

The Quest

March 2011

The North Universalist Chapel Society
Woodstock • Vermont

Affiliated with the Unitarian Universalist Association

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From Sam Keen's *Hymns To An Unknown God: Awakening the Spirit In Everyday Life*

My life is the text within which I must find the revelation of the sacred. If there is some sacred ground and meaning of my life, it must be discovered here and now. If we have ears to hear, eyes to see, and bodies to feel, we are always being addressed. Moments, events, words, persons or objects become luminous. The experience of discerning the sacred is not available on the secondhand market. It is quite improbable that the meaning of our lives is whispered into the ear of some guru or authority. Likely, our best chance to hear the still, small voice is to listen carefully for the sacred echo in the voices and silences that resound within my mind, my body, my heart.

In this spring, awakening, melting season, may you be able to fully participate in the luminosity.

Daniel

From the Board

The Board is undergoing change as we aim to continue to be a vibrant and caring community. Peggy Kannenstine is stepping down as Chair after serving for the past 3 consecutive years; she has also served as Chair for many years in the past and has invaluable knowledge of NUCS affairs, history, people, stories etc. We cherish her continued presence on the Board and her guidance as we move in new directions. The Board voted to have two co-chairs; Mary Jean Taylor will be the Chair and Lynn Peterson Vice-Chair. Peggy will help guide us as we embark on this new structure. Donna van Fleet, whose accurate, concise and timely minutes are much appreciated, was re-elected Secretary. The Board welcomed our newest member Carol Egbert. Anne Marinello was also present as a candidate Board member to be presented to the congregation for approval at a Special Meeting on March 6th.

Everyone is presumably aware that the Growth Committee, after years of work, has made a number of recommendations for changes in the way we communicate, organize and govern the church. The impetus for this work is the increased size and complexity of the congregation and our programs (and aspirations). We have grown to become a “program” as opposed to a “pastoral” church. We are beginning to respond to the recommendations with the 3 Saturday morning visioning sessions led by Deb Hawthorn. Most of us have found these sessions to be very stimulating as we share our thoughts about what the church means to us and what we would like to do as a congregation. Based on these conversations we will be creating new vision and mission statements.

The Board voted to create a Finance Committee which will be organized by Peter Rousmaniere. This Committee will coordinate with the Trustees of Funds, the Resource Committee, and with Ann Wynia our Treasurer. The Committee will be in-

(Continued on page 3)

volved in creating the budget, monitoring the costs of new and existing programs and advising the Board.

One of the major concerns expressed in the Saturday sessions, as well as in the Growth Committee report, concerns how we welcome visitors. The Membership Committee has done a lot in greeting people, helping visitors sign the book if they want, and following up with calls, etc when appropriate. Yet many in the congregation feel that all of us, not just the members of the Membership Committee, could do more to help people feel welcomed. The Board will be working with the Membership Committee to see how we can improve in this important function.

We, as a Board, want to encourage input from members of the congregation. Share with us your thoughts, ideas, feelings, etc. We want to help us be a “loving, caring community engaged in mindful action”.

In love and peace,

Lynn Peterson
Board of Trustees

Special Meeting of the Membership to Elect Trustee Sunday, March 6, 2011, immediately following service
Following up on the January 23rd Annual Meeting, where taking the vote on a nomination for trustee from the floor was postponed in order to give the nominee opportunity to consider trusteeship, a Special Meeting of the Membership will convene after service Sunday, March 6, for the purpose of holding the postponed election. All members of the North Universalist Chapel Society are invited to attend and vote.

Church Notices

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].



Book Corner

The small bookshelf near the social hall is hungry for new books. Please contribute and take out.

