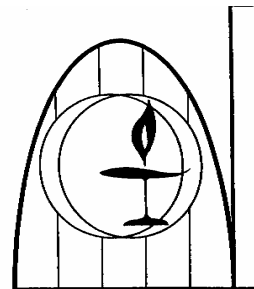


# the UNIVERSALIST



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

Volume 44

May 1, 2007

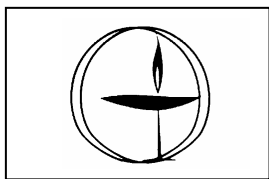
Issue 14

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](mailto:murray.ch@verizon.net)  
Website: [murrayuuchurch.org](http://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

- 4/22/07 “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
- 5/6/07 “Crossing Boundaries”  
The Rev. Sandra D. Fitz-Henry
- 5/13/07 Mother’s Day  
“Mother Wit”  
The Rev. Sandra D. Fitz-Henry
- 5/20/07 “YOUTH SUNDAY”  
The Rev. Sandra D. Fitz-Henry  
& Nan Loggains, DRE
- 5/27/07 “Taking Care of the Children”  
Religious Services Committee  
And Gretchen Robinson



### 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  
May 13th. – Late articles will appear in the  
following newsletter.*

## FROM THE MINISTER

I have been musing recently on the power of interruptions. That wonderful phone call, note or even an email message, that comes on the day when you are wondering what in the world you are doing in your life, or feeling particularly ineffectual in some endeavor, or perplexed about a relationship. A call or card can come, and simply change your day; alter the whole shape of your thought and the way you are feeling about life. Our thoughts are so fluid.

As Daniel Goleman points out in his recent book, Social Intelligence, “The brain itself is social. One person’s inner state affects and drives the other person. We’re forming brain-to-brain bridges – a two-way traffic system—all the time. We actually catch each other’s emotions like a cold.” Think, then, about the affect of being part of a community of people, whose energies and emotions are part of our spiritual and emotional environment

I recently experienced an “interruption “ that was a saving grace. Strange to say, but it was in the midst of a funeral for a young man who’d died tragically. Right in the middle of this terribly sad service a dog somehow gained entrance to the funeral parlor and came bounding into the ceremony, wagging all over and ever so friendly, with absolutely no “respect” for the solemn occasion at hand. He was just being his doggy self, happy to see a nice seated crowd of people to get all friendly with.

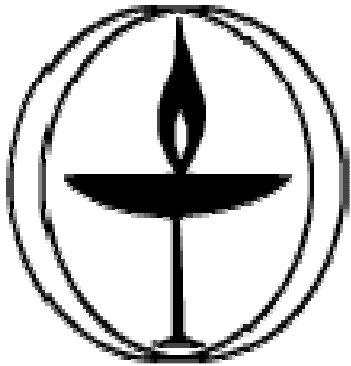
That dog, pursued with great consternation by the funeral director, (like something out an old Hollywood movie), cracked us up, broke us open. We watched as the director corralled the creature and ushered him back out the door, totally entranced.. In that moment, in that community of mourners, we were released, almost ousted, from a frozen and deep despair. Lifted back up into the community of life, as we shared this moment that changed us all. It was so unexpected, so surreal, so strangely transcendent.

All the while the babies in attendance had been carrying on a running conversation, their burbling and babbling a steady reminder that in the midst of death a stream of life is stirring. But it took the unrehearsed interruption of Life itself, in the form of this bounding creature, to bring us back to life again. It was a saving grace, a life saving interjection into the solemnity, that helped us begin to rebalance and to reconnect; to imagine life going on. Thanks be to dogs and to babies!

A few weeks ago a member of this congregation spoke during Candles of Joy and Concern about the meanings he was hearing in the words of the unison offertory reading, "From you I receive, to you I give, together we share and from this we live." How deeply true these words are. How powerful are the life and the healing spirit of love generated in this religious community. Each one of us a part of what we create together, bringing what we have to give, and receiving so much.

In the dark days following the events in Virginia there is such great sadness. It will be felt for a long time. All those students and professors, all those families. We witness to the mixture of many emotions – fear, anger, pain, loss, despair, a sense of fragility and vulnerability. We witness, too, to the power of human community to be present, to be generous and compassionate. We light candles through these days to acknowledge and to honor all those affected by this event, and as a sign of our connection to the larger community of which we are all a part.

