

## Peace: Let It Begin with Us

In last year's October newsletter, we "unveiled" Peace Sunday. At the time, we were not entirely sure what Peace Sunday would grow to be. We wanted to grow on the energy of our Peace Vigil (this congregation – along with others from the community – held a Peace Vigil every Saturday from April 5, 2007 through July 25, 2009). All we knew last October was that Peace Sunday would be a chance to reflect together on what our community could do to work for peace, and/or to support returning veterans. Last year, Anne Perkins took the lead in facilitating Peace Sunday conversations, providing an important link from the days of the Peace Vigil into the future... Thank you, Anne!

This year, Peace Sundays are taking a new direction. We will try to borrow from what was best about Program Sundays in past years as well as what was best about last year's peace discussions to present an "all new" Peace Sunday format which will often feature a speaker or presenter. Betty Davis is taking the lead in organizing these Peace Sundays, and she has already lined up the first three presenters (Joanne FASTER of the House of Education and Peace is coming in October; Jane Manring will be coming to help us learn more about Quaker traditions in November; and Joseph Goldstein of the Insight Meditation Society will come in December).

Please note that my office hours will be on Fridays from noon until 5 p.m. (or please contact me for a special appointment if that does not work for you).

Peace is more than being "not at war". Peace in the fuller sense is about finding states of well-being, happiness and fulfillment for all; peace in the fuller sense recognizes that being "not at war" ultimately requires that we are always trying to create states of well-being, happiness and fulfillment for ourselves and for everyone we meet. Peace Sunday will be a chance to think about peace in the personal, social, national, international, and ecological spheres. I am very excited about this! I think it will be a wonderful opportunity for our members and friends in the community. Meanwhile, we continue with our guest preacher Sundays, which proved a popular chance to hear a variety of Unitarian Universalist ministers – and ministers-in-training – preach and lead worship. It is always fun and enlightening to experience a different style and perspective, so don't miss it!

Oh, yes. And two Sundays a month you are stuck with me. I am "happy to be stuck with you" (as the song puts it). Here's to the beginning of another fulfilling year!

In faith and peace,

Lara



## **CHURCH CALENDAR**

### **Sunday, Oct. 3, 2010**

**10 a.m. ~ "Association Sunday: 50 Years and the Future of Our Faith"**  
with Rev. Lara Hoke

### **Sunday, Oct. 3, 2010**

**11:30 a.m. ~ "Interfaith Blessing of the Animals"** on Petersham Common

### **Thursday, Oct. 7, 2010**

**6:30 p. m. ~ Parish Committee Meeting**

### **Sunday, October 10, 2010**

**10 a.m. ~ "Reason as Prophecy",** with Mr. Bucky Rogers, guest preacher

### **Thursday, October 14, 2010**

**7:30 p.m. ~ Alliance Meeting**

### **Sunday, October 17, 2010**

**10 a.m. ~ "Standing with Our Muslim Sisters and Brothers",**  
with Rev. Lara Hoke

### **Thursday, October 21, 2010**

**6:30 p. m. ~ Parish Committee Meeting**

### **Sunday October 24, 2010**

**10 a.m. ~ Peace Sunday,** with Ms. Joanne Foster of HOPE (House of Peace and Education)

### **Thursday, October 28, 2010**

**7 p.m. ~ Building Your Own Theology",** Adult Religious Education, final session, with Rev. Lara Hoke

### **Sunday, October 31, 2010**

**10 a.m. ~ "In Between",**  
with Rev. Cheryl Lashay, guest preacher

## **Minister's Office Hours**

Lara's office hours, going forward, will be on Fridays, from noon to 5:00 p.m., not Thursdays, as is listed on the newsletter cover.

## **Worship Notes**

On Sunday, **October 3** the service will be "**Association Sunday: Celebrating 50 Years and the Future of Our Faith**" with Rev. Lara Hoke. This special service will celebrate the past 50 years of UUism (since the merger of the Unitarians and the Universalists) and the future of our faith. Proceeds from this year's special collection will go to ensuring that our faith thrives for generations to come. Beginning in the spring of 2011, the Unitarian Universalist Association will embark on an in-depth strategic review in order to develop an action plan to strengthen our community for future generations. Howard Apley will be back to play piano. Join us!

**Sunday, October 3 at 11:30 a.m.** we will have the "**Interfaith Blessing of the Animals**" on the Petersham Town Common. Join us for an interfaith service of First Congregational Parish, Unitarian; St. Peter's Church; and the Orthodox Congregational Church. Everyone is welcome to bring their pets to be blessed. Owners are responsible for their own pets, so please have them on a leash or in a cage as appropriate. If you feel it would be too difficult to control your pet, you may bring a picture of your pet instead. The service will happen, rain or shine. All are welcome!

On Sunday, **October 10**, our guest preacher tradition continues. The guest preacher will be the **Mr. Bucky Rogers**.

