

The Quest

September 2011

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

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802-457-1786
sotnaj@aol.com

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802-234-6619
vermontdianem@aol.com

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457-4549/802-280-5617 (cell)
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Church Office Hours:
Donna Atwood,
Office Manager
Tue, Wed & Fri
10:00 AM-4:00 PM
wdstkuu@sover.net

REMEMBER WHEN THE WORLD WAS SIMPLER?

Do you remember when the feeling of a swimming pool held such pure thrill that swimming pool blue or the sun playing on water can still trigger some hormone that fills you with pleasure? Maybe it was beach sand in your toes or the cold freshness of pond water? Maybe it's a certain flavor of ice cream cone or some corner store that held all the riches and exotic pleasures of your then-known world? Remember when back to school shopping and erasers and pencil sharpeners, new binders and notebooks came with such a sense of exciting anticipation? Remember birthday parties where being older was so incredibly interesting or certain favorite pieces of clothing that you can still feel the sensation of on your skin and it brings you comfort. Remember when life was careless and filled with optimism through and through.

Well, having taken a group of young students back-to-school shopping the other day made me realize that these are those days for them and for a whole lot of others like them. I found myself thinking, "no, it couldn't be - so much has changed". But it is. From what I can tell it is as pure, as unsullied and as wonderfully optimistic as anything I (or I am guessing you) might have experienced.

So, if the news you hear, the issues you so

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well understand and the consequences you are able to grasp with such clarity make you feel that the world has irreversibly changed in irreparable and permanent ways, go to Staples or park out front of a school some morning during these first days of a new year. And let any pessimism you feel be at least a little informed by what you see there. Because I am inclined to hazard a guess that for so many of those children who have headed back for their first day of school this week, the world is as brand new, as pure and exciting as it ever was.

Let us at least to some great extent be the guardians of and in league with that innocence. Let our truth be told gently in spite of the urgencies we might feel or any cynicism we are able to discern. Let brand newness infuse some part of every day especially in those places where experience has diminished the prospects for innocence. And let us, ever open to renewal, sometimes willing to smile at ourselves, believe wholeheartedly in that most ancient of truths:

"We are the cause of our own suffering."

In optimism and solidarity,

Daniel

From the Board

As many of you know, a Growth Committee was commissioned in 2009 by your Board of Trustees to assess the needs of the future for NUCS. A key finding of their work was the growing number of members -- nearly 40 percent who responded to the 2010 survey -- who desire more contemplative practices as part of their spiritual experience at the North Chapel.

Providing contemplative approaches is consistent with the mission of NUCS, which "honors and celebrates diverse paths to the Divine." Periodically, such practices have been part of Sunday services in the form of periods of silence, guided meditations, and speakers about contemplative practices, as well as a service last November conducted wholly in a contemplative style.

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(From the Board—Continued from page 2)

However, providing a regular, fuller program -- for example, weekly periods of meditation or classes that teach contemplative practices -- has met with obstacles because our beloved church is too heavily used as a vibrant community hub to allow separate space with the silence and ambiance requisite for contemplative approaches. Rather than renovating and soundproofing existing NUCS structures, it would be less costly and more effective to erect a new structure designed specifically to facilitate contemplative activities.

A proposed River Room, with seating for about 25 people, has been envisioned as an intimate, quiet, enclosed pavilion in the back yard to be used for meditation, prayer, contemplation, and reflection by individuals and groups. It could offer a place to any and all who seek a tranquil environment, a sanctuary of seclusion, a peaceful refuge, or a serene place to sit in silence. It could be a gathering place for those wishing dialogue to deepen personal religious exploration and understanding. It would not diminish or displace existing services and programs that have become cherished contributors to the spiritual life of the community. Rather, it would add spiritual avenues for the growing, unmet need among both members and others who seek a spiritual affiliation through contemplative practices and gatherings.

Your Trustees and a visionary group of NUCS members who initiated the River Room idea have given careful consideration to this project and now seek to engage the total membership in the conversation. We are eager to hear your thoughts, consider your questions, and engage your ideas about whether -- and if so, how -- you might wish to proceed on this concept.

