

The Quest

May 2011

The North Universalist Chapel Society

Woodstock • Vermont

Affiliated with the Unitarian Universalist Association

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North Universalist
Chapel Society
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Woodstock, VT 05091
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802-457-1786
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Church Office Hours:
Donna Atwood,
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Tue, Wed & Fri
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Without a question, an answer is experienced as manipulation; without a struggle, help is considered interference; and without the desire to learn, the offer to teach is easily felt as oppression. Imagine a task in which we do not offer information, advice, or even guidance, but allow others to come into touch with their won struggles, doubts and insecurities - to affirm their life as a quest. Our hope is not hidden in the possession of power but in the confession of weakness. As long as religion is seen as another field to be mastered, only hostility and resentment can be expected. The main questions of religion open us to new questions which lead us deeper into the unspeakable mystery of existence. What needs the greatest affirmation is the validity of these questions. Don't hesitate to raise them. Don't be afraid to enter them.

May these words of author and teacher Henri Nouwen be a message of welcome to all our new members whom we welcome this month and to each other and colleagues and comrades on this delightful journey that is our lives. It is such a profound privilege for our paths to intersect. I bow to you and wish you the loveliest of Mays.

Daniel

From the Board

This month Peggy Kannenstine had to resign from the Board for health reasons. We will miss her dearly. Peggy knows so much about the church, the board and especially relations with the UU church in general as well as other Woodstock organizations. Her presence as a source of valuable knowledge will be missed in our deliberations. But, perhaps even more important, we will miss Peggy's kind, thoughtful manner which is so helpful when deliberating items where there are differences of opinion.

We have asked the nominating committee for help finding a candidate which the Board can then appoint to take her place.

The Board unanimously approved a contract with Jeff Morris to help guide us in developing our web site. Jeff will work with Donna Atwood and church volunteers who will be site editors creating content for the site. This will be an important way to publicize church programs, communicate with the community and further integrate the work of our committees.

The most exciting part of the April Board meeting involved discussion of plans for a possible meditation center which is now being referred to as the River Room. These plans are in the early stages of development but because this would be a major commitment of effort and resources it is making us think hard about the church's identity. What are our values and goals; and then what is our vision and our mission? Daniel described the need for a space which is a very different kind of 'sanctuary' - a place for spiritual awareness and practice. He finds that individuals and groups who come to NUCS often find our main sanctuary too reminiscent of a narrow ecclesiastical view which is not what they are seeking. The liberal religious view of the Unitarian-Universalism that is appealing to them in the first place requires a different kind of 'space'. Thus if we want to foster the kind of religion expressed in our seven principles, we need to seriously consider the need for a different kind of 'sanctuary'.

As a part of this discussion the Board realized that the decision to create something like a new sanctuary or River Room would require input and support from the entire congregation. So we are now actively making plans for how and when to begin this larger

(Continued on page 3)

conversation. This kind of planning also represents our growth or transition from being a “pastoral” sized organization/congregation to becoming a “programmatic” one. Thus the reality of this opportunity is helping us take steps we have talked about so extensively in the last 6 - 8 months.

In Peace and Love,
Lynn Peterson

Introduction to Clearness Committee May 21



(Repeat of April 9th event)

In response to several dozen inquiries, we have decided to repeat the Clearness Committee class/workshop on **Saturday May 21st, 9:00 am to noon, in the NUCS Social Room (light lunch provided)**

The Clearness Committee was invented by the early Quakers to help individuals gain clarity on personal and/or work issues with which they are struggling. It's a process that assumes that individuals can find guidance from within, from their “inner teacher,” and that they can be helped to find this guidance by being asked open, honest questions by a small group of trusted friends.

The goal of this gathering is to help members of NUCS and the larger community gain an understanding of Clearness Committees (CCs) and their use, and some initial experience in being a part of such a committee. The longer term goal is to have a cadre of individuals who would be available, from time to time, to be a part of a CC for someone seeking support and clarity. They could, of course, have a CC of their own if needed.

