

The Quest

October 2010

The North Universalist Chapel Society
Woodstock • Vermont

Affiliated with the Unitarian Universalist Association

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Early in the month of September, we celebrated water. We read Philip Larkin's poem that begins:

"If I were called in...To construct a religion...I should make use of water."

Through the late part of September and the beginning of October we have been celebrating tea. We read from parts of the old classic Book of Tea where Okakura Kakuzo writes: "we speak of the person "with no tea" in them, when they are insusceptible to the serio-comic interests of the personal drama. We stigmatize the untamed aesthete who, regardless of the mundane tragedy, runs riot in the springtide of emancipated emotions, as one with "too much tea" in them".

Now what? As I look at the variety of offering and invitations and reflections scheduled for October, I am reminded of the Sufi poet, Rumi and Coleman Barks' introduction to his metaphor of the tavern:

"In the Tavern are many wines – the wine of delight in color and form and taste, the wine of the intellect's agility, the fine port of stories, and the cabernet of soul singing. Being human means entering this place where entrancing varieties of desire and need are served. The grape skin of the ego breaks and a pouring begins. Fermentation is one of the oldest symbols for human transformation."

To you all and to our togetherness.....

an autumnal toast,
Daniel

From the Chair

At our September meeting, the Board was privileged to hear from Susan Inui-Kelley, Michael Stoner and Katrin Helgason of the Growth Committee and its three Task Forces. They presented to us the first overview and analysis of the recent congregational survey.

It was very encouraging to hear from them and to read the various graphs that showed clearly how much we, as a church, are doing well. In so many of the areas of the survey the vast majority of answers were in the “very positive” or “positive” ranges. Some examples of these were measurements of our “morale... and how we care for each other”. And “worship services inspire spiritual growth and are thought provoking”. On area such as these there was congruence between the expectation and the experience that was itself notable.

There was great satisfaction expressed about the level of involvement of our church in issues of the wider community. Some wishes that our spiritual lives even more often led to action were expressed, and that is an area for further consideration by the Board-and by us all.

Something that has been part of church conversations for years now was apparent once again from the survey. And that is the welcoming and integration of new people into the congregational fold. Obviously, this goes well beyond saying hello on Sunday mornings, and bringing new folks to coffee hour! We’re not talking about giving newcomers different coffee mugs or name tags-we’re talking about a fundamental sense of hospitality and a welcoming openness. I think the Board will be happy to continue to work with the committees-and all of you-on ways to help people feel that embrace we really offer our welcome. We would be happy to hear your own ideas for strengthening the in-weaving of new members too.

This is only a portion of what was discussed, and the Board and Growth Committee will meet again each of the next two months.

(Continued on page 3)

(From the Chair—Continued from page 2)

This is important work! Please ask any of us if you'd like more detail.

Also, In October and November, we are planning to send a team from NUCS to the District "Harvest the Power" leadership workshops. These promising seminars will focus on leadership from a UU perspective: being grounded in our faith while doing the work of committees, Board and Task Forces.

We will stay in touch as all these things develop. In the meantime, enjoy the beginnings of autumnal colors and scents as you go about your daily lives.

In peace,
Peggy Kannenstine

IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR . . .



Trees change color.
Pumpkins are harvested.
Gardens turn under.
Leaves scramble.
Stoves ignite.
Geese take flight . . .
And the NUCS Pledge Drive begins!

It's time to renew our covenant through our pledges for 2011. Watch your mailbox for pledge materials to arrive this month.

“MAY JOY AND FELLOWSHIP REIGN . . .”

On Saturday, November 20, we will gather in our Annual Fun(d) Dinner to toast the fellowship of NUCS and kick off our 2011 Pledge Drive. Board of Trustees members will serve as table hosts, providing the main dish for this festive feast. Tablemates will provide appetizers, side dishes and desserts. Contact Donna Van Fleet at dvfvt@sover.net or 802-484-7217 to reserve your seat at this popular fete.

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

Directory Updates

We are still working on the changes for the directory and wish to thank those who have contacted the church office to update their contact information. Please take a moment to look at your directory entry posted on the sheets in the social hall and make any corrections needed or contact the church office with your contact details. We plan to print a new directory in late October

Treasurer's Report

YTD (8/31/10) Budgeted

TOTAL RECEIPTS
 \$151,397 \$197,270

Expenses
 Church Building
 \$18277 \$33050

Parsonage
 \$1296 \$1000

Administration
 \$25453 \$31370

Benefits
 \$22513 \$29900

Minister's Package
 \$44560 \$66836

Worship
 \$225 \$500

Music
 \$10123 \$16156

Coffee
 \$318 \$300

Resource Dev.
 \$0 \$500

Membership
 \$1520 \$2600

RE
 \$7145 \$15050

TOTAL EXPENSES
 \$131,430 \$197,262

Balance \$19,967.28

Treasurer:
 Ann Wynia 457-2217



New Member Profiles: Shoshanna Shelley & Joanne Findley

In the past 3 years, Shoshanna Shelley and Joanne Findley have done at least two things they were sure they'd never do. They got married—to each other—and they joined a church. Daniel presided over their union at NUCS last