Sandra



## IN THE TIME OF CHANGE

by Theodore Roethke

All things must change: the vision pass,  
The shadow lengthen on the grass,  
The ship go down behind the sun,  
The passion of the heart be done.  
The flower droops: we cannot stay  
The lovely miracle of May.

But in the time of change, a rare  
Illumination fills the air.  
There is a shift, a holy pause  
Between what is and what once was.  
The senses quicken with delight;  
The scene grows pure upon the sight.  
Our fixity is lost; the eyes  
Look out with passionless surprise,  
And in that instant we may see  
The shape of an eternity.

## FROM THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION DIRECTOR

*"The important thing is not so much that every child should be taught, as that every child should be given the wish to learn."*  
~John Lubbock

Have you considered teaching in the Murray Church Religious Education program? There will be a number of openings for teachers during the next church year. The fall semester is a wonderful time to volunteer to teach. . With holidays and intersession, the fall term is short. It provides new teachers with a great opportunity to ease into teaching. The classes will be studying world religions next year. All volunteer teachers must have been active at Murray Church for a minimum of one year.

The annual Youth Sunday service will be held on Sunday morning, May 20<sup>th</sup>. The children and teens of Murray Church participate in all aspects of the service. The service celebrates the work of our young people. We also take time to recognize our hardworking teachers and youth advisors who volunteer their time and talents.

The Teacher Appreciation Breakfast will be held on Sunday morning, April 29<sup>th</sup> at nine o'clock in Fellowship Hall. All Murray teachers, youth advisors, childcare providers and their families are invited.

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. The next meeting will be on May 14<sup>th</sup>.

The Teen Book Group has selected *No Easy Answers* by Brooks Brown for its April book discussion. The group will meet on Tuesday evening, May 1st 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 April Murray Night will be our annual talent Show on Saturday evening, April 28<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. in the Sanctuary. 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. A reception will follow the talent show.

Thank you to Melanie Samuel for hosting the March Murray Game Night.

Nan Loggains, DRE

## **ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

### **BOOK GROUP MEETS AT MURRAY CHURCH**

The First Sunday Book-and-Lunch Bunch will discuss March by Geraldine Brooks on Sunday, on **May 6** from 11:45 AM - 1:15 PM in the John Murray Room of Murray Unitarian Universalist Church. This historical novel takes place in the early years of the Civil War. It relates the story of Mr. March, father of the Little Women of Louisa May Alcott's book. Mr. March has gone off to be part of the war effort; he witnesses the affects of slavery and in the course of the novel meets up with Henry David Thoreau. The book group is co-moderated by Sandra Fitz-Henry and Nan Loggains and is *open to all who have read the book*. Murray Church is located at 505 North Main Street in Attleboro. For more information, call the church office at 508-222-0505 or visit our web site at [www.murrayuuchurch.org](http://www.murrayuuchurch.org).

### **HEALING RESOURCES FOR DEPRESSION**

Open to any Murray Church member or friend whose life has been affected by depression.

Next meeting is Friday, **May 11th**  
Murray U.U. Church 7-8:30 PM in the John Murray Room  
- Contact/info: Gretchen Robinson

### **CIRCLE OF SPIRITS**

The Circle of Spirits will be meeting on May 25th. at 7:00 PM in the Youth Group Room. Everyone is welcomed. If you'd like information, contact moderators, Jessica Brien or Claudia Cruz-Teixera at our website, [CircleofSpirits@gmail.com](mailto:CircleofSpirits@gmail.com). There is also a sign-up sheet at Coffee Hour for anyone who is interested in joining.

## **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.***

## **WELCOMING A NEW MEMBER**

Claudia Cruz-Teixeira attended Murray with her family as a child. Memories of those years brought her back as an adult. She began attending regularly last July when she moved from Somerville back to Attleboro. Claudia likes the feeling of community here. As an animal technician at MIT, Claudia tends to the care of the animals. She and friend Jessica Brien co-lead the Circle of Spirits group which meets here monthly. Claudia enjoys walking trails through Attleboro woods. Say hello to Claudia when you see her!

