

The Quest

Summer 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

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

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

*Agata and Radek Marzec,
Sextons*
457-4549/802-280-5617 (cell)
gromag6@yahoo.com

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

There is something about a summer morning - an early summer morning that has in it a reflective sort of kindness. The natural world seems to be in love with itself at that time. Soon enough everything will go on with its business and busyness but at first light there is an awareness of the nobility of simple existence. The world as it emerges from darkness to light is met with a sentient consciousness that is aware of its being in the world and expresses that being with an easy, unobliging sort of reflective gratitude.

To show kindness to people, I believe one has to love peopleness. One has to love the shelters they build for themselves, the trucks that disturb the morning quiet to bring the things they/we need, the effort that they/we put into staying fit and being right and getting ahead and making the choices they/we struggle to make for whatever reasons - some probably based in good common sense, some maybe based on some unrealistic fantasy or delusion, some out of mindless habit. One has to love this humanity not because it is good or bad; because sometimes or someones deserve it - but because the act of love and the sentiment of kindness are the expressions of a noble life and infuse humanity with dignity.

The more we loose sight of that dignity and the noble calling of each morning's dawn, the busier the street will be, the more and

(Continued on page 2)

the earlier the trucks will be needed, the harder we will have to work to stay in shape and the more erratic our choices may be. It is the lack of the awareness of each person's fundamental dignity that divides us, that pits one against another and reinforces the inequities that lead to despair or delusion.

I hope and trust that the old white building at 7 Church Street in Woodstock will always represent just that - not a conditional position on who is good and who is bad but the love of peopleness. I hope it will always represent not the aspiration to get ahead or the need to do one more thing but the early summer morning consciousness of the noble life and the inherent dignity in each one of life's forms. If this vision of dignity is lost, everything else is nonsense, busyness and habit.

It is why I have been so involved in advocating for the proposal for another, smaller sanctuary space that is called the river room. Our culture is increasingly short sighted and reactive, more eager to secure a short term victory or profit than a long term benefit to the community as a whole. Many seem to feel they do not have the luxury of choice about their future and their community and the fundamental character of their relationships to others - they are just in survival mode; everything else will have to wait for another time, when the economy is better, when we have more time, when some new technology arrives.

It is a loss of the connection to the noble purpose of living, the inherent dignity of each person and each sentient being. It is not an economic crises so much as a crisis of belief. It is a loss of eloquence, as Emerson might have put it, of the individual's place in community and society. It is bearing witness to the easy, unobliging gratitude that pervades nature each early summer morning rather than feeling as though one is ineloquently cornered by circumstances which dictate one's faith. The North Chapel's mission has perhaps never been more clear..... or more beautiful.

in solidarity,

Daniel



Warmer, darker, quieter—and cheaper!

Last year the sanctuary alone cost nearly \$3,400 to heat, almost half of our annual fuel bill, even though it is used typically only one day a week.

Nearly half of that heat escapes through the windows. And when we show slides or a video, it's hard to make it dark enough. As if that weren't enough aggravation, the afternoon sun coming through those big, generous windows often dazzles and roasts people attending concerts and other events. To solve these problems, Building and Grounds is proposing installing curtains for the windows.

As you can soon see in an exhibit on the bulletin board in the social hall that includes a fabric sample, the curtains would be a neutral color that blends well with the wall color, and would be installed outside the window wells so that when they are open the full window is revealed. With the curtains in place the sanctuary would not only be cozier, it would also be quieter, since even when they are open the curtains would reduce the echoes, making it easier to hear. To further reduce our fuel bills, the sanctuary walls would also be insulated with blown insulation.

Although the price tag for all this insulation isn't cheap—about \$16,000—it would save about \$2,000 a year today, and even more in the future if oil prices continue their steep rise. That's a better return on investment than many of the other investment options available, so we've asked the Trustees of Funds to consider taking some of the money out of our investment savings to fund the project. You may soon be asked to approve this project since the bylaws require an expenditure of this size to be voted on by the members.

If you have any questions or comments, contact any member of Building and Grounds: David Doolittle, Cheryl Brush, Irene Hanslin, Donna Durgin, Vassie Sinopoulos, Jack Nelson, Katrin Helgason, or Norwood Long.

From the Board

The Board of Trustees welcomed Hope Yeager who has been unanimously voted to take Peggy Kannenstine's place. Hope brings the view of a younger parent, long connections to NUCS and the background of an active school teacher. We are delighted to have her join us.

Daniel's Minister's Report was especially rich this month. He presented an opportunity he has been considering to enroll in Masters of Arts in Liberal Studies at Dartmouth. This could be done part time and would be especially helpful to gain background for major issues being addressed by Unitarian-Universalists, e.g. migration. The Board voted unanimously to endorse Daniel's pursuing this possibility.

