a larger awareness.

When Jesus, this Rabbi with his startling life-giving message, died, his death meant for his followers the end of his life's promise, the end of his hopes and dreams. It meant the end of their hopes and dreams for him. It was a loss beyond belief.

But a transformation occurred in the minds and hearts of his disciples. *A radical shift from despair to renewed hope, from a sense of the utter absence of Jesus to a feeling that in some way he was still with them. His death was not the end; it was the beginning. What had died became again lively in the world.*(E.Holt)

However we understand the Christian story, each of us can know Easter - times when what has died in us *becomes again lively in the world.*

And then, as e.e. cummings did, we can shout, "*i thank You God for most this amazing day.....*"

Sandra



THANK YOU

A big Thank You to the group of longtime members of Murray Church who shared their memories of the "Old" Church. Such stories, and in such detail! Thank you to: **Jean Archard, Roger Boucher, Phyllis Campbell, Betty Clark, Brita Cronin, Peddy Dias and Ginny Kiff.** Thanks also to those I spoke with by phone: **Marge Nickerson, Martha Nickerson, Don McNary, Dee Dee Sweet and Bob and Sandy Wilson.** All of you brought those times to life again. A special thank you to **Ruth Lyman**, one of the original groundbreakers on March 24, 1957, who attended service on March 18th and cut the celebratory cake with her mother, **Betty Clark.**

Sandra

FROM THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION DIRECTOR

"Easter is not a time for groping through dusty, musty tomes or tombs to disprove spontaneous generation or even to prove life eternal. It is a day to fan the ashes of dead hope, a day to banish doubts and seek the slopes where the sun is rising, to revel in the faith which transports us out of ourselves and the dead past into the vast and inviting unknown."

~Author unknown, as quoted in the *Lewiston Tribune*

It's that time of year! Dust off your ballet slippers, tune your guitar, practice your magic tricks, and prepare for the Fifth Annual Murray Church Talent Show. This is a non-competitive event. Murray members and friends of all ages are invited to participate. If you do not wish to share a talent, please come and enjoy the show and support the cast. The talent show will be held on Saturday evening, April 28th at seven o'clock in the Sanctuary. A reception will follow the talent show. A sign-up sheet will be posted on the bulletin board outside of the Religious Education office.

The annual children's Easter Egg Hunt will be held at the end of the Sunday School period on Easter Sunday, April 8th. There will be a separate Easter Egg Hunt for preschoolers and toddlers. We need donations of wrapped candy that will fit inside of plastic eggs. Please drop off your donations in the Religious Education office no later than Wednesday, April 4th.

A new Murray Church support group has formed. The group is for parents and guardians who are parenting teens. We will provide a supportive atmosphere in which to share the joys and concerns of rearing teens. The meetings will be held on the second Monday of the month in the Unity Room from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Our next meeting will be on April 9th.

The Teen Book Group has selected *The Gospel According to Larry* by Janet Tashjian for its April book discussion. The group will meet on Tuesday evening, April 3rd 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.

Philosophers' Café, a discussion group for teens, continues to meet on the first and third Thursdays of the month. The group has more than doubled in size this year. There is no cost to participate, but teens attending are asked to bring snacks to share and a donation for the Murray Church food pantry.

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.

Catch Them Doing Something Right: Kindergartner, Rhys Casstevens was recently spotted in the Sanctuary

standing at all the right moments. He was also able to say the Statement of Affirmation and was doing a good job singing the Song of Affirmation too. First Grader, Stephanie Belt, without being asked, held the door open for all of the children and adults walking (well, mostly walking) down to the Unity Room after leaving the Sanctuary on a recent Sunday morning. Both children received the first-ever DRE book awards during Youth Worship.

Thank you to Rusty and Bill Morrow and D.J Campbell for their generous donation of many, many cans of play-doh. Their donations should keep our young artisans in business for the remainder of the church year. Thank you to Steve and Allison Bell for their generous donation of numerous packs of pipe cleaners. Play-doh and pipe cleaners are staples at Murray Church. These items help to keep little hands busy. Donations of both items are always greatly appreciated.

Nan Loggains, RE Director

ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

HEALING RESOURCES FOR DEPRESSION

Our next meeting is scheduled for April 13th in the John Murray Room from 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM. Our meetings are open to Murray Church members or friends whose lives have been touched by depression, either in themselves, friends, or loved ones. Our format is support, active listening, and discussion and accesses the spiritual resources of this Faith.