The sermon, "**Reason as Prophecy**", considers the ways that our Unitarian heritage has used reason to help create a more just and equitable world. Bucky Rogers is a second-year Master of Divinity candidate at Harvard Divinity School and a 2007 graduate of Brown University. He was facilitator of the Brown UU Group in 2006-2007 and is now on the board of the Harvard UU Ministry for Students. Outside the classroom, Bucky enjoys playing fantasy baseball and leading the Divinity School to ultimate frisbee victory over the Kennedy School of Government. Carolyn Holstein will be back to play organ and piano. Please join us!

On Sunday, **October 17**, the service will be "**Standing with Our Muslims Sisters and Brothers**", with Rev. Lara Hoke. In recent months, we have witnessed a surge in anti-Muslim sentiment in this country. We saw the fear and furor around the discussion of an Islamic Community Center and Mosque being built in New York City two blocks from "Ground Zero". More recently, we learned that a small congregation in Gainesville, Florida, threatened to burn copies of the Qur'an (the Holy Scripture of Islam). The Third Source of Unitarian Universalism is "Wisdom from the world's religions which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life". Islam is one of the world's great religious traditions and is one of our UU sources, yet how much do you know about it? Join us in worship as we go deeper in strengthening our understandings of Islam, learning how it can indeed inspire our ethical and spiritual life. Debbie Kent will be back to play organ and piano. Please join us!

On Sunday, **October 24**, we will have our first **Peace Sunday** of the

year. The speaker will be Ms. **Joanne Foster** of **HOPE (House of Peace and Education)** in Gardner. HOPE was founded in 1996 in response to high levels of poverty and a growing trend of violence in the greater Gardner area of Massachusetts. Since that time, HOPE has helped hundreds of at risk children and women to reclaim their futures. Please join us and learn more, as we continue to find ways to work toward peace.

On **October 28** at **7 p.m.** Rev. Lara Hoke will offer the final session of the classic Adult Religious Education course, "**Building Your Own Theology**". This class will be for those who went to the previous two sessions in September.

On Sunday, **October 31**, we welcome guest preacher the **Rev. Cheryl Leshay**. The sermon, "**In Between**", considers the ways in which we are always coming from somewhere, or going somewhere – but where are we, anyway? With inspiration from Hallowe'en and Harry Potter, Rev. Leshay will explore the spiritual nature of living in-between. Rev. Cheryl Leshay is a community minister affiliated with the Unitarian Universalist Church of Worcester. Her primary ministry is with the Greater Worcester Unitarian Universalist Campus Ministries (GWUUCM). In that work she helps students at WPI, Clark University and Worcester State College. She is also a chaplain at the University and Memorial campuses of UMASS Memorial Hospital. She has served our Unitarian Universalist churches for more than 20 years. Howard Apley will play special piano music for the occasion. Please join us!

## **Notes from the Parish Committee**

Our first service of the church year was on September 19th, and it was wonderful reconnecting with friends we haven't seen in a few months. Besides the very meaningful "water communion," we also had the opportunity to view all the inside workings of our beautiful church organ, which had been taken apart for electrical repairs. Thank you to Kay Berry, who took the leadership role in keeping this instrument in such good condition.

Things we are doing this year: We will again be having the Quaker Sits each Sunday morning in the Davis Memorial from 9:00 to 9:45. We are planning on having childcare available for every Sunday service, and we want very much to start up the Youth Program, which has been missing from the church for too many years. Please let us know if you are interested in helping to organize the LRY program, or if you know of any youths who might like to participate. We are also thinking ahead to our Christmas service, and we have discussed bringing back the traditional Christmas Pageant, that was always staged the Sunday before Christmas. Would anyone like to help with this? Our Peace Sundays this year will have more guest speakers, and we'll be looking at different aspects of *Peace and Social Justice* (the new, expanded name for the last Sunday of each month).

See you in church!

Pam Chevalier,  
Parish Committee Secretary

## **Petersham Branch Alliance**

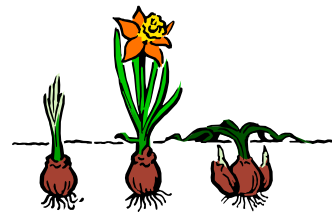
The next Alliance meeting is October 14 at 7:30 p.m. at the Davis Memorial. The projects which the Alliance is working on are:

**RAFFLE:** Tickets are available from Alliance members and are being sold on Saturday mornings at the Petersham Memorial Library and at the Town Dump. Thanks to Terry Oil Express, 100 gallons of oil, a hand-knitted wool sweater and a \$50 certificate for Picasso's Restaurant will be the prizes. All proceeds go to Scholarships for Women in Petersham. Drawing will be Dec. 9.