The meditation space or River Room remains the major topic of interest. This month the Building and Grounds Committee presented a report on their discussion of the River Room. Potential problems with parking, the nursery school, insurance, maintenance, etc were discussed. While there were a number of problems none were felt to be prohibitive. Some Board members have sensed reluctance on the part of the Board to proceed whereas others see this as a potential way for the Church to make a statement as to its vision and mission. We decided to hold a joint meeting on Saturday, June 26th with the group of church members who have been leading the effort for a meditation space.

Approximately 20 turned up with short notice for the joint meeting on Saturday. The excellent turnout on a prime weekend clearly reveals the intense interest in a special meditation space. The conversation was very productive, clearing up some of the misconceptions and articulating some of the major issues. We discussed the need, the role of the church in the wider community, its impact on other church programs, cost estimates, etc. Plans are being made to create an information document for the entire congregation and having further conversations with the entire congregation similar to the visioning sessions held in January and February. No matter what the outcome, this is a special consideration for the church at this time in its history.

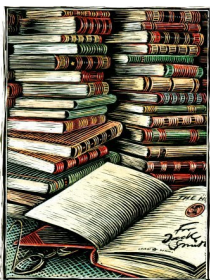
Ten years ago in November the congregation dedicated the addition-renovation of the church which now is such an important and integral part of the church and its mission. It added significantly to

(From the Board — continued from page 4)

the space for religious education, made possible community-wide meals, and created space for small group meetings. It has proved to be a significant resource for the Church and for the community at large. It is interesting that the list of contributors to this project includes many who were not active members of the church but presumably realized how important the addition was for the whole community.

In love and peace,

Lynn Peterson



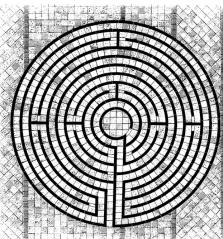
Used Book Sale - Calling for Donations

We are collecting books until July 25th for sale at Bookstock's Used Book Sale, which will be held on July 29th and 30th. Please deposit your donated books on the porch of the church office or bring them inside to the rear parlor room. We need fiction, non-fiction and children's books, hard and soft cover, that are in reasonably good condition. We cannot use textbooks.

This year NUCS will partner with the Norman Williams Public Library to provide the Used Book Sale part of the annual Bookstock event.

The 3rd Annual **Bookstock**, a Green Mountain Festival of Words, will include an expanded and spectacular format over three days, Friday through Sunday, **July 29-31, 2011 in Woodstock.**

See the insert in this issue of the Quest for more details about this year's Bookstock event, or go to bookstockvt.org



Labyrinth Building in July

Norwood Long will be working on the labyrinth behind the church on Tuesday mornings in July—July 5, 12, 19, and 26—from 10 AM until noon. For questions or information call 802-457-2918, or email norward@myfairpoint.net (note spelling).

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 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.

Next Avatar meeting

Monday July 18th, 5:30 - 8 PM

Join Jill Davies for an Introduction to Avatar. Come and explore the blueprint of your consciousness. Avatar teaches you powerful tools to successfully be in charge of your mind and achieve your goals and dreams, to overcome your own self-imposed limitations and empowering yourself towards being in charge of your life and creating what you desire. You stop being at the effect of the world and learn how to influence and be a positive effect the world. In this free introduction session you'll learn a few of those tools and see how Avatar can help you create the life you want.

Location: Church RE room, found near the church office.

Contact: jill@jillmdavies.com

phone: 672 6152 or cell: 203 919 6393

www.theavatarcourse.com



Western Wind Labor Day Workshop
A Late Summer A Cappella Revel
September 2-5, 2011

Singers from beginner to advanced levels are welcome to participate in this 3-day series of small ensemble workshops offered over the Labor Day weekend in our church.

What makes Western Wind workshops unique is the focus on small group ensembles, where everyone makes an essential contribution as an individual singer. Most of the day is spent in small groups, working on a variety of a cappella repertoire. Each group sings an intriguing selection of music which could include Medieval, Renaissance, Baroque, Early American, 19th and 20th-century part-songs, rounds, hymns and folk-songs, jazz, pop, doo-wop, and improvisations.

More information about the Western Wind can be found on their website at www.westernwind.org

The workshop ensembles are formed based on musical skills, and the workshop is open to singers at all levels -- professionals and amateurs, soloists and ensemble performers, conductors and music teachers. Registration details and materials are now available on the rear table of the sanctuary.

A splendid opening night concert will be held in the church sanctuary on Friday September 2nd at 8 PM. Tickets available at the door (\$15 or \$10 for seniors & students). Concert is free for workshop participants.