For more information contact Gretchen Robinson

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 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.

FUNDRAISING –MURRAY – HORIZONS EDGE CASINO BOAT

Don't miss the boat! We have a great Casino trip on The Horizons Edge Casino Boat planned for Murray Members and friends. Relax and take the bus; have a fun-filled time. Part of the money comes back to Murray. If you'd like to join us: contact Brett Capone, (there is a 35 person minimum for this trip-invite a friend)

Catch the bus at 9:00 AM at Murray to Lynn, MA. SAT., MAY 19TH - Only \$39.00 per person.

Includes relaxing drive & casino boat ocean cruise, buffet luncheon and entertainment. Returns at 6 or 6:30 PM. Reserve early.

BCD-SPRING GATHERING & ANNUAL MEETING

Murray Church is hosting the BCD Spring Conference/Annual Meeting which is scheduled for Sat., April 28th – 9 AM – 3:10 PM. 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 Rev. Michael Dowd**, gifted teacher, lecturer, author and minister. **He will present "Thank God for Evolution."** For more information call the BCD office at 508 559 6650 or email bcdoffice@uua.org - www.bcd.uua.org. Don't miss this worthwhile conference. (BCD spring Gathering Registration forms are on the Denominational Issues Bulletin Board. **Deadline for discounted registration fee is April 25th**)

CIRCLE OF SPIRITS

The Circle of Spirits will be meeting on April 27th. 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.

MUSIC CORNER

Unitarian Universalist musicians appreciated meeting at Murray Church on Saturday, March 3, at the Ballou Channing District/UJMN 8th Annual Music Conference. About 70 people attended; some came from Vermont and New Hampshire, and seven Murray people were there. The day-long program began and ended with services in the sanctuary, and the musicians commented on the fine piano and organ, and the marvelous acoustics. The six workshops were informative and fun; everyone participated in the choral repertoire workshop and received a large packet of anthems. Next year the BCD/UJMN will skip the March local meeting because BCD musicians will be asked to help present the national UJMN conference in Boston in early August.

Mary Whelan, Co-Chair

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.*
(continued-)

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

they can truly be themselves. I invite all of you to join me in a celebration of Ferry Beach and experience several stories of transformation.”

Craig Lentz began at Ferry Beach as the Executive Director in June of 2002, fulfilling the dream of a lifetime. Having worked in the restaurant industry for 14 years in all levels of management, he was well suited to run the business side of Ferry Beach. However, it was his summers during college working at a summer camp, and years as an RE teacher in Baltimore, MD, that most prepared him for this exciting role. Craig lives at Ferry Beach year round with his wife, Leslie, and their three young boys, and is a member of the Allen Ave UU Church in Portland, ME. His wife Leslie is a Trustee of the church. In addition to working at Ferry Beach, Craig is a baseball coach, a budding triathlete, and studies karate with his family.

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.

MURRAY CHURCH –SPRING CLEANUP

Yes, spring is really coming even though there is still snow on the ground. We will have our annual spring clean up on Sunday, May 6th. **Contact Adam Zysk** if you want to help.

HOLIDAY FAIR COMMITTEE –MEETS APRIL 1ST.

There will be a meeting of the 2007 Holiday Fair Committee at 8:45 a.m. on Sunday, April 1st in Fellowship Hall. Whether you are a past room coordinator who is returning for another year, a retiring room coordinator, or someone who is interested in becoming more involved, we hope you can join us for some preliminary planning and brainstorming. This is a great way to become more involved in our community and have some fun while raising much-needed funds for our church. For more information, please contact Shelly Freddo or Betsey Bullock. We look forward to seeing you at the meeting.

APRIL 22ND SERVICE “STORIES FROM FERRY BEACH” WITH CRAIG LENTZ & RELIGIOUS SERVICES COMMITTEE

Title: "I Brought My Spirit to the Sea: Stories of Transformation from Ferry Beach"

“One of the most amazing things about Ferry Beach is that once people get hooked, they are hooked for life. Whenever people gather at Ferry Beach to be in community, or to find peace and solitude, be it during our conference season, weekend church retreats in the spring and fall, Ferry Beach magic takes over. A miraculous community is created and recreated that has the power to change lives. For more of us than I can count, Ferry Beach nourishes our spirits in a way that no other place or community can. What I hear most often from people is that Ferry Beach is their spiritual home, the place they come to recharge their batteries, the place

WELCOME TO OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Jessica Brien came to Murray originally to participate in the Circle of Spirits as she has been involved in earth based pagan religion for many years. She and her husband traveled in the military; Jessica is still in the Marine Reserves. Since returning to Attleboro, she and her friend Claudia have revived the Circle and hope to have more people involved. Jessica likes the tolerance and acceptance that people find at Murray. She and her husband have a 14 month old daughter, Katelynn.

