

# The Quest



February 2010

The North Universalist Chapel Society  
Woodstock • Vermont

Affiliated with the Unitarian Universalist Association

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**Another annual meeting is behind us.** I love the North Chapel's annual meetings. It is always an outpouring of interest and support and generosity - efficient but honest too. Gratitude to Susan Inui-Kelley and Denise Lyons for a clear and concise presentation of the good work that the growth committee has done over the past few years. Thanks to the members of that committee for the good and steady effort that has brought us this synthesis. We find ourselves with a consensus that focuses our attention on understanding three particular areas of our church and community life:

- \* Fostering enriched spiritual life.
- \* Integration of new members and friends.
- \* A flexible and nimble organizational structure.

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In 1933 a Universalist minister by the name of L. Griswold Williams proposed a covenant that is widely used among Unitarians and Universalists today. He actually very slightly modified a covenant written in 1894 by a Unitarian minister, James Vila Blake. The newer modified covenant says:

*Love is the doctrine of this church,  
The quest of truth is its sacrament,  
And service is its prayer.  
To dwell together in peace,  
To seek knowledge in freedom,  
To serve human need,  
To the end that all souls shall grow  
into harmony with the Divine.*

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Between the language of this covenant and the challenge of the areas named above, is a rich and abundant invitation. I hope that we can each one take this invitation personally and with abundant curiosity. May the year bring us individually and collectively sweet rewards and blessings in the pursuit of these noble goals.

Daniel

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## **Annual Meeting: Looking Back and Going Forward**

Thanks again to Kevin Geiger for moderating our Annual Meeting. His spirited style kept the meeting moving and left us with enough time at the end of the Meeting for a discussion of the Growth Committee's vision for our future. Donna Van Fleet agreed to serve as Clerk, Ann Wynia as Treasurer and Irene Hanslin as Assistant Treasurer.

For the first time in 3 years the Board and the Budget committee were able to present to the Congregation a balanced budget for the coming year. While this means we must make our revenue goals (eg pledges, fund raising, etc.) we are able to bring into the new year \$4,500 from last year and \$12,000 from the sale of an antique piano and wedding tent. It is amazing that we actually gave more in pledges to the church than we pledged! Pledges for the coming year are the same as last year. In addition, the "plus 10" campaign over the last three months provided an additional \$3,000 beyond what we had budgeted last year. This is greatly appreciated and reflects how much this church means to us.

A major part of the Annual Meeting involves recognizing and thanking members who have made significant contributions to the church. This year we recognized outgoing Board members Liz Cassell, Susan Kelley-Outten, and Michael Stoner. Liz kept the Board updated on the Religious Exploration program; thanks to her steady hand and skill, this program has been a real prize

*(Annual Meeting continued on page 3)*

for our church. Susan was President of the Board and led in the creation and development of the Covenant groups. Michael's sage advice and thoughtful approach has been very helpful in many ways and he has played a major role on the Resource Committee and the annual Book Fair. We also recognized Donna Atwood and Valerie Sanderson for their contributions to our church. Both have been steady, reliable and always pleasant which makes coming to and working at the church a pleasure. Finally, this year's Unsung Hero(ine) Award was presented to Denise Lyons who has contributed an enormous amount of time, effort and thought to the Covenant Group program as well as to the work of the Growth Committee.

We welcomed three new members to the Board of Trustees: Deb Hawthorn, Norwood Long and Peter Rousmaniere (Peter actually came on the Board 3 months ago replacing Susan Kelley-Outten). The other current Board members are David Doolittle, Peggy Kannenstine (President), Neil Marinello, Lynn Peterson (Vice President), Mary Jeanne Taylor and Donna Van Fleet (Secretary). We begin this year with exciting array of challenges but also acutely aware of how much support the congregation has provided in the past year.

The congregation thanked Judith Williamson whose term on the Nominating Committee ended and welcomed Polly Forcier who is joining that Committee. Other Committee Chairs or representatives gave brief remarks on their committee functions in the past year and plans for the coming year.

Denise Lyons and Susan Inui-Kelley presented the Growth Committee's vision for the future. The Committee reduced the seven pillars presented previously to three major areas for further development: **S**ervice, **S**ocial and **S**piritual - the three S's. The Committee recognizes the need to maintain some of the rich traditions of the Church (eg the red flannel hash dinner) while at the same time growing into the new age with its changes and opportunities in communication technology, needs for social justice and the new era of sustainability. The Committee has formed three Task Forces to meet over the next six weeks and then present their findings and recommendations to the Board and congregation. The Task Forces and chairpersons

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are: Member Engagement - Peter Rousmaniere, Spiritual Growth - Michael Stoner and Nimble, Flexible Organization - Robert Deeley and Susan Inui-Kelley. Members of the congregation are encouraged to contact those leaders and join in creating plans for our future.