Housing Urgently Needed: Workshop participants and faculty may opt be housed in local church members' homes, and we are looking for possible hosts to provide housing for them over the three-day weekend. Please contact Deborah Rice at 234-5349 or by email: debarice@gmail.com. This requires minimal work on your part –just a simple breakfast and a room for sleeping – and the guests leave each morning at 8 and do not return until 9 or 10 at night after they have had supper. What's more, the B&B money raised from the housing will come back to NUCS, so this is an excellent fundraiser and a very good way that you can help the church.

Church Directory Updates

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

Pieter and Corky Bohlen: 891 Meoki Way, Woodstock, VT 05091
802-356-1478

Ed & Donna Durgin: 2246 Cox District Rd.

Bill Forster: 264 Blake Hill Rd. W

Robin LaRoche: 3505 Cox District Rd

Anne, Neil and Brent Marinello: 190 Barberry Circle (NOT 109 as previously mentioned)

Peter & Carolyn Owens

7 Sargent Street, Hanover, NH 03755

603.643.9053 email: owensradisch@gmail.com

Meghan Oliver—new member

8277 Route 100, Plymouth, VT 05056

home: (802) 422-2313 e-mail: oliver.meghan@gmail.com

John Steinle—new member

PO Box 477, Woodstock, VT 05091

457-5280 e-mail: jsteinle1245@aol.com

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!

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

We are collecting for the Bookstock booksale during July, so please donate your books to the cause! We'll resume the book corner in August.



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 wdtkuu@sover.net and let Donna know your new mailing address. Thank You!

Treasurer's Report

<u>YTD (5/31/11)</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>
TOTAL RECEIPTS	
\$99,114	\$207,960
Expenses	
Church Building \$16698	\$29828
Parsonage \$1050	\$1530
Administration \$23231	\$33717
Benefits \$16261	\$39633
Minister's Package \$28962	\$69509
Worship \$697	\$3250
Music \$6466	\$16279
Coffee \$70	\$500
Resource Dev. \$0	\$500
Membership \$2668	\$4850
RE \$2968	\$8354
TOTAL EXPENSES	
\$99,071	\$207,960
Balance \$42.42	
Treasurer: Ann Wynia 457-2217	

Summer Music - in our Sanctuary

Central Vermont Chamber Music

Sunday August 21 at 4:00 PM

An Encore Performance

Schubert - String Quartet No. 15 in G major, D. 887

Glazunov - String Quintet in A major, Op. 39 (1891)

Artists

Violin: Arturo Delmoni, Cyrus Beroukhim

Viola: Michael Roth

Cello: Alistair MacRae, Peter Sanders

Presented by Pentangle Council on the Arts as part of their summer classical series. Admission is by donation.

Village Harmony – New England Touring Ensemble

Friday July 26 at 7:30 PM

Led by Suzannah Park, Carl Linich, Will Thomas Rowan

This concert program will include American & British traditional harmony singing, music from Georgia, Corsica & Quebec, Appalachian clogging.

Village Harmony is an umbrella organization based in Vermont dedicated to the study and performance of ethnic singing traditions from around the world. Each summer they sponsor ten ensembles like this one, both in New England and in numerous foreign countries, involving both teen and adult singers. Each group develops its own unique sound with a different international team of leaders, but all share common traits: a powerful, natural, unrestrained, vocal sound; a remarkable variety of vocal styles and timbres; and the visible, vibrant community among the singers and audience as they share in a joyous celebration of music. For further information visit the Village Harmony website: www.villageharmony.org

Suggested admission at the door is \$10, \$5 for students and seniors. Village Harmony's many recordings and songbooks will be available for sale at the concert. For information call (802) 426-3210

Save these dates—more music in our sanctuary:

NUCS Classical Music series: September 11, October 9 and November 6, 2:00 pm.

Progressive Organ Concert: Sunday, September 25, details TBA.

8th Annual Whitney Organ Recital: Sunday, October 30, 4:00 pm
Featuring Lubbert Gnodde, organist at Our Lady of the Snows Church in Woodstock. More details will be provided in the September Quest.