October. They decided to be married, because they were ready for exponential spiritual growth and so abandoned the illusion of saintly solitariness in favor of a mutual exploration that offers the unique experience of throwing Miracle Grow on their character flaws. They live in a soon-to-be, honeysuckle-covered cottage by a stream in the Barnard woods with their dog, Maude, and their cat, Wabi Sabi. The sharing of meaning, joy and sorrow with like-intentioned fellow beings as part of the Woodstock UU community has deeply enriched their lives.



October Birthdays

10/1 Paul Dunkel
 10/8 Joan Rothstein
 10/10 Leah Atwood
 10/13 Joanne Boyle
 10/14 Ed Durgin
 10/15 Tess Belisle
 10/16 Audrey Kern
 10/17 Liz Cassell
 10/18 Mike Backman
 10/18 Vassie Sinopoulos
 10/18 Charity Gray
 10/19 Leigh Snell
 10/20 Julian Jantos

10/20 Ross Taylor
 10/22 Mark Auriema
 10/22 Jordan Mellinger
 10/24 Hannah Weintraub
 10/25 Emma Bragdon
 10/25 Jack Nelson
 10/26 Kris Durgin
 10/26 Teale Bohem
 10/26 Spruce Bohem
 10/28 Seth Mellinger

Anniversaries

10/3 Lou & Peggy Kannenstine
 10/15 Mike Backman
 & Steve Swayne
 10/28 Sharon Miller & Lester Blake

Let's Read the Quran Instead of Burning It! Sunday, October 3, 7 PM—NUCS Sanctuary

The tensions and misunderstandings between the Islamic World and the West are costly and severe. This past month, we have witnessed a rash of anti-Muslim events throughout this nation. Most recently a Christian minister in Florida threatened to burn the Quran on September 11.

This even is being held in response to the threatened Quran burning and also in solidarity with Muslims everywhere. We'll read the Quran instead of burning it. The event will include words of welcome by Daniel Jantos and reflections from members of the Vermont and New Hampshire's Islamic community. The Rev. Dr. M'ellen Kennedy will offer a reflection on "What I Love About Islam." Rev. Kennedy is consulting minister with the Washington UU Church and the Universalist Society of Strafford, VT.

A letter of solidarity to the Islamic Societies in Vermont and New Hampshire will be available to those in attendance to sign if they feel so moved. There will be a time for discussion and questions as well. This gathering is an opportunity to learn more about Islam and is not intended as a forum for political debate. If you'd like more info, please contact Rev. M'ellen Kennedy at 802-453-5469 or mellenken@aol.com or Daniel at 457-1786 or sotnaj@aol.com



Fall Clean-up Saturday, October 30 10 am - 2 pm

- Lunch Provided -

We will be doing yard work, indoor work such as closet cleaning and touch-up painting.

We welcome your participation!

You only need to bring your work gloves, garden tools, energy, and muscles!

Coordinated by the Building & Grounds Committee

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.

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.

NUCS Covenant Groups - Register By Oct. 3!

Over the past four years, close to 100 members and friends of the UU Church have shared their lives and spoken from their hearts in Covenant Groups. From their reviews, a vast majority have found these groups very helpful in supporting their spiritual work and in creating closer ties to others in our church.

We very much hope that you will join us this fall for monthly meetings (November to June). We will have both daytime and evening groups. For those away in the winter who would like to participate, we offer a somewhat "accelerated" group from July to October.

Covenant group information sheets and registration forms are available in the back of the Church sanctuary. This information may also be obtained by going to our website at www.nucs.org/committees-groups/covenant-groups/

For more information about the upcoming Covenant Groups, feel free to contact Veronica DeLay at 457-2253 or delays@comcast.net, Richard Schramm at 457-3717 or richardaschramm@gmail.com, or Mary Jeanne Taylor at 234-6953 or taylorgals@comcast.net. The sign up deadline is by October 3rd and groups will begin meeting in November.

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 live. 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!*

Minding the Altar

Have you been moved by the various additions to our "altar" this year? Me too! I'm setting up volunteers to be responsible for a month and would love you to call me if you can participate in any way. As you've seen, the altar can hold a sculpture, a branch blossoming something creative, a painting, flowers - whatever inspires you! You do NOT have to be an artist! Some have called the worship committee to find out the theme for each Sunday in order to dress the altar in an appropriate way, like the man at the ocean for our first water service. Having said that, the coordination isn't necessary. If you are responsible for a month, you could do the whole month or you might call others to participate on certain Sundays. I'm compiling a list of possible participants but it's far from complete. Think about it. It's a wonderful way to add one more blessing to our services. And it's free!