To that end, you will be receiving by mail a description of the proposed River Room, along with an invitation to gather for conversation after church on Sunday, September 18th. We are eager to have your participation in determining next steps for offering space and time for contemplative practices, which we see as essential to NUCS' future if it is to meet the needs of more and more people turning to contemplative approaches to spirituality.

In peace,
Your NUCS Board of Trustees

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

Our Book Corner downstairs needs some fresh input. Bring some books you have enjoyed to pass along to others, and take some home for your fall reading!



Is Your Address Changing?

Some in the Woodstock area will be receiving new street addresses to comply with 911 standards. 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 wdstkuu@sover.net and let Donna know your new mailing address. Thank You!

Treasurer's Report

YTD (7/31/11) Budgeted

TOTAL RECEIPTS
\$127,790 \$207,960

Expenses
Church Building
\$19011 \$29828

Parsonage
\$1150 \$1530

Administration
\$26118 \$33717

Benefits
\$21789 \$39633

Minister's Package
\$40547 \$69509

Worship
\$1337 \$3250

Music
\$9113 \$16279

Coffee
\$83 \$500

Resource Dev.
\$0 \$500

Membership
\$2865 \$4850

RE
\$3656 \$8354

TOTAL EXPENSES
\$125,669 \$207,960

Balance \$2121.19

Treasurer:
Ann Wynia 457-2217

Book Sale Wrap-up

The North Chapel has had a tradition of holding a mid-summer book sale for many years.

On July 29th and 30th NUCS participated as a sponsor of Bookstock for the third year. We collaborated with the Norman Williams Public Library to put on the Used Book Sale which is part of the Bookstock event. Special thanks to the members of the church who contributed by donating and sorting books, setting up the sale, selling the books, buying books and closing down Saturday evening.

The event was a great success, thanks to all.

September Birthdays

| | |
|------|--------------------------|
| 9/3 | Spencer Martin |
| 9/6 | Rob Buckley |
| 9/8 | Roy Snell |
| 9/9 | Tambrey Vutech |
| 9/9 | Allister J. Wigglesworth |
| 9/10 | Philippa Richards |
| 9/12 | Brent Marinello |
| 9/15 | Janet Chioffi |
| 9/18 | Sydney Jantos |
| 9/22 | Nicola Auriema |
| 9/24 | Bronwyn Morris |
| 9/24 | Sophie Whynot |
| 9/27 | Neil Marinello |
| 9/28 | Carol Copley |
| 9/29 | Pru Schuler |
| 9/30 | Chris Cassell |
| 9/30 | Nancy Peterson |

Anniversaries

| | |
|------|---------------------------|
| 9/2 | Fred Haas & Sabrina Brown |
| 9/8 | Chris & Liz Cassell |
| 9/13 | Roy & Leigh Snell |
| 9/14 | Neil & Anne Marinello |
| 9/17 | Lisa & Mike Purvis |
| 9/19 | Jeff & Anita Morris |
| 9/30 | Art & Alex Norton |

Community Food Shelf

Urgent need for Canned soups (low sodium if possible); cooking oil, salad dressings; pasta (not spaghetti) for making summer pasta salads; peanut butter, tuna fish; cereal, toothpaste.



Non-perishable donations may be dropped off in the basket in our church narthex, or taken directly to the food shelf.

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.

Spirituality Connections

Divinity Group

The Divinity group will be meeting on the first Thursday each month, 7 - 9pm in the Library. 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 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!***

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.

The Art of Meditation Begins September 8th

This free meditation series, composed of four weekly classes, will begin Thursday, September 8th, at 7:00 p.m. in the church library room.

Offered by Akankha Perkins, long-time student of Spiritual Leader Sri Chinmoy, the topics will include self awareness, creativity, physical fitness, health and spirituality as they relate to meditation. The classes will continue September 15, 22 and 29.

Kindly register by calling Akankha at 457-1273.

...a kaleidoscopic tapestry of vocal hues...