- Elizabeth Bond

March Birthdays

- 3/4 Donna Durgin
- 3/4 Trish Compton
- 3/4 Bill Ellis
- 3/5 Deborah Neuhof
- 3/7 Daniel Jantos
- 3/10 Eli Weintraub
- 3/13 Felicia Neuhof
- 3/19 Steve Teel
- 3/23 Gina Auriema
- 3/25 Peter Rousmaniere
- 3/26 Suzy Hallock-Bannigan
- 3/27 Anne Macksoud

Anniversaries

- 3/22 Jan & Paul Siard

Treasurer's Report

<u>YTD (1/31/11)</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>
TOTAL RECEIPTS	
\$43,342	\$207,960
Expenses	
Church Building \$4150	\$29828
Parsonage \$0	\$1530
Administration \$4958	\$33717
Benefits \$3529	\$39633
Minister's Package \$5792	\$69509
Worship \$0	\$3250
Music \$1373	\$16279
Coffee \$0	\$500
Resource Dev. \$0	\$500
Membership \$1877	\$4850
RE \$723	\$8354
TOTAL EXPENSES	
\$22,402	\$207,960
Balance \$20,939.37	
Treasurer:	
Ann Wynia 457-2217	

Thoughts from the Music and Worship Committee

Should we have a question and answer period following a reflection by Daniel or a reflection by a guest reflector? The Worship Committee asked this question in its February meeting and decided that it wasn't a good idea. Questions immediately following the reflection would interfere with the broader feeling or intention of the reflection. Questions would interrupt our individual thought processes as we each consider the reflection just given and how we want to relate to it. The committee will ask that guest reflectors make themselves available after the service to answer any questions individuals may have face to face. The same would be true for any questions that may arise from one of Daniel's reflections.....Just ask him.

Meditation Building Project Update

At the annual meeting we promised a brief monthly update: this is number one.

We are currently in the first stage of having the drawings for the building reviewed by the Woodstock design review board, and they have made a few recommendations.

Tuesday 2/22 there will be a Skype consultation with a Feng Shui practitioner who is presenting his analysis of our project from the viewpoints of this ancient Chinese science.

The NUCS Board has asked us to respond to a series of questions about how this project will impact the church.

We are thinking about gathering together people who might be interested in becoming the stewards for the project. Call if you have questions.

Sincerely,
David Doolittle, for the planning group

Spirituality Connections

Divinity Group

A Divinity Group for spiritual exploration, led by Jennifer Donaldson, Titia Ellis, and Charity Gray, will meet monthly on the first Thursday of each month, at 7 pm. We will use a series of CDs of channeled guidance from the Ascended Masters Jeshua, Mary Magdalen, and Quan Yin as a basis for discussion and growth. Location: church parlors, open to all, no charge.

Meditation and Oneness Blessings every Tuesday at 5:15 in the church parlors

The Oneness Blessing offers a simple effortless method of giving profound rest to the body and peace to the mind, promoting wellness in all areas of life. Oneness Experience creates a neurobiological shift in the brain silencing the ceaseless chatter of the mind, enabling us to simply experience reality as it is, in the present moment where there is peace and a deep sense of well being. *Come and experience for yourself!*

Additional Opportunity: A Meditation and Oneness Blessing will be offered from 5:15 to 6:15 on the first and third Thursday each month at the **Barnard Library**. Please contact Mary 234-5541 or Anne 457-3889 for directions or information.

Join Jill Davies for an Introduction to Avatar Thursday, March 24, 2:00-5:00 pm

Avatar is a course that teaches you tools to use to change repeating experiences in your life, to get more out of every moment and really live in the present, to make better connections with others. In this free introduction you'll learn a few of those tools and see if Avatar is something that you'd like to experience more of. Please email jill@jillmdavies.com or call Jill 672-6152 to reserve a space.

The meeting will take place in the small RE office adjacent to the church office.

Early Spring Happenings



Winter Farmer's Market March 5th and March 26th

The first Woodstock Winter Farmer's Market is being held right here in our own Church. We'll have a Farmer's Market on the first and fourth Saturday of March! There will be food and crafts offered in the social hall between 10:00 AM and 1:00 PM. The final Winter Farmer's Market will be on the fourth Saturday of April (April 23). If you are interested in being a vendor, please call Anne Dean at 457-3889.



