

The Quest

November 2010

The North Universalist Chapel Society
Woodstock • Vermont

Affiliated with the Unitarian Universalist Association

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North Universalist Chapel Society

7 Church Street
Woodstock, VT 05091
802-457-2557
www.nucs.org

Rev. Daniel Jantos, Minister
802-457-1786
sotnaj@aol.com

*Diane Mellinger,
Music Director*
802-234-6619
vermontdianem@aol.com

Zeus Lary, Sexton
802-457-7089

Church Office Hours:
*Donna Atwood,
Office Manager*
Tue, Wed & Fri
10:00 AM-4:00 PM
Church Office e-mail:
wdstkuu@sover.net

Is brown still in vogue?

I didn't think I liked browns all that much but in November they are as soothing to the eyes as green is in May. I know I am not the only one who relishes the beech browns and the oak red browns and the poplar yellows of November and the fog wooing them all into a trance that will make them sleep.

What a contrast then to November in our work and social schedules. This is the time when every organization does much of its work. All the non profits are also at this time doing all their fund raising (and so much in our culture is left up to non profits to do). Your letterbox, your email file, your phone is filled with appeals and announcements and offerings. All good things but only so much room; Only so much attention to give; Only so many ways a budget can stretch.

I wish you in this season the equanimity and freedom to do what you can and feel good about that. I wish you the mindfulness to give to those things and participate in those events that lie closest to your heart and when sending in those contributions to pause a moment and send with them your blessing and hopefulness. To stay with the giving process long enough to counterbalance whatever you may have to say no to.

At the church November is filled with offerings and requests too: It is the beginning of our annual pledge campaign on the basis of

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(Continued from page 1)

which the following church year is planned. On November 7th we will be collecting an offering for two remarkable efforts in healthcare and child care in two regions of Africa. We will be devoting our Thanks giving offering, as we have for a number of years, to Venerable Somnieng and the Life and Hope Association with which we have an ongoing and cherished relationship. The Change the World Kids will be partnering with us in providing gifts to the children of Homeless families at the Haven in White River Junction. We invite each others generosity and offer each other gratitude. We pause to bless these efforts and be fully aware of the hopefulness that we send with them.

This is a profoundly generous church. Would we have it any other way? Let us relish the generosity and find in it the sustenance that we each individually need in realizing with kindness and compassion the immense needs that we cannot attend to. Thank you. Thank you, Thank you.

Daniel

From the Chair

Once again this month the Trustees met with representatives of the Growth Committee Task Forces. This time Chris Bartlett and Michael Stoner did a presentation from the "Nimble and Flexible" task force.

Their long and careful study of our congregation has led them to several areas they feel should be themes that occupy our attention in the coming months. You will probably recognize this one as a years-long concern: How can we best be welcoming in all sense. As said before, how can our congregation weave newcomers into our web of fellowship in the kindest ways.

Another theme was the development of leadership. And they included a suggestion that we host some trainings for Committee Chairs as well. The Task Force has some suggestions for outside trainers, who would be able to be objective and helpful.

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(From the Chair—Continued from page 2)

We will be looking into these suggestions and others they brought to our table, including the idea of forming a Council of Chairs that would meet several times a year, so that communication between committees is encouraged and facilitated.

One item of interest in the church is that we have a team of three people who will attend the District's "Harvest the Power" workshops later this month and November. They are: Martalena Ochoa, Carol Egbert and Karen Wolk. We are grateful for their participation! And, in addition, we look forward to the sharing of their new knowledge with more of the congregation after the course is completed.

With gratitude,
Peggy Kannenstine



Thanks Giving

The request for your annual pledge to NUCS arrives in your mail this month, and would you consider for moment that, instead of a feeling of obligation, giving is meant to be a joyful expression of thanks? When we consider all that NUCS has done for us and the well-being of our extended community, our pledges flow happily from a heart of gratitude. Thanks back to you for giving thanks to NUCS in your pledge.

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



November Birthdays

11/4 William Forster
11/5 Jan Marshall
11/5 Emma Libby
11/9 Jenny Gelfan
11/17 Carmen Bango
11/17 Charles Egbert
11/23 Joan Harvey
11/24 Mateo Bango
11/30 John Atwood, Jr.

Treasurer's Report

YTD (9/30/10) Budgeted

TOTAL RECEIPTS	
\$161,300	\$197,270
Expenses	
Church Building	\$33050
\$20478	
Parsonage	\$1000
\$2089	
Administration	\$31370
\$26214	
Benefits	\$29900
\$25110	
Minister's Package	\$66836
\$50130	
Worship	\$500
\$225	
Music	\$16156
\$11463	
Coffee	\$300
\$318	
Resource Dev.	\$500
\$0	
Membership	\$2600
\$1701	
RE	\$15050
\$7605	
TOTAL EXPENSES	
\$145,333	\$197,262
Balance \$15,967.06	
Treasurer:	
Ann Wynia 457-2217	



Red Flannel Hash Supper Invitation

Fall is fast approaching and so is the **RED FLANNEL HASH SUPPER**, November 6 from 5:00 to 7:00 pm. This is your invitation to participate in this traditional fun raiser.