The New York Times

i thank you ...

SONGS OF LOVE AND PRAISE

WESTERN WIND

A cappella since 1969

IN CONCERT



FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2011 • 8 PM

NUCS Sanctuary

*Judaica, Songs of Solomon, Renaissance Psalm Settings,
New American Music by Elliot Z. Levine, Tania León and Michel
Camilo, Charlie Morrow, César Alejandro Carrillo*

Tickets: \$15 Students & Seniors \$10

Tickets can be purchased online:

www.westernwind.org

reception following the concert in our social hall

...versatility...virtuosity...a stunning concert.

Los Angeles Times

Church Directory Updates

Here's some of the recent updates to our 2011 church directory:

New Member:

Kathy McLiverty: 232 Blake Hill J, Woodstock, VT 05091
457-7166, kathy.astemborski@ahs.state.vt.us

Address changes:

Barbara Bartlett: barbarajbartlett@gmail.com

Nancy & Nelson Bebo: 264 Blake Hill Rd X, Woodstock, VT 05091

Joanne Boyle: jm.boyle57@gmail.com

Courtney & Victoria Brooks: PO Box 404, Taftsville, VT 05073-0404

Alan Perkins: 36 Pleasant St - Apt 2B, Woodstock VT 05091
802-683-1327 - Cell

Bob & Darsie Riccio: 119 Deer Ridge Way, Woodstock, VT 05091

Bill Sturtevant: PO Box 418, Canaan, NH 03741-0418

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. Please use these corrections to update your 2011 directory. We hope to print an addendum to our directory this fall, after we have received most of the 911 address changes for those living in Woodstock.

If your address has changed, please contact the church office so we can update our records. Thank you!

Clearness Committees Open for Business

Are you struggling with an issue that you could use clarity on? Then consider being a “focus person” in a clearness committee of people you trust, who ask you questions to help you gain clarity around that issue.

Clearness Committees were invented by the early Quakers to help individuals gain clarity on personal and/or work issues with which they were struggling.

They begin with a “focus person,” someone who is wrestling with an issue of importance. This may be about changing a job or a relationship, moving to a new place, responding to an illness, getting along with a neighbor, resolving an ethical matter. . . any issue about which the focus person needs clarity.

4-6 people with whom the focus person feels safe are invited to serve on that person’s “clearness committee.” The role of the committee is to provide a safe and supportive space for the focus person to receive questions and to respond to them as he or she chooses.

The focus person and the committee come together for a two hour meeting. The focus person begins by taking about 15 minutes to describe the issue she or he is struggling with. Then members of the committee ask the focus person open and honest questions about that issue or decision for the next hour and a half. “Open and honest questions” are intended to help the focus person gain clarity; they are not meant to fix the problem, or to provide therapy, or to carry out some agenda of a committee member. Finally the last 15 minutes are used to “mirror back” to the focus person what committee members heard or saw, without interpretation, during the entire session together.

The entire process is totally confidential. Everyone involved agrees not to speak to anyone about what transpired.

Any interest? Then contact Daniel (sotnaj@aol.com), Richard (richardaschramm@gmail.com), Veronica (delays@comcast.net), Shoshana (sboar@comcast.net) or Donna (wdstkuu@sover.net) to see about setting up a clearness committee.

Music - in our sanctuary



Classical Music Series
Sunday, September 11, 2011, 2 pm
church sanctuary
Heidi Baxter—Flute
Evelyn Zuckerman - Piano

Program:

Johann Sebastian Bach *Sonata No. 1 For Flute and Harpsichord*
Garbiel Faure *Fantasie Op. 79*
Francis Poulenc *Sonata for Flute and Piano*
Paul Hindemith *Sonata for Flute and Piano*

This performance is free, with donations gratefully accepted at the door. This classical series is sponsored by the North Universalist Chapel Society and all proceeds benefit the church.