## **BCD-SPRING GATHERING & ANNUAL MEETING**

**Murray Church is hosting the BCD Spring Conference/Annual Meeting which is scheduled for Sat., April 28<sup>th</sup> – 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](mailto:bcdoffice@uua.org) - [www.bcd.uua.org](http://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 25<sup>th</sup>**)

### **ANNUAL MEETING WARRANT**

YOU WILL FIND THE 2007 ANNUAL MEETING WARRANT ENCLOSED IN THIS NEWSLETTER. ALSO ENCLOSED IS THE 2007 SLATE OF OFFICERS FOR YOUR REVIEW. ALL MEMBERS OF MURRAY CHURCH ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND THE ANNUAL MEETING ON THURSDAY, MAY 10<sup>TH</sup>. AT 7:00 PM. IN THE UNITY ROOM.

### **NEW CHURCH DIRECTORIES**

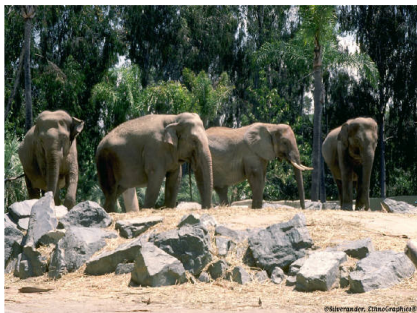
The new labeled church directories are in back of the Sanctuary. Please take the one with your name on it when you attend Sun. Service or stop in during the week and take your copy. We are hoping to save the mailing cost by distributing this way. Also, if you see someone you know please take theirs and give to them. Thank you.

### 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.

### HOLIDAY FAIR COMMITTEE –

There will be a meeting of the 2007 Holiday Fair Committee at 8:45 a.m. every Sunday 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. The Fair is one of our biggest fundraisers. For more information, please contact Shelly Freddo or Betsey Bullock. We look forward to seeing you at the meeting.



### SLIDE SHOW AT MURRAY CHURCH

*“Community Health, Water & Wildlife”*

**Adult Activity on Saturday, May 5<sup>th</sup>, at 7:30 pm.** Join us for a slide presentation on “Community Health, Water and Wildlife” in Kenya, with Judy DePue and Tom Lamonte, who recently volunteered on an Earthwatch research project to help the Samburu people improve their access to clean water.

As the formerly nomadic Samburu people have become more settled and populations have increased, the ecosystem has changed. The impact of droughts has become more severe. These conditions have led to water shortages, poor water quality and increased competition for water among humans, livestock and wildlife.

Bring a dessert to share if you'd like (finger food please).

## UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SERVICE COMMITTEE

### UUSC SUPPORTS SUDAN DIVESTMENT

The UUSC as well as the administration of Governor Patrick urged lawmakers at a hearing on 3/29 to withdraw more than \$100 million in state pension fund investments from companies that do business with Sudan. The current government of Sudan is responsible for waging a genocide against the people of Darfur in the southern part of Sudan.

UUSC President Charlie Clements testified in favor of a new, carefully, constructed bill that has been filed, urging the state to divest in companies profiting from doing business in the Sudan.

At the State House for the same hearing, actress Mia Farrow, who has visited Darfur several times and befriended many of the refugees in deplorable conditions there, also pleaded for prompt action. She has served as a UNICEF goodwill ambassador.

"Don't allow our tax dollars to be invested in companies helping to fund the genocide in Darfur," said UUSC President Clements. A Boston Globe analysis last summer found that the state pension fund had invested more than \$300 million in 23 foreign companies active in Sudan.

Six colleges and universities in Massachusetts, with Harvard leading the way, have begun divestment, along with the city of Newton. Across the nation, 50 colleges and universities have divested. Seven states, including California, have begun divestment. Eighteen others, including Rhode Island, are considering such legislation. The effort to stop the genocide in Darfur has now become world-wide.

In other developments, a major campaign is underway to emphasize the extensive business, particularly in oil, that China conducts in the Sudan. Some groups may emphasize the prominence of Chinese activities there and may highlight this connection before and during the next Olympics, which will take place in Beijing. The intent is to shrink the connection and help save Darfur and its suffering. Nancy Doyle, UUSC Representative

## UUSC CONTRIBUTIONS

Thanks to so many Murray members, contributions to the Guest At Your Table promotion to support the UU Service Committee now top \$2,600.