We packed the social hall, had a delightful array of potluck dishes and had an inspired clean-up crew. Thanks to everyone for a great 2009!

Lynn Peterson  
Board of Trustees Vice President

### February Birthdays

- 2/4 Barbara Bartlett
- 2/4 Art Norton
- 2/7 John Dulmage
- 2/9 Fran Lancaster
- 2/9 John Cassell
- 2/10 Sharon Miller Blake
- 2/14 Barb Sondag
- 2/16 Clara Gray
- 2/17 Heather Yountz
- 2/19 Jim Christy
- 2/20 Bob Coates
- 2/20 Toben Traver
- 2/24 Will Coates
- 2/28 Amy Dressler

### Anniversaries

- 2/11 Bob & Jane Richards

## Treasurer's Report

YTD (12/31/09)   Budgeted

### TOTAL RECEIPTS

**\$188,605**                      **\$187,850**

### Expenses

Church Building  
\$34779                              \$36200

Parsonage  
\$462                                      \$1000

Administration  
\$22987                              \$23980

Benefits  
\$26501                              \$28270

Minister's Package  
\$66836                              \$66836

Worship  
\$144                                      \$100

Music  
\$14472                              \$14722

Coffee  
\$252                                      \$300

Resource Dev.  
\$459                                      \$500

Membership  
\$2204                              \$2800

RE  
\$14985                              \$20110

### TOTAL EXPENSES

**\$184,081**                      **\$194,818**

**Balance \$4524.27**

Treasurer:

Ann Wynia 457-2217

## FOOD with COMPASSION

The Community Food Shelf has expanded hours for both donations and food assistance -- we are now open on Mondays from 4-6pm, in addition to Wednesdays 1-3 pm and Saturdays 10-noon. We can take donations of fresh foods, frozen foods and dairy products when we are open. Other items in short supply currently are rice and grains, cold and hot cereal, muffin and bread mixes, canned fruits in light syrup, salad dressings, cooking oil and bottled juices. Make a spiritual practice of compassion by bringing something from your cupboard to church each week. It will be so gratefully received.

Rev. Jennifer Donaldson  
(802) 457- 3690

### Town Meeting Lunch February 27th

We are serving lunch for the Woodstock folks on their Town Meeting on February 27th in the Social Hall. Donations of sandwiches, soups, pies, cookies, small bags of chips, apples, cider, milk and signage are needed. Please contact Ann Wynia at [ALWynia@aol.com](mailto:ALWynia@aol.com) or see her at church if you could furnish or would like to help serve the lunch. We are usually at the church from 11:00 until 1:30 that day. **Thank you.**



### Circle Dinner March 6th

The first circle dinners of 2010 were a big success. Thank you to Mary Blanton, Anne and Neil Marinello, Karen and David Purviance and Vassie Sinopoulos and Chris Lloyd for opening their homes so all could enjoy good food and company. The next dinner is coming on March 6th. **Mark your calendar.**

Plan to join in and spend a winter evening with friends from NUCS. Contact Ann Wynia (457-2217) or Fran Lancaster (457-1169) to sign up. Please consider being a host or hostess. **Thank you.**

# Church Notices



## Book Corner

Help! the book shelves are starving! Please feed them some great new books!!

Thanks,  
Elizabeth Bond

## The Pastoral Care Committee

*Do you know of anyone who might want or need support of some kind?*

Perhaps, a ride, a meal, some company, a card, or assistance in some other way would be helpful. If so, please contact the Pastoral Care Committee. The co-chairs are: Nancy Peterson [672-3697] and Judy Williamson [457-3620].

## Woodstock Community Food Shelf



**Bring a Can Each Sunday— If You Can!**

Please help ensure that none of our neighbors go hungry. You may bring non-perishable food or personal hygiene product donations to leave in the large basket in our church narthex or in the green grocery bags in the sanctuary.

## Hand in Hand Community Dinners

Hand In Hand is committed to Sustainable Community Growth and Development in Woodstock and the surrounding community.