Nadine daSilva came to Murray looking for a religious community and religious education for her four year old daughter, Isabel. She has enjoyed helping in the RE class and reports that Isabel loves it. Nadine is an accountant and is currently finishing her bachelor's degree in accounting. She spends a lot of her spare time reading, runs an on-line book group, and is interested in participating in the Murray book group. Nadine is also a musician. She looks forward to having more time to play the flute once she finishes school.

Liz Lamoureux came to Murray a number of times before she decided to stay. She had been very involved in her church when she was younger but because of a negative experience had not attended any church in a number of years. She is interested in eastern philosophy and is comfortable at Murray because there is no required creed. She especially loves the sharing of experiences during Joys and Concerns. She has several interests in Murray activities, among them the work of the UUSC and is considering hosting a summer service. She and her

husband travel the world scuba diving! From Betsey Bullock, Governor of Membership

Kiki Metzger was raised Catholic and attended parochial school, feeling all the while that she did not fit in. She became a member of a UU church in Newburyport while in college and she and her husband were married there. She likes the fact that Unitarian Universalism is very often intentionally chosen by people after a spiritual journey. She likes the size and feeling of community at Murray and said that Murray friends were very helpful to her when she first moved to the area and didn't know many people. She is interested in becoming involved in activities that help welcome people to Murray.

Don Watson described himself as being "very conservative" until a family crisis led him to see the difficulties that some families have and their very real need for support. He has since dedicated himself to helping others. He is interested in helping with the soup kitchen and other social action causes. He is passionate about music and singing in Murray's choir. He works for John Hancock and is finishing his master's thesis at Brandeis. Don travels back and forth from Attleboro to Atlanta to spend time with his family there.

SUMMER SERVICES AT MURRAY CHURCH

With spring approaching, can summer be far behind? The Religious Service Committee (RSC) is planning to hold a full schedule of summer worship services on Sundays from June 24, 2007 through September 2, 2007. Regular Sunday services will resume on Sept. 9, 2007.

This is a great opportunity for you to share a concern or interest with others. Members of the RSC can help you in planning and conducting a summer service.

Information on summer services, dates, and a sign up area will be available during coffee hour. RSC members will be available to answer any questions.



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SERVICE COMMITTEE

UUSC SPEAKER COMING IN APRIL

On Sunday, April 29, our guest in the pulpit will be Patricia Jones, the Manager of Environmental Justice Programs at the UU Service Committee.

A devoted water rights activist, Patricia Jones firmly believes that we need to change the way we think about and use our water. "Our challenge is to provide safe, accessible water to each person, and for future generations, by changing the way we think about water

and our environment, and what we do with our water," she says.

Patricia's work focuses specifically on the human right to water and the problems associated with managing water services. She will just be returning from working on a consulting project with adults and children about the right to water in Guatemala and Nevada.

Prior to joining UUSC, she worked with the International Water Law Research Institute, University of Dundee, in developing a legal assessment model for resolving conflicts over transboundary water. Previously, she worked for 18 years at El Centro de la Raza, Seattle, Wash., a community-based nongovernmental organization focusing on social justice nationally and U.S. foreign policy in Latin America.

Nancy Doyle, UUSC Representative at Murray

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

It's not too early to think about and plan your summer vacation. The summer 2007 program booklet and brochures for Ferry Beach Camp and Conference Center are here! Ferry Beach is on Saco Bay in southern Maine, near Old Orchard Beach and Portland It's a fine place for singles, couples and families seeking vacation time, learning opportunities in a conference setting.

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.

CLARA BARTON SEMI-ANNUAL RUMMAGE SALE

April 13th & 14th - 9:00 AM-1:00 PM

Please save all your gently worn used clothing and household items for our sale. Please leave donations in Fellowship Hall. We ask that you mark your boxes or bags "C.B. 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!

ADVOCACY & SERVICE LIMITED OPPORTUNITY/LASTING IMPACT!

Six years ago the first Murray Church team was created for this little event known as *The American Cancer Society's Relay for Life*. This was the perfect venue for

Murray Church to get some positive community service exposure. I'm glad to say since then it has grown into so much more.