Led by Ken Bergstrom, former faculty member at Goddard College and Vermont College, who facilitates Parker Palmer-based Courage and Renewal Retreats in Vermont where Clearness Committees play a central role.

Please contact Richard Schramm (richardaschramm@gmail.com or 457-3717) if you are interested. Or you can leave an RSVP at 457-2557 at the church office, send an email to wdstkuu@sover.net, or sign up on the sheets located in the social hall.

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 book corner (small bookshelf near the social hall) is there for you to use. Bring some, take some! - Elizabeth Bond



Is Your Address Changing?

Some in the Woodstock area will be receiving new street addresses to comply with 911 stand-

ards. If these changes will affect your mailing address, please contact the church office so we can be sure that your newsletter reaches you and that our records can be updated.

Call the church office at 457-2557 or email wdstkkuu@sover.net and let Donna know your new mailing address. Thank You!

Treasurer's Report

<u>YTD (3/31/11)</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>
TOTAL RECEIPTS	
\$66,425	\$207,960
Expenses	
Church Building	\$29828
\$11043	
Parsonage	\$1530
\$1050	
Administration	\$33717
\$14360	
Benefits	\$39633
\$8949	
Minister's Package	\$69509
\$17377	
Worship	\$3250
\$697	
Music	\$16279
\$3920	
Coffee	\$500
\$54	
Resource Dev.	\$500
\$0	
Membership	\$4850
\$2261	
RE	\$8354
\$1765	
TOTAL EXPENSES	
\$61,476	\$207,960
Balance \$4,949.29	

Treasurer:
Ann Wynia 457-2217

May Birthdays

5/1	Elizabeth Bond
5/2	Claire Martin
5/5	Irene Hanslin
5/9	Titia Ellis
5/14	Geoff Dates
5/14	Tessa Mellinger
5/15	Gabriel Bango
5/15	Silas Bohem
5/16	Ann Wynia
5/16	Carolyn Walsh
5/17	Lili McCullough
5/24	Tom List, II
5/25	Richard Schramm
5/26	Kathryn Lancaster
5/26	Sherry Belisle
5/27	Robert Mitchell
5/27	Carolyn Gordon
5/31	Jayne Buckley-Sykes

Anniversaries

5/14	Tambrey & Ken Vutech
5/23	Tim Traver & Delia Clark
5/27	Fran & Ralph Lancaster



New UU classes on May 1st, 15th & 22nd

Are you new to the church?

Have you been coming for a time but still feel new?

Have you recently joined and still have questions?

Would you like to officially join and need more information?

There are three classes in May to offer information.

They will be held after church May 1, 15 and 22 and last about 1.5 hours. On May 1st Susan Kelley-Outten will lead a walking tour of the church and a presentation of the North Chapel's history. Daniel Jantos will lead a "theology" discussion with time for questions on May 15th. And on May 22nd there will be a chance to hear from representatives from all the committees that help keep our church functioning in a meaningful way. Lunch will be served and child care available each week. Please let us know if you are interested in attending. See Fran Lancaster, Pru Schuler, Rose Mroszczyk, Ginny Christy, Sherry Belisle, Susan Boston, or Ann Wynia with questions.

Spirituality Connections

Divinity Group

The Divinity group will be meeting on the first Thursday each month, 7 - 9pm in the Library. Upcoming meeting topics will be: on May 5th - The Soul's Pledge, and on June 2nd - What is Written. Led by Jennifer Donaldson. Location: church parlors, open to all, free.

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.

Earth Religions Exploration Group

Starting on May 20th at 6:00 pm in the church library

This group will focus on all aspects of Earth Religions such as Native American, Wicca, Australian Aborigine, and Druidry (to name a few). Earth religion is a term that describes a wide range of early belief systems from all over the world. Most Earth religions are focused on the environment such as forests, pools, streams, seasons, celestial objects (sun/moon/Venus, etc.) and people's relationship with the natural world. Practitioners of these paths are welcome as are people who are curious. Possible topics include books, music, documentaries, and experiences. Rather than have a topic each month the floor is open to all possibilities. All attendees must abide by the Unitarian Universalist's code for respecting other belief systems and each other. Please feel free to bring snacks and musical instruments. If you are interested or have questions you can contact Shoshana Boar sboar@comcast.net or the church office, 802 457-2557, wdstkuu@sover.net The next meeting date in June TBA.