- Sherry Belisle 457 1919



Western Wind Fall Foliage Workshop

October 8-11, 2010

An Autumn A Cappella Revel

*Medieval and Renaissance, Early American, Romantic,
Folk, Jazz, Pop and contemporary songs*

Western Wind opening night concert, *The Happy Journey*

Friday October 8, at 8:00 pm, NUCS sanctuary

tickets available at the door. (\$15/\$10 student or senior)

Or purchase online at www.westernwind.org

Once again, nationally acclaimed Western Wind vocal ensemble comes to NUCS to conduct a weekend workshop on a *capella* singing. Their annual opening night concert of music from many traditions will be held on the Friday of Columbus Day weekend.

*Come and enjoy one of Woodstock's most beautiful
annual performances!*

Classical Music Series in our Sanctuary

Sunday, Oct 17 at 2 pm

Uncommon Love Songs

Michael Collver, countertenor and cornetto

Laurie Monahan, mezzo-soprano and harp

Frances Conover Fitch, harpsichord, organ and kora

Laurie Monahan, currently on the faculty of Longy School of Music, is a wonderful and spirited singer of early and contemporary music, and tours actively both as a soloist and with her ensemble of women's voices, Tapestry. Michael Collver specializes in early vocal techniques and cornetto. He is founding member of Ensemble Project Ars Nova (P.A.N.) with which he has performed extensively in Europe and the US. Francis Conover Fitch has toured extensively in North America and Europe. Her ensemble, Concerto Castello, won critical acclaim. She now teaches at Tufts University and the Longy School of Music, where she is Chair of the Early Music Department.

Coming November 14, 2 pm - Klimt Trio

Violinist Robin Scott, Cellist Ahrim Kim and pianist Kyu-Yeon Kim

Concerts in this series are free, donations welcome at the door.

Series underwriters: Chris and Hazel Stoddart, Maragret Edwards, David Green

RE October News



It is wonderful, isn't it, to have the energy of the children be a part of all of our Sunday morning experience. This year we asked ourselves: what if we treated children's church attendance in somewhat similar ways as we do for adults? And that sent us looking. What we have to offer is hopefully something that will provide for the children an interesting and dependable experience that will address their spiritual needs and growth. Once a month they will be doing Yoga. Once a month they will be liberating their voices and creating music. Once a month they will be spending time with artists Marion and Norman who are loving and creative individuals with a strong sense of their spiritual connection to community and the natural world. And once a month they will get to spend with Callie McCrave who is in her third year with the group and who has nurtured them in lovely ways over that time of growth. Jane Moss will be coordinating communication for the program and also providing an anchor for the children as they meet their new teachers. Anne Bahlenhorst and Charity Gray are providing supportive advice and guidance to the program. The hope is through the fall to emphasize the importance of quiet time, the delight of creativity and the value of stories that teach us good life lessons. We are very thankful to all these teachers for their generosity and love.

Children's Yoga with Geraldine Fowler

We introduce children to the world of yoga through stories, music, songs and games. Yoga gives children the opportunity to use their imaginations, to create, explore & also incorporate the physical aspect of posture work that is beneficial to happiness and good health. Geraldine is a Certified Children's Yoga Instructor.

Music with Kathleen Dolan

The children will enjoy a variety of ways to participate including the use of many different kinds of rhythm instruments, props and opportunities to be creative and improvisational. Kathleen, a registered Music Together teacher, will be providing children with a relaxed and playful monthly musical experience.

Change the World Kids

Our *para la Tierra* weekend was awesome! Huge thanks to all of you who came and created sidewalk chalk art in Woodstock Village, visited our booth for coffee and a look at art by youth at the Woodstock Arts Festival, and joined us at Cloudland Farm for our seventh *para la Tierra* dinner.



Come and join us at our 10/10/10 event, a follow-up to last year's 350 international day about the importance of reducing the carbon in our atmosphere. From 11:00-3:00 on the Woodstock Green, we'll host Smooth Power, featuring interactive activities by a number of local groups, including Sustainable Woodstock. We'll have fun, accomplish work, and raise awareness about alternative transportation and power. Change the World Kids will offer bicycle-powered smoothie making, a well-bicycle clinic with an area for small repairs, bicycle streamer art, and drawing activities. There will be LOTS to do at the various booths.

If you haven't already, please pick up a copy of the latest issue of our **Regeneration** magazine It's available outside of the social hall and the church office.