Next in the 2011 UU Sundays at 2 Classical Music Series:
October 9 (Columbus Day Weekend) - Vento Chiaro Woodwind Quintet
November 6 - Anna Schemetieva, violin, and Ellina Blinder, piano

6th Annual Progressive Organ Concert

Sunday, September 25, 2011 at 4 pm

Rip Jackson, Organist

Three locations: Our Lady of the Snows, North Universalist Chapel Society, St. James Episcopal Church



This year's guest organist will be Rip Jackson of Rutland, VT. Mr. Jackson will offer a program to include works by Bach, Pachelbel, Frescobaldi and Marchand demonstrating Woodstock's three tracker organs. The program will begin at 4 pm at Our Lady of the Snows church, will progress to the UU Church and will finish at ST. James.

Presented by Pentangle Arts Council.

Free admission. Donations gratefully accepted.

Vermont My Home: A Celebration by T.Namaya Friday, Sept. 23 at 7:00 pm

T. Namaya, story-teller, poet, and humorist, will be performing here in our sanctuary on his Vermont tour. The show takes its name from Namaya's recently released CD, *Vermont My Home*, based on his collection of stories, music, and poems celebrating the Green Mountain state, and the author's home on Blue Heron Pond. The program also features Namaya's stunning photographs of Southern Vermont.

Tickets available at the door \$10 web: www.vermontpoet.com
For more information contact: info@vermontpoet.com

A portion of proceeds from the tour support community development projects and peace education work through www.gracecares.com



Commemorating the 10th anniversary of 9/11

Morning Events in Woodstock Village:

7:00: Breakfast at the Masonic Temple—all are welcome—free!

8:15: Walk to the Village Green

8:30: Speaker Robert Hager

8:45: Ringing of the bells

8:46: Moment of silence

Choral Evensong at St. James at 5:00 pm

The Evensong will be sung by the St. James Evensong Choir, directed by Robert Lee Adams, Lubbert Gnodde, organist. All are invited to come and share in this brief service marking this moving occasion.

For more information call the St James office: 457-1727

Save this date – more music in our sanctuary:

The eighth Whitney Organ Recital featuring Woodstock's own Lubbert Gnodde, organist at Our Lady of the Snows, will take place on **Sunday, October 30, at 4:00 P.M.** The event is sponsored by Vermont Chapter of the American Guild of Organists.

Religious Exploration 2011-2012

Every year in September it is such a joy to welcome the children back to church. Their commentary, their shining faces, their joy and exuberance, their presence makes this “extended family” of ours all the richer in its blessings. This September that ritual comes around on Sunday, September 11. We welcome all the children back and also the wonderful teachers who have agreed to facilitate the meaningful listening and quietness and stories and projects - parts of which will be remembered for a life time.

So children...

10 a.m. Sunday, September 11



come meet your new teachers and welcome back to church!

Valerie will provide nursery care downstairs for babies and pre-school children each Sunday during summer services. Until Sept 11th, school-age children are welcome to play in the nursery with Valerie.

Change the World Kids

FUN, FUN, FUN!!! Our eighth “para la Tierra” is going to be awesome. On September 9-11, we’ll offer our annual weekend of events on behalf of the three-wattled bellbird, songbirds of Vermont, and the future of the biodiversity of our planet. We really hope that you will join us for the events!

On Friday, September 9, we offer “Beauty for the Bellbirds,” a sidewalk chalk-drawing extravaganza for children and people of all ages! The sidewalks of Woodstock will be transformed by artwork that reflects the magnificence of the environment and the importance of conservation for our and future generations. The event takes place on the sidewalks of Woodstock Village from 5:00- dark on Friday, and on Saturday morning from 9:00-11:00. It’s a free event (donations welcome).

On Saturday and Sunday, 9/10-11 at the Woodstock Arts Festival on the Green, we’ll display youth art and hand-made items to celebrate the creativity, commitment to stewardship, and multi-generational and supportive spirit of our local and global communi-

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(Change the World Kids—Continued from page 12)

ties. We'll also be selling coffee from the Monteverde Cooperative growers.