This tasty event started over 80 odd years ago by the Ladies Circle of the Universalist Church. The Social Group took it over in the mid 1940s.

Do save the date and plan to enjoy a delicious menu of fall favorites - red flannel hash, pickles, cole slaw, baked beans and delicious apple and pumpkin pie. Tickets are available at the door only: Adults \$10 and children 12 and under \$5. No reservations needed, first come, first served!

It's a fundraiser, a tradition in the church with many "faithful followers." We will need lots of helping hands to produce the event Contact Ann Wynia to help with the preparations: 457-2217 or alwynia@aol.com

TURKEYS WANTED!



It's Thanksgiving Project time at the **Woodstock Community Food Shelf**. This annual event provides families who visit the food shelf with the makings of a full holiday meal. We are seeking donations of frozen turkeys, 14-pounds minimum. We also need bags of the "fixings" -- canned peas, canned beans, gravy mix, stuffing mix, and canned cranberry sauce. Pie bakers are also sought to make homemade masterworks to round out the meal. Donations of food can be made to the food shelf during regular hours, Monday (4 pm to 6 pm), Wednesday (1 pm to 3 pm), Saturday 10 am to noon). Cash donations can be dropped off or mailed to WCFS, PO Box 570, Woodstock, VT 05091. If you have questions or would like to volunteer for setting up the boxes on November 19 or distribution November 20, please call Bev Regan at (802) 457-4730.

We will continue to collect non-perishable food items, personal hygiene supplies, and other necessities for our Community Food Shelf. Drop off your non-perishable donation items in the basket in the church narthex.

Children's Development Village in Need



As usual, whenever Venerable Somnieng arrives at CDV, he is surrounded by the children who all want him to come and play.

It's hard to believe that it was four years ago when we first met a remarkable young Buddhist monk in his mid-20s doing amazing work in Cambodia. Since that time, Venerable Somnieng has been a regular presence in our community, and most of us are well acquainted with his warmth, his humor, but most of all his deep commitment to help the most disadvantaged Cambodian children and young women that his Life and Hope Association supports.

It is now a tradition here at the North Chapel to make Thanksgiving a time in which we express the thankfulness for our many blessings by supporting the work of LHA. This Thanksgiving, we plan to focus our support on the Children's Development Village, the program that provides what Venerable Somnieng calls "a loving home, smiling face" for 42 orphans and other abandoned or disadvantaged children.

The need arises because earlier this year, in the aftermath of the global financial crisis, the German family foundation that supported CDV indicated it can no longer do so. At NUCS, a group of individuals has assembled, and has committed to help raise the \$7000 needed to fund one of six houses in which the children live at CDV. We hope you will join us to reach that objective.

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Please feel free to talk to any of the members of the group: Barbara Bartlett, Chris Bartlett, Anne Dean, Titia Ellis, Daniel Jantos, Susan Jantos, Sidney Jantos, Anne Macksoud, Lynn Peterson, Karen Wolk, and Leah Wolk. We'd be glad to provide you with more information about how you can help. And of course, our church tradition of donating our Thanksgiving offering will continue this year.

Venerable Somnieng sends his love, blessings, and grateful thanks on behalf of the children.

Photo montage:
Sunday Service
November 7th



Fatuma and Jann in Tanzania



Children in Fatuma's school

Fatuma Gwao and Jann Mitchell are doing wonderful work in Tanzania with AIDS Orphans and the Grandmothers who are raising them.

Fatuma and Jann will be joining the NUCS community on November 7th for Sunday service. Please come and welcome them.

To view a short two-minute video about Fatuma and Jann, and the work they do in Tanzania, go to - <http://vimeo.com/15847779>

More details about the November 7th service on page 15 of this Quest.



Grandmother weaving mats

Spirituality Connections

Divinity Group

A Divinity Group for spiritual exploration, led by Jennifer Donaldson, Titia Ellis, and Charity Gray, will meet monthly on the third 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!*

Free Introduction to Avatar

Wednesday, November 17, 5:30-8:30pm

Learn about the role beliefs play in your life. In this free mini-course you can explore an area of your life that you'd like to change and uncover some of your hidden beliefs. Find out about Avatar, a self-development program that is a series of experiential exercises that enable you to rediscover your self and align your consciousness with what you want to achieve. Email or phone Jill Davies to reserve a place. jill@jillmdavies.com. 802 672 6152

The meeting will be held in the small RE office room adjacent to the church office.