Who am I? Why am I here? Where am I going?

If these are questions that engage you come and join us for a weekend **Avatar® Resurfacing Workshop on May 14 and 15 in Woodstock**. You will find the answers by exploring the underlying structure of your own consciousness.

The ReSurfacing Workshop is Section I of The Avatar® Course that contains information, demonstrations, and experiential exercises to awaken you to the unlimited possibilities of living deliberately. You'll experience a greater connection with and insight into the nature of personal reality. The exercises bring forth a you that transcends all the ideas you've imagined yourself or the world to be. This moment of transcendence, or resurfacing, is a glimpse into the realm opened by the Avatar materials. Welcome home. The exercises take you behind the scenes of consciousness for a look at the blueprints by which you build your life. The journey results in an intimate connection with a deeper, more compassionate and aware state of self. It is a process, paralleling nature, of revealing yourself to yourself. The rewards are new insights and realizations about how your life works—or why it doesn't. ReSurfacing is an expedition into consciousness that you personalize according to your own needs. How far you go is a matter for you to determine, and the truth you discover will be your truth.

The cost of the weekend is \$295. If you'd like to learn more or book a place call me on 802 672 6152 or email me at jill@jillmdavies.com

If you'd like to learn more about Avatar before you commit to a weekend join me for a **Free Introduction to Avatar on Tuesday May 3rd, 5 - 8pm** in the small RE office adjacent to the church office or contact me to set up a time that works for you.

Love When You Need It the Most

Spirituality for Burnt Toast, Traffic Jams and Daily Living

Conducted by Jeffrey Douglas (see Worship Notes on page 15 of this Quest) and Susan Hastings. The workshop will be on Saturday May 7th. Email Jeffrey@livingfromyoursoul.com or call 208-667-8387 for more information. Workshop held in Norwich, VT.



NUCS Spring Worker Bee May 7th

Yes, the snow is receding ! That means we can start to clean up the debris out of doors and open windows and do some spring cleaning in doors.

**Plan on joining us any time between 10am & 2pm,
Saturday, May 7th.**

Feel free to bring work gloves for inside or out, rakes and other garden tools. Coffee and snacks will be on hand.

Volunteer Opportunities To Help with Church Website

We are looking for a content manager/editor for the NUCS website. The content manager will determine what content is needed and then, either write it and present it as finished copy ready to be uploaded to the website, or find volunteers willing to write copy and then edit it as necessary. No computer skill is necessary to do this work.

We are also looking for a few people who are interested in learning about working with a website from a pro, and who, after an individual tutorial session would be willing to spend a few hours a month helping to keep the NUCS web site up to date.

If you are interested in learning, more please contact Carol Egbert by email at Carol.Egbert@gmail.com

Food Shelf Collection

Especially needed now are canned soups and stews (low sodium if possible) canned fruit and vegetables - all types of juice boxes, baking supplies such as flour, baking powder, etc., mayonnaise, salad dressings, dish detergent and shampoo. Donations may be dropped off in the basket in our church narthex.

The Woodstock Community Food Shelf is open on Mondays 4-6 pm, Wednesdays 1-3 pm and Saturdays 10-noon. They are located at 2176 Maxham Meadow Way, Woodstock. Phone 457-1185. Donations of cash are also much appreciated.



New Member Profile: Robin LaRoche

Robin LaRoche is a New Englander through and through, having sampled life in 5 of the 6 states. When she was 11, her father became a UCC minister, and the church community became an even more important part of her life. Now, as she battles cancer, she knows she can count on friendship and support at NUCS, which was as important as meeting her spiritual needs in her decision to become a member.