**COOKBOOK:** Send your recipes to Barbara Hanno ([Bhanno@hotmail.com](mailto:Bhanno@hotmail.com)). This is a 2011 project but the Alliance is already collecting recipes for the cookbook.

Call Barbara Hanno at 978-724-0219 if you have any questions.

Anne Perkins



## **Fall Bulb Sale**

Flower Power! Emily Arnold has graciously agreed to organize the Fall Bulb Sale. Emily has the order forms, which will need to be returned, with the purchase money, by October 13. A change this year: The bulbs will be mailed directly to the purchasers, so complete names and addresses are needed on the order forms.

## **Family News**

Ellen Moriarty, beloved long-time member of our congregation, has begun to require a nursing home level of care. Because of this, she will be moving from Leominster Crossing (assisted living) into the Highlands nursing home in Fitchburg. If you would like to send her a note of love and support, you can still mail it to Leominster Crossing in the coming few weeks (it will be forwarded as necessary). The address:

Ellen G. Moriarty  
Leominster Crossing  
1160 Main St, Apt 232  
Leominster, MA 01453

Thank you for being a caring congregation. We will share Ellen's new address when it's available.



## **YOGA WITH LINDA**

**October 2010**

**Tuesdays and Thursdays at 10 a.m.:**

**Oct. 5, 7, 12, 14, 26 and 28**

**NO CLASSES**

**Oct. 19 and 21**

**\$5 per class**

**\*\* Please note:**

**There will be no Wednesday classes  
through the fall and winter.**

**For more information, contact Linda at:**

**[lckabo@verizon.net](mailto:lckabo@verizon.net)**

**978-434-1598**

## **Agape Community's Annual St. Francis Day**

**Women and War:**

**Finding Our Voices, Reclaiming Our  
Legacy**

**Saturday, Oct. 9, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.**

Ban Al-Mahfodh: survivor of two wars in Iraq, ten years of sanctions; Research Coordinator at The William Joiner Center in Boston Dr. Paula Green: founder, Karuna Center; School for International Training; CONTACT (Conflict Transformation Across Cultures); awarded Unsung Heroes of Compassion by the Dalai Lama. Martha Hennessy: seventh grandchild of Dorothy Day; speaks on nonviolent, direct action against war and injustice.

Habinomana Matirde: born in Burundi and fled to Rwanda; now lives in U.S.

Robyn Murray: combat veteran, Iraq; member, Veterans Against the War (IVAW) and Writer Warriors

Maryam Shansab: Afghan-American peace activist; member, United for Justice with Peace, Afghanistan Task Force.

Miyako Taguchi: founder, "Hibakusha Stories from Hiroshima and Nagasaki to Future Generations"; mother is a Hibakusha.

Cathy Breen: New York City Catholic Worker; visited Iraq with Voices in the Wilderness before, during and after the US-led war on Iraq.

Amanda Daloisio: New York City Catholic Worker; works with Witness Against Torture, a group dedicated to closing the prison at Guantanamo and ending torture.

**PROGRAM BEGINS PROMPTLY AT 10.**

Bag lunch, evening potluck with music provided by local college students.

Directions on website.  
For more information: Agape 413-967-9369 [www.agapecommunity.org](http://www.agapecommunity.org)  
[peace@agapecommunity.org](mailto:peace@agapecommunity.org)

Agape Community  
2062 Greenwich Rd.  
Ware, MA 01082  
(413) 967-9369

### **Care Packages**

The Peace Group will continue sending care packages to the service people on a regular basis. Contributions are welcome, as are donations for postage for the packages.

Addresses for the soldiers to whom we are sending packages are available at the Davis Memorial.

There will be baskets for donations in the front entry of the church, and also in the Davis Memorial.

### **New Directory**

We are planning to revise and reprint the Church Directory this fall. If any of you have new addresses, or additions or corrections to be made to the directory, please send them to the church office. There will be a printed copy of the current directory available in the church dining room for making changes.

### **Newsletter**

Material for the newsletter may be emailed to the [firstparishnt@verizon.net](mailto:firstparishnt@verizon.net), or can be placed in the wall file outside the Church office. Please make a note stating that the item is for the newsletter, or you can mail your item to:

First Congregational Parish, News Team,  
PO Box 305, Petersham, MA 01366.

**Friendly Reminder:** Please send in your newsletter items **on or before** the **Monthly Deadline Date, which can be found on the front page of the newsletter.**

Our church newsletter is edited and mailed by volunteers. We are always happy and grateful to receive contributions towards the expenses of paper, printing and mailing, as well as general news and news of families.

Thank You,  
The Newsletter Team,  
Kay Berry  
Don Eaton  
Robert Hall  
Kathy Ballou ~ Editor

If you would like to receive your newsletter electronically instead of by regular mail, please email us at [firstparishnt@verizon.net](mailto:firstparishnt@verizon.net) and let us know.