Re-Circle Dinner March 26

Let's "circle again" this month!

A Circle Dinner is a group of people enjoying a meal and fellowship in the home of a gracious host.

Sign up will be available at church March 13 and 20. Pru Schuler will be there to take your reservation and answer questions. You may see her at church or call her at 457-1137.

On March 20th, after all the names have been gathered, the people will be divided into groups of 6-10. These groups are formed with attention given to mixing longtime members with those newer to the church community, different ages and different interests. Our intention is that you will already know at least one other person and have the opportunity to come away having made other church connections.

During the week of March 20th a host will decide on a time and invite you to come and bring a part of the meal (sort of a managed pot luck). Don't worry if you don't cook, as a bottle of wine or bread and butter are usually needed and welcome. This all boils down to friends and soon to be friends enjoying food and fellowship in a cozy home - a good way to spend a winter evening

Hosts are vital in helping all this happen. Groups can be formed to fit your space. You can decide the time. Car pooling has often been a fun piece of the evening if you live out of town. Please consider hosting a Circle Dinner. Thank you..

Children's Chapel March Schedule



March 6th - Music with Kathleen

March 13th - Lessons with Cally

March 20th - Crafts with Marion and Norman

March 27th - Yoga with Geraldine

Each Sunday, Valerie will provide nursery care downstairs for babies and pre-school children during service. School-age children are welcome to participate in our Children's Chapel held in the church parlors.

Change the World Kids



Our fabulous Anti-Cabin Fever dinners will continue through March. This month features chefs from the Three Tomatoes Trattoria, The Castle Resort, Red Clover Inn, and more. Join us on Wednesday evenings at 6:00 in the social hall. Dinner costs \$9.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children. Seating is limited, and reservations are suggested. Please call 457-2622 or email changetheworldkids@yahoo.com. Come warm your body and spirit with great food and company!

There's still time to become a candidate in our Let It Grow Wild! facial hair contest! Even if you cannot grow much more than peach fuzz, you can still capture the audience with your style, and wow the judges with your community support through votes! On the first Wednesday in April, 4/6, in the social hall, we'll hold the great judging and a celebration dinner. Register as a candidate through our website or contacting us at changetheworldkids@yahoo.com or 457-2622. The contest helps send us to reforest in Costa Rica to conserve biodiversity - there and in Vermont.

Do you know teens who like to dance or like techno music? Let them know that we're hosting a dance this month! Watch our website and emails for details.

Please let us know of anyone who can use our help! Contact us at 457-2622 or changetheworldkids@yahoo.com

2011 NUCS Classical Music Series



Classical Concert
Sunday March 27 at 2:00 pm
NUCS sanctuary
The Aeolus Quartet
with guest Victor Rosenbaum,
piano

Praised by Strad Magazine for their “high-octane” performance and by the Reading Eagle for their “spirited and precise” playing, the Aeolus Quartet is among the finest young string quartets performing today. Formed in 2006 under the tutelage of William Preucil, Peter Salaff, and the Cavani Quartet, the Aeolus Quartet is currently the Graduate Quartet-in-Residence at the University of Texas at Austin. Their activities include extensive teaching and performing, educational outreach, and intensive work with the Miró Quartet.

The Aeolus Quartet are winners of the Coleman-Barstow Prize for Strings at the 2009 Coleman International Chamber Music Competition, and they have won awards in the 2010 New England International Chamber Ensemble Competition and the 2010 Plowman Chamber Music Competition.

Composed of Nicholas Tavani - violin, Rachel Kitagawa Shapiro - violin, Gregory Luce - viola, and Alan Richardson - cello, the Quartet is named for the Greek god Aeolus, the keeper of the four winds. He is known for welcoming Odysseus and his crew with music during their journey back to Ithaca in Homer’s Odyssey.