She is a faithful helper in the Hand in Hand kitchen on Thursdays and a mentor to an eighth grade girl at WUMS.

Robin's immediate family consists of one daughter and three grandchildren, a 94 year old mother, one sister, and one brother. Her domestic partner is Eldon Thompson, a longtime resident of Woodstock. She joined him here in Woodstock three years ago after retiring from a teaching career of 30 years in NH.

Until becoming ill, she enjoyed family camping and was a ranked NH golfer. Today her interests include reading, quilting, puzzles, gardening, and especially, travel. She has been to every US state but Hawaii, most of Canada, Panama, 7 European countries, Australia, NZ, Fiji, Japan, Russia, S. Korea, China, and many Caribbean islands.

A family reunion is planned in the Adirondacks this summer, and Robin is planning to drive a large RV there. Go Robin!

Invitation to Picnic and Mt. Tom Hike Sunday June 5th after church

The Membership Committee would like to invite everyone to a community hike up Mt. Tom on the first Sunday in June after church, weather permitting. Bring your own bag lunch and drink, and we'll picnic. Those who are unable or who would prefer not to hike will do a tailgate lunch in the parking lot at the bottom of the back trail on Prosper Road. Perhaps we'll all eat there together.

Spring Happenings



Guillaume Molko

NUCS Classical Music Series Concerts in May

Sunday May 1: Guillaume Molko violin accompanied by Yannick Rafalimanana piano. They will play Beethoven's Spring Sonata (Violin Sonata #5) and Frank's Sonata for Violin and Piano in A Major. Very recently, Guillaume made his solo debut at Alice Tully Hall where one prominent critic commented that "he is very elegant and refined, with a beautiful sound."



Sergey Antonov

Sunday May 29: Sergey Antonov cello accompanied by Ilya Kanantsev piano. Sergey has been hailed as "a brilliant cellist" by the legendary cellist Rostropovich and (in 2007) was one of the youngest cellists awarded the gold medal at the world's music Olympiad, the quadrennial International Tchaikovsky Competition.

Concerts will be held at 2:00 PM in the church sanctuary. Free, with donations gratefully accepted at the door to benefit the church.

Mark your calendars now for the rest of this year's series:

Heidi Baxter flute September 11, 2011
Evelyn Zuckerman piano

Vento Chiaro October 9, 2011
woodwind quintet Columbus Day Weekend

Anna Schemetieva violin November 6, 2011
Ellina Blinder piano



Ilya Kanantsev

Church Directory Updates

Here is a list of some of the recent updates to our February 2011 church directory:

Brooke & Kathy Beard: 457-1842, 1631 Westerdale Rd, Woodstock, VT 05091, kbeaird@gmail.com

Shoshana Boar: sboar@comcast.net

Elizabeth Bond: now lives at 73 River St, Woodstock VT 05091

Geoff Dates: cell 619-244-2728

Titia Ellis: ellis8961@aol.com

Akankha Perkins: now lives at 36 Pleasant St, Apt 6B, Woodstock, VT 05091 (same email address and phone)

Nancy Randall: correct phone is 457-2862

Richard Schramm: richardaschramm@gmail.com

Bill Sturtevant: new address—PO Box 85, Canaan, NH 03741-0085

Lauren Wilder: cell phone 802-299-1777

If you notice that your directory listing should be updated, please contact Donna in the church office at 457-2557 or email: wdstkuu@sover.net

We will post some new updates when we can. New directories are printed only once a year, so please use these corrections to update your 2011 directory.

Thank you!

Children's Chapel May Schedule



May 1st - Music with Kathleen

May 8th - Lessons with Cally

May 15th - Crafts with Marion and Norman

May 22nd - Lessons with Ann and Charity

May 29th - 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. We will continue our Children's Chapel program until June 12th, and then take a recess for the summer months. Nursery care on Sundays will continue all summer.

Change the World Kids



We know that you have cool clothes, jewelry, and accessories that you just don't wear. And we know that you probably have other things in your home that you simply don't need, and someone else may love to use. We have a creative solution to get these out of your home, plus make a positive difference for our community and planet!