A Grief Education and Support Group is being offered for those who have experienced the death of a loved one. This six-session group is free, open to residents of Woodstock and the surrounding communities, and will begin on Sunday, November 7, from 4 -6 p.m. The group will meet at the North Universalist Chapel Society, 7 Church St., Woodstock, VT, on Nov. 7, 14, 21, and December 5, 12, and 19. This program will provide small group support as well as education about the nature of grief and its effect on our lives. Facilitators are Susan Jantos, MSW, and Ann LaRocque, LCMHC. To register please call 802-457-1786.

Announcing a New Way to Cope With the Holidays

Does the thought of the holiday season begin to get you down or anxious? Do you struggle with the darkness of the season?

Sometimes being alone during this time can be a depressing experience, especially as people begin to gather with their families. Maybe just the expectation of happiness is by itself ominous.

We want to offer an alternative to sitting at home or feeling alone. Some of us will be regularly gathering in the library at the North Universalist Chapel on Tuesdays from 7-9 PM and Wednesdays from 10 AM - Noon beginning in mid-November. There will be coffee, tea and delicious sweets from the Woodstock Farmer's Market along with quiet conversation and maybe even a game or two. It will be hosted on Tuesday evenings by Veronica Delay, Anne Dean and Charles Egbert. On Wednesday mornings Joanne Boyle, Jack Nelson, and Charity Gray will be available.

Please stop by for friendship and support during the holidays. Call for a ride or more information: Jack Nelson 295-8081.

Children's Chapel

1st Sunday - Making music with Kathleen

2nd Sunday - Lessons with Callie

3rd Sunday - Being creative with artists Marion & Norman

Last Sunday - 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

The upcoming holiday time is absolutely magical, but some children and families in our area can use a hand making one part of the magic happen. This year The Change the World Kids hope that you will once again help us make the holiday gift wishes of local children and their parents come true.



We've written the wishes of 25 children and 12 parents on hearts. Please send us an email (changetheworldkids@yahoo.com) or give us a call (457-2622) if you'd like to make one or more of these wishes come true, making both your

heart and someone else's be warm throughout the holiday. All of the gifts for children should be unwrapped, so parents have the pleasure of wrapping. Gifts on the red hearts for parents should be wrapped. When you take a heart, please write your name and phone number on the attached post-it and either give it to a Change the World Kid or put it in the envelope on the church office door. Please tape the heart onto the gift. **All gifts must be brought to the church by Dec. 1 at the latest!** There is a box in the narthex of the church and one just inside the Change the World Kids' space where you can leave the gifts anytime until December 1.

Our famous Wednesday night Anti-Cabin Fever dinners start on January 5. Stay tuned!

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

Adult Religious Education Courses

The North Chapel's second series of Adult Religious Education courses will begin on Sunday November 7th. The series, described in our pamphlet (available at church on Sunday, or from the church office), builds on last year's courses by offering two classes on non-Western religions (Buddhism), reading one of the great New England Unitarians (Emerson), exploring the transition of UU from theological to more social concerns and studying the life of Jesus as described in the New Testament.

- **Exploring the Dhammapada.** George Wohlgemuth, six Sundays beginning November 7, from 5:00 - 6:30 PM.
- **The Wisdom Jesus.** Daniel Jantos, five Sundays beginning January 16, 2011, from 5:00 - 6:30 PM.
- **Unitarian Universalism Becomes a Religion for Everyone.** Lynn Peterson, four Sundays beginning February 6, 2011, after church from 11:30 - 1:00 PM.
- **Emerson's Impact on Our Spirituality of Today.** Peter Rousmaniere, four Sundays beginning March 6, 2011, after church from 11:30-1:00 pm.
- **Exploring the Fundamentals of Buddhism.** Rick Fiske, four Sundays beginning April 3, 2011, 5:30-7:00 pm.

Like last year, the class size will be limited to 12 in order to allow ample time for everyone to participate. Some courses will be offered after church (early afternoon) and others on Sunday evenings. We would like people to register by filling out the Registration Form as soon as possible so that course facilitators can plan and prepare materials.

If you have any questions you can contact Lynn Peterson (672-3697, lpeterson@vermontel.net) or the church office (457-2557, wdstkuu@sover.net).