A variety of our members stepped forward to participate in this cancer event bringing with them some very personal reasons. Some stories were sad some were about victories. While trying to raise research dollars to prevent future cancer victims we unknowingly created an atmosphere to express our emotions and feelings towards this seemingly random disease.

While June seems far away please consider joining the team. At coffee hour I will be recruiting members to participate in this 18 hour event. The event will be held on June 8&9 at the North Attleborough High School track. Witness for yourself the love and hope that fill the night. More details available on request.

Your help to have a successful team is greatly appreciated as this year's event hits too close to home as my own mother battles breast cancer.

Diane Beauvais

GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2007

The great yearly gathering of UUs from all over the world will be held this year in Portland, Oregon, June 20 - 24. Portland is a wonderful city. And GA will be, as always, a feast of opportunities to meet other UUs, to hear interesting and inspirational speakers, and to be part of some of the decision making processes of our Association. More information at: <http://www.uua.org/ga/> Registration forms on the bulletin board outside the church office.

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

APRIL 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
April 1 8:45 AM Holiday Fair Com. Mtg. -FH 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*	2 12:00 PM Clara Barton Mtg. - JM 1:30 PM GoldDusters Bd. Mtg. -FH* 7:15 PM RE Com YGR 7:30 PM Meditation - JM 8:00 PM Pathways -FH*	3 7:00 PM Membership Com. - JM 7:00 PM Teen Book Group - UR "Gospel accord. To Larry"	4 7PM - 9:00 PM Wrentham Developmental Center Dance -FH*	5 7:00 PM Philosopher's Café YGR 7:30 PM Choir - Sanc.	6	7 10:00 AM Music Com.-JM
8 - EASTER SUNDAY Universalist Deadline (for May Articles) 9:00 AM Choir Practice/Sanc. 10:00 AM Worship Service & Church School Annual Easter Egg Hunt 7:30 PM AIAnon -FH*	9 7:00 PM Knitting Group-YGR 7:00 PM Parents of Teens Group-UR 7:30 PM Meditation -JM 8:00 PM Pathways -FH*	10 7:15 PM BOG -JM	11 10:00 AM Small Group -JM	12 9:00 AM Clara Barton Set Up for Rummage Sale - FH 7:30 PM Choir - Sanc.	13 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Clara Barton Rummage Sale -FH 7:00 PM Healing Resources for Depression JM	14 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Clara Barton Rummage Sale -FH
15 9:00 AM Choir Practice 10:00 AM Worship & Church School 7:30 PM AI Anon - FH*	16 7:30 Meditation - JM 8:00 PM Pathways-FH*	17 7:15 PM D&D's -JM	18 1:30 PM GoldDusters Mtg. FH*	19 7:00 PM Philosopher's Café YGR 7:30 PM Choir - Sanc.	20	21
22 9:00 AM Choir Practice 10:00 AM Worship & Church School 7:30 PM AI Anon-FH*	23 7:00 PM-YGR Knitting Group 7:30 Meditation JM 8:00 PM Pathways - FH*	24 7:00 PM Rel Svcs. Com JM 3:30 PM Caring Com.-JM	25 10:00 AM Small Group - JM 7:00 PM Property Com. -JM	26 7:30 PM Choir Sanc.	27 7:00 PM Circle of Spirits -YGR	28 8:00 AM -4:00 PM BCD Spring Meeting (here) ***** 6:30 PM 5TH Annual Murray Talent Show Sanctuary
29 9:00 AM Choir Practice 10:00 AM Worship & Church School 7:30 PM AI Anon-FH*	30 7:30 PM Meditation - JJM 8:00 PM Pathways -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
505 North Main Street
Attleboro, MA 02703

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HAPPY EASTER & HAPPY SPRING

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BULLETIN BOARD



HAPPY EASTER AND
HAPPY SPRING

SAVE THE DATES

April 1st – Palm Sunday
April 2nd – Passover begins at sundown
April 3rd – Passover
April 6th – Good Friday

**April 8th – EASTER SUNDAY SERVICE
and ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT**

April 13th & 14th Clara Barton Rummage Sale –FH
April 28th BCD Meeting (at Murray) 8 AM – 4:00 PM
April 28th Murray's Annual Talent Show – 6:30 PM –FH

MAY 6th – MURRAY ANNUAL SPRING CLEAN UP