Themes for February:

**Feb. 4:** Black History Month

**Feb. 11:** Lincoln's Birthday

**Feb. 18:** Toni Morrison's birthday

**Feb. 25:** On This Day...

Meals are served from 5:00 to 7:00 P.M. in the church Social Hall. All are welcome. Donations gladly accepted. For more information call: (802)457-9272

## Oneness Experience Gatherings - New Schedule

We are now offering Oneness Blessings every Tuesday from 5:15 PM to 6:15 PM in the parlors starting February 2. There is also a possibility of offering them at a mid day time. If this is of interest to you, please contact Anne Dean [annesheart@aol.com](mailto:annesheart@aol.com) or 457-3889. An extended Oneness Experience is offered in Anne's office in West Woodstock. We do a short teaching, guided meditation and Oneness Blessings. The next one is Feb. 28 from 1:00 to 2:30 pm.

Pentangle and Sustainable Woodstock  
present  
**“NO IMPACT MAN”**

Award winning documentary  
(Sundance Film Festival 2009)  
**Thursday, Feb 18 at 7:30 pm**  
**Woodstock Town Hall Theater**

Manhattanite Colin Beavan embarks on an experiment. To see if living a life with zero environmental impact affects happiness. To make it work, however, his coffee and shopping addicted wife, and their toddler, have to join his quest. Upbeat, funny, and poignant, this film deals with subjects of crucial importance to all of us.

Admission by donation. Local organic popcorn and cider will be served. Q&A after the film for those who wish to stay.



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## Dance Classes in February

We had a great time here in the January dance classes! Space is available in the February beginning slow dance (foxtrot and waltz) class and in the Latin moods for experienced dancers.



**3 Friday Nights in February: 12, 19, 26**  
6:30 Intro to Slow Dance - Foxtrot and Waltz  
7:30 Latin Moods - for experienced dancers

Costs \$30 per person per series. Partners encouraged, singles welcome.

**ADVANCED ENROLLMENT IS A MUST.** Registration forms are in the back of the sanctuary and downstairs in the social hall. If you need more information, contact the instructor, Jenny Gelfan, at 802-356-1156 or email [maybeyes2@gmail.com](mailto:maybeyes2@gmail.com).



## February RE News

As you may know this winter the RE program will focus on the Judeo/Christian Heritage pillar. We will introduce children to the stories of people from the Bible who have acted with courage and wisdom in their attempts to lead their lives fully and make the world a better place for others. We will show how the lives of these people confirm the principles which we, as Unitarian Universalists, strive to promote.

We'll encourage the children to lead their own lives fully and to use their own positive strengths as they interact with the world around them and as they do so, to grow both spiritually and ethically. We learn in a one room schoolhouse (K-7) for a 14 week session ending Easter weekend.

This curriculum has a literature based approach where we focus on stories with hands on activities to support the story. Older kids help younger ones with the activities. For the month of February we'll explore activities such as making a temple, puppets and props, costumes and a flaming chariot and enacting the stories that we read. The calendar is as follows:

- \* Feb 7th: Solomon wishes for an understanding heart and builds a temple
- \* Feb 14th: Solomon and the Queen of Sheba engage in the royal sport of riddles
- \* Feb 21st: Elijah finds and rebukes Aham
- \* Feb 28th: Elijah survives the drought and goes off in a fiery chariot

Children will explore connections between biblical events and Unitarian Universalist principles, between biblical ideas and their own lives.

Liz Cassell, Director of Religious Education  
457-4544 NUCSRE@hotmail.com

## Adult RE Classes—Registration Continues!

*Beginning in early March, NUCS will be offering the final adult religious exploration course in our series:*

**Exploring the Creative Spirit: Creative Writing Workshops.**  
Jenny Gelfan, eight Sundays beginning March 7 from 12:30 - 3:00 PM.

This class will be limited to 12 participants and will involve study and learning together rather than a series of lectures. Further information and a registration form can be obtained at the back of the sanctuary or from the church office.



### Change the World Kids

Our fabulous annual "anti-cabin fever" Wednesday night dinners continue until the end of March. It's a great way to get out of the house, break up the week, and see friends on long cold winter nights!

Each Wednesday a local chef, many from the area's best restaurants, prepares a delicious meal. These dinners are FUN, plus they help provide funds for our conservation work in Costa Rica. **Dinner is at 6:00 in the social hall, and costs \$9.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children.** Seating is limited, so reservations are suggested. Please reserve your seat by calling 457-2622; email [changetheworldkids@yahoo.com](mailto:changetheworldkids@yahoo.com), or sign up on the sheet in the social hall.

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## MEMBER CLASSIFIEDS

**ROOM FOR RENT:** Share a quiet rural home an easy drive from town. Bright, spacious bedroom with ample closet, your furniture or mine. House has 2 living rooms, 2 bathrooms, but only one kitchen. Plenty of privacy. 3 cats here.  
Call Jenny: 802-356-1156.