You may also download the course brochure at www.nucs.org/re-programs/adult-religious-education/



Whitney Organ Recital Sunday, November 14, 7:30 PM Organist: Lynnette Combs

Please join us to hear organist Lynnette Combs at the North Universalist Chapel Society on Sunday 14 November at 7:30 for a program of music from Scandinavia and the Baltic. This is an opportunity to hear music not often performed in Vermont. Composers included are Dietrich Buxtehude, Edvard Grieg, Peeter Suda, Otto Olsson, Rihards Dubra, Arvo Part and Urmas Sisask. This music is lyrical and powerful, full of light and darkness, and, especially in the more modern pieces, of a style sometimes called "holy minimalism". There is a strong influence from Germany, also from Russia and from the folk music of these Northern European countries.

The organ built by the Hutchings, Plaisted & Co. in 1875 for the studio of Eugene Thayer was tonally designed as a model for churches in the United States. Thayer spent a year in Europe, notably, Germany and Holland, giving recitals while there. According to Ed Boadway, his diaries (now lost!) indicate that he played a recital on the Muller organ at Haarlem, and also an all-Bach recital in Bach's own church, the Thomaskirche in Leipzig, so he was familiar with strident instruments. This organ marks a turning point from the earlier quieter organs made for church use, and has a two rank high-pitched mixture made of tin.

This recital fills this year's Whitney Organ Recital Series begun several years ago and sponsored in part by the Vermont Chapter of the A.G.O. The series is named after Woodstock born, Samuel Brenton Whitney, who became organist and choir master at the Church of the Advent in Boston, and who was one of the founding members of the American Guild of Organists.

The recital is free, all are welcome. Donations gratefully accepted at the door.



Food, fellowship, fun combine at the Annual Fun(d) Dinner on Saturday, November 20th! This cherished annual gathering joins us in celebration of how NUCS nourishes body and spirit. Your table hosts provide the main course and organize their tablemates to bring the remainder, e.g., salad, vegetables, bread, dessert. Reserve your seat at the table today by contacting Donna Van Fleet at 802-484-7217 or dvfvt@sover.net.

Classical Music Series in our Sanctuary November 14, 2 pm - Klimt Trio



L to R: Kyu-Yeon Kim, Ahrim Kim, Robin Scott

Violinist Robin Scott, Cellist Ahrim Kim and pianist Kyu-Yeon Kim Formed in the fall of 2009, the Klimt Trio is already becoming recognized as an ensemble of the highest caliber. They have appeared across the East Coast, and particularly in Boston, where they have performed in Jordan Hall. Brought together at the New England Conservatory in Boston, pianist Kyu-Yeon Kim, violinist Robin Scott,

and cellist Ahrim Kim have each had major successes in their solo careers, winning prizes in a number of international competitions such as Queen Elisabeth (piano), Menuhin (violin), Cassado (cello), Dublin (piano), and many others.

Concerts in this series are free, donations welcome at the door. Series underwriters: Chris and Hazel Stoddart, Margaret Edwards, David Green

Church Committee & Group Meetings

- **Resource Development Committee**
1st 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**
1st Tuesday, 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
-

Other 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) 767-9262

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, 3rd Thursday each month. Contact Jennifer Donaldson 457-3690

November Worship

Sunday services at 10:00 until 11:00 AM

Child care provided every Sunday.

November 7

Bibi Fatuma Gwao and Bibi
Jann Mitchell
Music: Diane Mellinger

November 21

Reflection: Daniel Jantos
Music: Diane Mellinger

November 14

Reflection: Daniel Jantos
Music: Diane Mellinger

November 28

Reflection: Daniel Jantos
Music: Sherry Belisle

November Worship Notes

On Sunday, November 7th we will welcome Fatuma Gwao and Jann Mitchell to our service to celebrate their work with Tanzanian AIDS orphans and the Grandmothers who are raising them. Fatuma and Jann will give a brief reflection about their work. There will be a potluck lunch following the service where everyone will have a chance to greet Jann and Fatuma.

During her first trip to Africa in 2001, Jann met Fatuma, a Tanzanian grandmother who ran a pre-school (in her tiny home) for 13 AIDS orphans. Bricks a few hands high in Fatuma's dirt yard outlined her dream: a real pre-school. Jann returned to Oregon and began raising money, and today there is a school with 100 students from pre-school through Grade 5.

Jann and Fatuma also started a program to support the grandmothers who are raising these grandchildren. The grandmothers were the subject of a 2009 documentary, *Grandmother to Grandmother, New York to Tanzania*.

To adequately celebrate these two remarkable women (and to insure that Fatuma will feel at home) the service will include African drumming by Dartmouth professor Hafiz Shabazz, accompanied by Fred Haas, Michael Zsoldos and the UU Choir. There will also be several guests from East Africa. Please join us for the service and for the potluck lunch that follows. Let's welcome those grandmothers with a Vermont feast!

(see photo montage on page 7 of this Quest)

North Universalist Chapel Society
7 Church Street
Woodstock, VT 05091



November
Quest

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

Return Service Requested