Pianist Victor Rosenbaum has performed widely as soloist and chamber music artist in the United States, Europe, Asia, Israel, and Russia. He has been a faculty member at New England Conservatory since 1967, and he is past Chair of both its piano and chamber music departments.

Program: Brahms - Piano Quintet in F minor, Bartok - Quartet No 4
www.aeolusquartet.com

Concert is free, with donations gratefully accepted at the door.
(proceeds to benefit the church)

Church Committee & Group Meetings

- **Resource Development Committee**
2nd Sunday after church in Library
Contact Lynn Peterson 672-3697
or Peter Rousmaniere 457-9149
- **Men's Discussion Group**
1st and 3rd Mondays, 7:00 pm
in Library
Contact Lynn Peterson 672-3697
- **Membership Committee**
4th Monday, 7:00 pm in Library
Contact Ann Wynia 457-2217
- **Worship Committee**
1st Tuesday, 5:30 pm in Library
Contact Don Ransom 295-5135
- **Buildings and Grounds Committee**
Feb. 15, 6:30 pm in social hall
Contact David Doolittle 763-8773
- **Board of Trustees**
3rd Tuesday at 6:15 PM in Library
Contact Peggy Kannenstine
457-3313
- **Pastoral Care Committee**
4th Tuesday, 6:30 PM in Library
Contact Judy Williamson 457-3620
- **Choir Rehearsals**
Wednesdays, 7:00 pm, sanctuary
Contact Diane Mellinger 234-6619
- **Growth Committee**
2nd Thursday 6-7:30 pm in Library
Contact Chris Bartlett 457-1880 or
Susan Inui-Kelley 295-5135

Activities at the Church

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

Tuesdays: Oneness Blessings held in the parlors, 5:15-6:15 PM. All are welcome. Contact Anne Dean 457-3889 or annesheart@aol.com

Wednesdays - Course in Miracles: 5:30-7:00 PM in Library. Contact Robert Walker (802) 359-4047

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

Thursdays: Hand in Hand dinners held in the Social Hall, 5:00-7:00 PM, free. Volunteers welcome. Contact Lauren Jane Wilder 802-299-1777

Divinity Group: 7:00-9:00 pm, library room, 1st Thursday each month. Contact Jennifer Donaldson 457-3690

Food Shelf Collection

There is a continuous and growing need to help those in our community who are struggling. Please help throughout the year by donating any non-perishable food items, paper towels, diapers, toilet paper and personal care products and drop them off in the basket in our church narthex.

March Worship

Sunday services at 10:00 until 11:00 AM

Child care provided every Sunday.

March 6

Reflection: Daniel Jantos

Music: Diane Mellinger

March 13

Reflecion:

Music: Diane Mellinger

March 20

Reflection:

Music: Diane Mellinger

March 27

Reflection: Jonna Golding

Music: Diane Mellinger

March Worship Notes

March 27: Jonna Golding is a family doctor and palliative care specialist who has worked at Gifford Medical Center for fifteen years. She is a third-generation Unitarian-Universalist from western Massachusetts who took the long road to medicine, and attended McMaster Medical School in Ontario after she had worked in marketing and advertising for years. She has been a faculty member of the Being with Dying retreat at the Upaya Zen Center in Santa Fe, New Mexico; and she now leads workshops and presentations on wounded healer legends, and how these ancient stories can inform healers today. She lives with her family in Sharon, and loves her work, storytelling, writing, cooking, and playing the bassoon.



Coming Soon—Spring Dance Classes

Four Fridays beginning April 29th in church social hall

6:30 pm: Dance Boot Camp - the basics you need to feel and look good at your upcoming event

7:30 pm: Tango - 4 weeks to just tango.

Jenny Gelfan, dance instructor. **More details in the April Quest!**

North Universalist Chapel Society
7 Church Street
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March
Quest

**Non-Profit
Organization
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