**HOUSE-SITTER:** Single female writer/editor will mind your house, nurture your pets, and tend your plants in your absence. Long-term stays preferred. Attentive, responsible, scrupulously tidy. Local references. **Deb Hawthorn (802) 436-1818** or email: [deb.hawthorn@valley.net](mailto:deb.hawthorn@valley.net)

## Monthly Committee Meetings

- **Worship Committee**  
1st Tuesday, 5:15 PM in Library  
Contact Dan Ransom 295-5135
- **Buildings and Grounds Committee**  
1st Tuesday, 6:30 PM in Social Hall  
Contact David Doolittle 763-8773
- **Religious Education Committee**  
1st Sunday after church  
Contact Jonathan Wilson 457-9982
- **Pastoral Care Committee**  
2nd Tuesday, 5:30 PM in Library  
Contact Judy Williamson 457-3620
- **Board of Trustees**  
3rd Tuesday at 6:15 PM in Library  
Contact Peggy Kannenstine  
457-3313
- **Membership Committee**  
4th Monday, 7:00 PM in Library  
Contact Ann Wynia 457-2217
- **Resource Development Committee**  
1st Sunday after church in Library  
Contact Peggy Kannenstine 457-3313  
or Michael Stoner 457-2262
- **Growth Committee**  
2nd Thursday 6-7:30 pm in Library  
Contact Chris Bartlett 457-1880 or  
Susan Inui-Kelley 457-3004
- **Choir Rehearsals**  
Each Wednesday 7-8:30 pm  
In the sanctuary  
Contact Diane Mellinger 234-6619

## Monthly Activities and Meetings

**Thursdays: Hand in Hand dinners** held in NUCS Social Hall, 5:00-7:00 PM, free. Volunteers welcome. Contact Lauren Jane Wilder 457-9272

**Men's Discussion Group February 1st & 15th**, 7:00 PM, NUCS library. Contact Lynn Peterson 672-3697 or Alan Perkins 672-1315

**Thursdays - Yoga Class: 9:00-10:30 AM** in Social Hall. Contact Instructor: Phoebe Standish 672-3800

**Wednesdays - Course in Miracles:** 5:30-7:00 PM in Library. Contact Robert Walker (802) 767-9262

**Mondays - AA Meeting 7:00 PM**, Social Hall. Open meeting, all are welcome.

**Each Sunday**, nursery care will be provided downstairs for babies and pre-school aged children during church service. RE Sunday programs for grades K-8 will continue throughout the school year.

## Yogurt Plastic Collection

The RE children continue with their yogurt collection recycling project. There are collection boxes outside of the street level office entrance and near the RE office. **Thank You!**  
**Please no lids or odd-shaped containers (such as Yoplait).**

## February Worship

Sunday services at 10:00 until 11:00 AM

Child care and children's RE provided every Sunday.

### February 7

Reflection: Daniel Jantos

Music: Diane Mellinger

### February 21

Reflection: Daniel Jantos

Music: John Atwood

### February 14

Valentine's Day

Group Reflection

Music: Diane Mellinger

### February 28

Reflection: Gendo Allyn Field

Music: Diane Mellinger

## February Worship Notes



### February 14: Love Story Service

In honor of the traditional day when lovers express their love to each other, we are planning a service for sharing heart-felt expressions. Several of our church members will participate with a short reading, poem or love letter during the service.

### February 28: Gendo Allyn Field

Long time student of Rinzai Zen Master Joshu Sasaki. Ordained monk in that community since 2003. Founder of the Upper Valley Zen Center in 2005 and "Zen Chaplain" at Dartmouth College, leading a practice group there for students and staff. Gainfully employed as a carpenter and cabinet maker and long time exhibit builder for the Montshire Museum in Norwich, VT. Married, with wife and two mostly grown children, living in Lebanon, NH since 1982. Still studying with Joshu Sasaki, who turns 103 in April.

### Looking ahead to March...

On Sunday March 7th, Jan Frazier will be here to provide the reflection. Jan is the author of "When Fear Falls Away: The Story of a Sudden Awakening." Locally, her book can be found at Shiretown Books and the Yankee Bookshop.

North Universalist Chapel Society  
7 Church Street  
Woodstock, VT 05091



*February*  
*Quest*

**Non-Profit  
Organization  
US Postage Paid  
Woodstock VT  
Permit number 5**

**Return Service Requested**