All membership fees and contributions that were sent directly to the UUSC headquarters in Cambridge also will be added to the figure from Murray. In addition, every gift of \$75 or more will be doubled by a matching amount. Many thanks to all.

Nancy Doyle, UUSC Representative

## 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

## **ADVOCACY & SERVICE LIMITED OPPORTUNITY/LASTING IMPACT!**

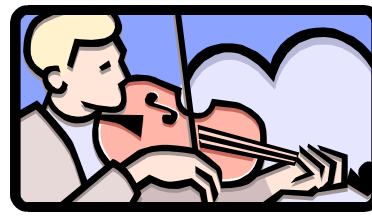
Six years ago the first Murray Church team was created for this little event known as *The American Cancer Society's Relay for Life*. This was the perfect venue for Murray Church to get some positive community service exposure. I'm glad to say since then it has grown into so much more.

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*



## **CONTRA DANCE – May 19<sup>th</sup>**

There will be a Contra Dance on Sat., May 19 from 7:00 PM to 11:00 PM in Fellowship Hall.

Andy Solberg is the fiddler and Ron Bernier will be the caller. All are welcome!

For more information contact Bess Lavoie.

## **SUMMER OPPORTUNITIES/CAMPS POSTED**

Check the Camp/Conference/Travel & Learning church bulletin board (near Minister's office) for many wonderful and interesting summer opportunities for UU's.

**FERRY BEACH  
STAR ISLAND** –Rel. Ed. Conference July 14-21

**UU NIAGRA EXPERIENCE** July 15 –18  
**UU BED AND BREAKFAST OPPORTUNITES**

**ROWE CAMP & CONFERENCE CENTER  
CA WINE COUNTRY EXCURSIONS**

## **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 sheet will be available during coffee hour. RSC members will be available to answer any questions.

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

## **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, a member of Murray at 508 399 8459 or [BrettC830@aol.com](mailto:BrettC830@aol.com).  
(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 19<sup>TH</sup>. - Only \$39.00 per person. Reserve now.**

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## **‘THE LADY OF THE ATLANTIC’ LUNCHEON & CRUISE**

**Sat., July 28<sup>th</sup> -\$59.00 per person**

Motorcoach departs from Murray at 10:30 AM.

**2 Hr. Cruise** Aboard this beautiful new 140 passenger luxury cruise boat. Cash bar, fireplace & lounge.

**The Pilgrim Harvest buffet** & Plymouth Colony Winery  
After the luncheon cruise, we're off to Plymouth Colony Winery for wine tasting in a renovated cranberry-screening house, surrounded by cranberry bogs.  
Reservation sign up sheets & information in front hall of church  
Questions? Please contact Brett Capone (who is a member at Murray). Reserve early.

### **Spring Clean Up**



Please join the Property Committee for the annual Spring Clean Up. We will be starting at 8:30 AM on Sunday May 6. We got a head start this year with a super job by the Cub Scouts but the recent storm will require a lot more effort to keep the grounds looking top notch.

Our efforts will concentrate on cleaning out the "RE Garden", raking leaves and trimming bushes and trees. Please bring yard tools, tarps and bow saws if you have them. We will have the grill going for a post clean up celebration. Please see Adam Zysk or Jim Richardi if you have any questions.

### **SCOUT HOUSE FINALE**

After a short two year hiatus we are going to be completing the Scout House Demolition on Saturday May 19<sup>th</sup>. We will be getting underway at 8:00 AM and need lots of help to get the job done that day. As a reminder - There is still some good building material left from the work already done and it is available on a first come first served basis. Please see Adam Zysk for more information.