Join the fun on Friday, May 27 at our awesome Great Garments for Global Good clothing sale. From May 1-25, drop off donations of gently-used garments (stuff you'd like to wear), jewelry, and accessories in front of the green door on the left front side of the church. On Friday, May 27, from 5:00-8:30 in the social hall, we'll have a sale and reception. Come for bargains, quality items, great finds, good food and company - some of your favorite people! Call 457-2622 or email changetheworldkids@yahoo.com for information.

On Saturday, May 28, the Change the World Kids host a BIG yard sale to benefit our work! Sale hours are from 10:00 - 2:30 in front of the church. Donations of good to excellent items are gratefully welcomed from May 1-25. Please call 457-2622 or email us for information, and before dropping off very large or valuable pieces.

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Please no old computers, damaged electronic equipment, office equipment, or large appliances.

If you know of someone who could use our help or needs free firewood to get through the last bits of spring chill, please call 457-2622 or email changetheworldkids@yahoo.com.

Thoughts from the Music and Worship Committee

In the last couple of years, meditation has become an increasingly vital part of our service. Last month the worship committee continued to discuss its value, as well as the forms these periods of quiet have taken. Many of us treasure the tranquil hush that nurtures individual reflection and prayer. Frequently, these times are enriched by Daniel's introductions, which draw us into thoughts that are organic to the service as a whole.

Of course, such mindfulness can extend well beyond Sunday morning. One member observed that living each day as a prayer can be what gets us through, an idea that others restated: A Jewish mitzvah reminds us that "everything you do is a blessing," while the Quaker poet John Greenleaf Whittier described "...the calm beauty of an ordered life/ whose very breathing is unworded praise."

What do you think? Please share your comments, suggestions, or opinions with any of us on the Worship Committee: Chris Bartlett, Mary Blanton, Jennifer Donaldson, Polly Forcier, Daniel Jantos, Joanna Long, Anne Macksoud, Diane Mellinger, Joanne Findley, and Don Ransom.

Hand in Hand Community Supper

Themes for May:

May 5 *Cinco de Mayo*

12 *Happy Birthday George Carlin*

19 *Holiday of Poetry (Turkmenistan)*

26 *Memorial Day*

Hand In Hand is dedicated to Sustainable Community Growth and Development in Woodstock, Vermont and the surrounding community. Meals are served every Thursday from 5-7 P.M. in the church Social Hall. Meals are open to all. Donations are accepted. For more information contact (802)299-1777.

Thank you for your continued support,

Lauren Wilder

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 Mary Jeanne Taylor
234-6953
- **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

Ongoing 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

Earth Religions Group: 6:00-8:00 pm, library room, starting May 20th. Contact Shoshana Boar sboar@comcast.net

May Worship

Sunday services at 10:00 until 11:00 AM
Child care provided every Sunday.

May 1

Reflection: Scott Davison
& Daniel Jantos
Music: Diane Mellinger

May 8 - Mother's Day

Reflection: Jeffrey Douglass
Music: Diane Mellinger

May 15

Reflection: Daniel Jantos
Music: Diane Mellinger

May 22

Reflection: Daniel Jantos
Music: Diane Mellinger

May 29

Reflection: Bruce McClelland
Music: Diane Mellinger



May Worship Notes

May 1: Scott Davison, naturalist at Marsh-Billings will be providing the reflection with Daniel Jantos, which will celebrate May Day and the coming of spring.

May 8: Jeffrey Douglass, MSW,CSW - author of "Living from Your Soul" and numerous articles, integrates different spiritual traditions and psychology to awaken the heart in everyday life. He offers individual and couples counseling [also by phone], retreats, workplace coaching and telecourses around the country.
www.livingfromyoursoul.com

May 29: Bruce McClelland will provide the reflection (more details will be announced soon).

North Universalist Chapel Society
7 Church Street
Woodstock, VT 05091



May Quest

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Organization
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Woodstock VT
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Return Service Requested