On Sunday, September 11, at the Woodstock Inn and Resort Country Club, we host our eighth annual "para la Tierra" dinner to benefit our Bosque para Siempre project. Fabulous fancy meal! There will be a terrific silent auction, a short presentation by the Change the World Kids, and a short excerpt of the Vermont Movie project by Anne Macksoud and Nora Jacobson. Tickets are \$100.

100% of the money raised during the weekend donations will go toward habitat protection and our reforestation of the Bosque para Siempre corridor that is critical for indigenous birds and migrating songbirds from Vermont. Seating is limited for the Sunday dinner, so please make reservations early. Please let us know if you'd like an invitation or more information (changetheworldkids@yahoo.com or 457-2622).

We'll host a Moving Planet event on September 24 as part of the 350 global effort to reduce the carbon in our atmosphere. Watch our website and the church weekly emails for information.

Please contact us if you know of someone who needs our help or if you have an idea for us!

Thoughts from the Music and Worship Committee

Recently, as part of our Sunday celebrations, members of the Music and Worship committee have been reading the Seven Principles of Unitarian Universalism. It's a way, we hope, of bringing to our collective consciousness the core values that bind us together. Underlying these principles is perhaps a deeper common bond—a yearning for witnessing and sharing. If our Sunday service is the cement that holds us together, does it satisfy your desire for communion and allow you to express the aspirations of your soul? How can we more fully celebrate our diversity and acknowledge our commonality in uncommon, effective ways? What, we wonder, could those ways be? Would you like to participate in or feel more fully included in our services? The members of the committee encourage and invite your feedback to these questions and concerns. Committee members are Don Ransom, Mary Blanton, Polly Forcier, Anne Macksoud, Joanne Findley, Jennifer Donaldson, Diane Mellinger and Chris Bartlett.

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**
3rd Monday in September, 7:00 pm
in Library
Contact Lynn Peterson 672-3697
- **Membership Committee**
4th Monday, 7:00 pm in Library
Contact Sherry Belisle 457-1919
- **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 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

NOTE: The NUCS Men's' Group will be meeting this month only on September 19th, but will return to their regular meeting schedule on the first and third Monday evenings in October.

Welcome Back Choir!

The choir will resume their Wednesday night rehearsals on Sept 7th and will be singing in church on Sunday Sept 11th. All Singers Welcome!

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: 8:30-10:00 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

September Worship

Sunday services at 10:00 until 11:00 AM

Child care provided every Sunday.

September 4

Reflection: Joanne Findley

Music: Diane Mellinger

September 18

Reflection: Daniel Jantos

Music: Diane Mellinger

September 11

Reflection: Daniel Jantos

Music: Diane Mellinger

September 25

Reflection: Ann McGarrell and

Peggy Kannenstine

Music: Diane Mellinger

September Worship Notes

September 4: Joanne Findley, plagued throughout her life with a short attention span, has hop scotched her way from hot dog vending through corporate America and academia with retirement stints as a nature guide, a stock market trader, a teacher of creative writing and a facilitator of self-inquiry workshops. She divides her time between Barnard, Vermont and Vero Beach, Florida, and shares her life with her heart's delight, Shoshanna Shelley, and Maude, a Clumber spaniel.

In a bitter and protracted struggle with Reality, Joanne has emerged as the vanquished. And she couldn't be more grateful. In *Seeing Without Looking*, she tries to explain why she makes no sense.

On September 25 there is to be a service that will focus on the trials of the nation of Haiti. Ann McGarrell and Peggy Kannenstine will lead that service.

Ann's son, Flo, lived in Haiti and was Director of an art center there called FOSAJ, in Jacmel. He not only helped people make a living from art-including dance and video, but also ran a community kitchen, and a permaculture garden.

This wide-ranging and effective work came to a halt when Flo was killed in the earthquake. Now, however, people have taken up the arts directed work again. They have a new non-profit called **Jakmel Ekspresyons** that provides education, training, food and a community of hope for desperately poor people.

North Universalist Chapel Society
7 Church Street
Woodstock, VT 05091



September *Quest*

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

Return Service Requested