# MAY 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
April 29 8:45 Holiday Fair Com. -FH  9:00 AM Choir Practice Sanc.  10:00 AM Worship & Church School  7:00 PM AI Anon-FH*	30  7:30 PM Meditation – JM  8:00 PM Pathways –FH*	<b>MAY 1ST</b>  7:00 PM Membership Com. – JM  7:00 PM Teen Bk. Group UR	2  	3  7:00 PM Phil. Café – YGR  7:30 PM Choir Sanc.	4	5  7:30 PM <b>SLIDE SHOW</b> “Commun. Health, Water & Wildlife” – UR
6 8:45 AM Holiday Fair Com. -FH  9:00 AM Choir Practice/Sanc.  10:00 AM Worship & Church School  <b>11:15 Clean UP SUN.</b>  11:45 AM Book Group JM  7:30 PM AIAnon –FH*	7 1:30 PM GOLDDUSTERS FH*	8  7:15 PM BOG MTG.-JM	9  10:00 AM Small Group-JM	10  <b>7:00 PM</b> <b>MURRAY'S</b> <b>ANNUAL</b> <b>MEETING -UR</b>	11  7:00 PM Healing Resources JM	12  <b>8:00 AM to</b> <b>4:00 PM</b> <b>Cub Scout</b> <b>Yard Sale</b>
13 <b>Universalist</b> <b>Deadline</b> <b>MOTHER'S DAY</b> 8:45 AM Holiday Fair Com. -FH  9:00 AM Choir Practice  10:00 AM Worship & Church School  7:30 PM AI Anon –FH*	14 7:00 PM  7:30 Meditation - JM  8:00 PM Pathways-FH*	15  7:15 PM D&D's - JM	16 1:30 PM GOLDDUSTERS FH	17 7:00 PM Philosopher's Café – YGR  7:30 PM Choir – Sanc.	18	19  <b>CONTRA</b> <b>DANCE</b> 7:00 PM – 11:00 PM -FH All invited.
20 8:45 AM Holiday Fair Com. -FH  9:00 AM Choir Practice  10:00 AM Worship & Church School-YOUTH SUNDAY.  7:30 PM AI Anon-FH*	21  7:30 PM Meditation JM  8:00 PM Pathways - FH*	22  7:00 PM Rel. Svcs. Com. -JM	23  10:00 AM Small Group –JM  7:30 PM Prop. Mtg.	24  7:30 PM Choir Sanc.	25 7:00 PM Circle of Spirits -YGR	26  FOOD N'FRIENDS SOUP KITCHEN
27 <b>8:45 AM Holiday</b> <b>Fair Com. -FH</b>  9:00 AM Choir Practice  10:00 AM Worship & Church School  7:30 pm AL Anon-FH*	28 7:00 PM Knitting Group – YGR  7:30 PM Meditation – JJM  8:00 PM Pathways –FH*	29	30  	31  7:30 PM Choir Sanc.		

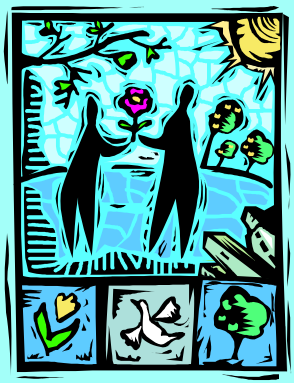
### Abbreviation Codes

\* = 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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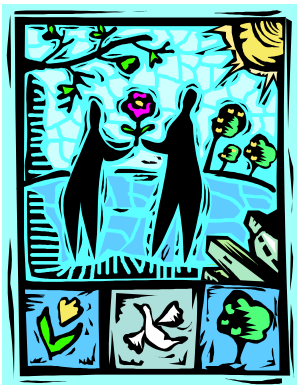
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*SHARE SOME BEAUTY  
WITH A FRIEND*

## BULLETIN BOARD



**SHARE SOME BEAUTY  
WITH A FRIEND**

### **SAVE THE DATES**

**MAY 5<sup>TH</sup> SLIDE SHOW –UR**  
**“Health, Water and Wildlife”**

**MAY 6<sup>TH</sup> – MURRAY ANNUAL SPRING CLEAN UP**

**MAY 10<sup>TH</sup> – ANNUAL MEETING –7:00 PM -UR**

**MAY 13<sup>TH</sup> – HAPPY MOTHER’S DAY**

**MAY 19<sup>TH</sup> – CONTRA DANCE –FH**

**MAY 28<sup>TH</sup> – MEMORIAL DAY observed**  
**(OFFICE CLOSED)**