Please contact us if you know of someone who needs our help or if you have an idea for us! email changetheworldkids@yahoo.com
More information is on our website, changetheworldkids.org

Mark Your Calendars:

Seasonal Flu Clinic

Thursday, October 7th, 3:30-5:00 pm

NUCS Social Hall Foyer area

Flu vaccine is free for individuals with Medicare Part B insurance

Fee for all others is \$25 per vaccination

Provided by the Visiting Nurse and Hospice of VT and NH

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

The program is titled "Northern Lights" and is music from the Baltic countries and Scandinavia, including works by composers Arvo Part, Edvard Grieg, Dietrich Buxtehude, Rihards Dubra, Urmas Sisask, Peter Suda, and Otto Olson. The time span is from the 1600s to the early 21st century. The main influence on this music is German, although some of the more recent compositions reflect a style called "holy minimalism," which has been developed by the Baltic composers."

Lynnette Combs is organist at First Baptist Church in Burlington, Vermont and was previously organist of the Unitarian Church of Barre, Vermont. She received a degree in music from Swarthmore College and did further studies in organ performance with Nancy Shearer Ludwig. She was named Artist of the Year by the Vermont Chapter of the American Guild of Organists in 2002. She has played with the Vermont Symphony, the Vermont Philharmonic, and the Eleva Chamber Players. She is a founding member of the Baroque ensemble Arc'Angelo and has accompanied soloists and choruses around the state. This is her fourth year of presenting solo organ recitals in Vermont, and she was featured several years ago as the noon recital artist at St. James.

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

Ongoing Food Drive

We will continue to collect non-perishable food items, personal hygiene supplies, and other necessities for our Community Food Shelf. This month a call has gone out for fresh, local eggs. If you have a hen laying some extra eggs you can spare, please think of donating to the food shelf. Please take these directly to the food shelf where they can store the eggs under refrigeration.

Drop off your non-perishable donation items in the basket in the church narthex.



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. This is your invitation to participate in this traditional fun raiser.

- Is your knife sharp? Please help peel 60# of potatoes on October 31 from 11:30 to 12:30 in the church kitchen.
- Do you like the aroma of freshly baked pies? Please bake 1 or 2 or 3 of the 25 apple or pumpkin pies needed.
- Do you enjoy making cranberries or bananas or apples or zucchini into bread? We will need a dozen loaves.
- Would you like to learn the art of folding hash? 60# of potatoes, 60# of beets, 60# of corned beef need to be folded with lots of care and butter.
- Do your family gatherings include baked beans? We need 20# to feed our 150 guests.
- Would you like to serve all this good food to a very appreciative crowd? We need servers from 4:30 to 8:00.
- Would you be willing to help set up the tables with red and white checks to transform the social hall into a welcoming dining room? Time to be announced.
- Are you going to be out of town? Our grocery list includes cabbage, carrots, apples, cider, butter, $\frac{1}{2}$ & $\frac{1}{2}$, whipping cream, soldier or yellow eye beans. Shoppers available.
- The pickles are made. Cloths are being sewn. Posters will be ready mid-October.

Come, be a part of this colorful supper. Thank you very much.
Ann Wynia 457-2217 or ALWynia@aol.com or I'll see you in church.

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, 9:00 AM 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 457-9272

Peace Candle: At a retreat of the worship committee, it was decided that a peace candle would be lit for each gathering that happens in the sanctuary. It is so easy for us to forget that our country is at war and all that involves. May the peace candle be a symbol and reminder of our constant prayer and hope for peace.

October Worship

Sunday services at 10:00 until 11:00 AM

Child care provided every Sunday.

October 3—Zen

Reflection:

Music: Diane Mellinger

October 22

Reflection: Daniel Jantos

Music: Diane Mellinger

October 10—Western Wind

Reflection: Daniel Jantos

Music: Diane Mellinger

October 29

Reflection: Mark Kutolowski

Music: Diane Mellinger

October 17

Reflection: Kevin Geiger

Music: Diane Mellinger

October Worship Notes

October 16: Kevin Geiger - What is the state of the world

Throughout this year we will be checking in with Kevin and three other people who are giving careful thought to what adjustments they are making to the state of things. We hope that we can check in with these same four people over the next five years and that they will share with us how they and their lifestyles are changing over this time. It will be a milestone of sorts and we are delighted that Kevin has been so kind to share in this way with us.

October 29: Mark Kutolowski is a Vermont guide and traditional wilderness skills instructor. In addition to running New Creation Wilderness Programs, Mark teaches wilderness living skills at Dartmouth College. Mark is a Wilderness First Responder, and has over a decade of experience leading trips, teaching classes and workshops, and living simply with the land in New England. www.newcreationwilderness.org/

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 RE program held in the church parlors.

North Universalist Chapel Society
7 Church Street
Woodstock, VT 05091



October
Quest

**Non-Profit
Organization
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Return Service Requested