July Birthdays

7/1	Denise Lyons
7/4	Polly Forcier
7/4	Rainer Kannenstine
7/5	Peter Wynia
7/6	Hunter Haley
7/7	Bob Richards
7/11	Ellie Vergura
7/12	Claudia Deeley
7/15	Michael Stoner
7/16	Judy Williamson
7/16	Sebastian Bango
7/17	Mollie Traver
7/19	Peter Wilson
7/21	Deb Hawthorn
7/23	Anne Marinello
7/23	Anne Dean
7/24	Shannon Herrick
7/24	Ashley Neuhof
7/26	Caroline Cassell
7/29	Julie Sanford

August Birthdays

8/4	Andy Seiple
8/5	Darsie Riccio
8/5	Noah Gray
8/5	Jan Siard
8/5	Joby Thompson
8/6	Gael Cantlin
8/6	Mark Alloway
8/7	Emilie Welles
8/13	Kal Traver
8/13	Veronica Delay
8/17	Donna Atwood
8/17	Ralph Lancaster
8/17	Jennifer Donaldson
8/18	Susan Inui-Kelley
8/20	David Doolittle
8/20	Pamela Goldsborough
8/21	Barbara Abraham
8/26	Diane Mellinger
8/28	Wendy Ann Smith
8/31	Mary Jeanne Taylor
8/31	Willa Deeley
8/31	Ambrose Daniel Wigglesworth

July Anniversaries

7/1	Charles & Carol Egbert
7/11	Bob Coates & Philippa Richards
7/14	Michael Zsoldos & Elizabeth Reaves
7/31	Mark & Sally Alloway

August Anniversaries

8/8	Daniel & Susan Jantos
8/28	Chris Lloyd & Vassie Sinopoulos



Thoughts from the Music and Worship Committee

Have you ever thought of giving a reflection? Do you have a story, a unique perspective or an experience that you would like to share? Daniel will be away on a well-earned vacation from July 24th to September 11th. This provides a unique opportunity for members of our congregation to participate in our service. When we share our stories and our perspectives we learn from one another and grow as a community. Our stories are what keep us connected as human beings. The Worship Committee is asking you to consider this opportunity. If you are interested please contact one of us.

Committee members are Don Ransom, Mary Blanton, Polly Forcier, Anne Macksoud, Joanne Findley, Jennifer Donaldson and Chris Bartlett.



Summer Vacation—Children's Chapel

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

Food Shelf Collection

Especially needed now are boxed macaroni and cheese, crackers, juice boxes, jarred spices or herbs, coffee, tea, Splenda™, salad dressings, canned soups and stews (low sodium if possible) and canned fruit. Non-perishable donations may be dropped off in the basket in our church narthex.

Please note that cottage cheese, other cheeses and yogurt are very popular with food shelf guests. If people can donate these perishable items, of course, they have to be dropped off at the food shelf when it is open so they can be immediately refrigerated. 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.



Venerable Somnieng plays with Tong Tong and Visal, two of the children who we support in NUCS House that the Children's Development Village.

Venerable Somnieng Returns for a Summer Saffron Celebration

After a year back in Cambodia running Life and Hope Association's six programs that serve over 1000 children, young women, and poor families, Venerable Somnieng is returning to Woodstock.

To celebrate, on July 14 NUCS is hosting the Summer Saffron Celebration, a fundraising dinner at the Blue Horse Inn. The evening will begin at 6:30 PM and will feature appetizers, entrees and desserts contributed by ten of

the region's finest chefs from restaurants like Prince and Pauper, Cloudland Farms, and Pane e Salute.

In addition to wonderful food and wine, the evening will feature the jazz piano of Fred Haas, and a wonderful video created by Anne Macksoud to introduce us to the six children in the church has committed to support at the Children's Development Village orphanage. Best of all, Venerable Somnieng will join us for the evening to tell us about CDV, and particularly about NUCS House where our children live.

The details: The Summer Saffron Celebration, July 14 at the Blue Horse Inn at 6:30 PM. The \$70 per person charge is fully tax-deductible, and all funds raised will directly support our six children. For information or reservations, speak to Chris Bartlett or Joby Thompson. Or call 457-2557 Ext.3.

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**
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**
Recessed for the summer months
Contact Diane Mellinger 234-6619



Summer Choir Schedule

The choir will take a vacation during most of the months of July and August this summer. We will welcome the choir back in early September.

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

July & August Worship

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

July 3

Reflection: Daniel Jantos
Music: Pierre Fournier

July 10

Reflection: Daniel Jantos
Music: Diane Mellinger

July 17

Reflection: Daniel Jantos
Music: Diane Mellinger

July 24

Reflection: Pierre Fournier
Music: Diane Mellinger

July 31

Reflection: Titia Ellis
Music: Diane Mellinger

August 7

Reflection: John Steinle
Music: Pierre Fournier

August 14

Reflection: TBA
Music: Diane Mellinger

August 21

Reflection: Judith Taylor
Music: Diane Mellinger

August 28

Reflection: Emma Bragdon
Music: Diane Mellinger

Summer Worship Notes

Daniel is away from the office during the last two weeks of July and all of August. During his absence, several of our church members will share their reflections on Sunday.

August 7: John Steinle is lifelong Episcopal church-goer, just moved to Woodstock, who feels he has found his home in a quite different kind of religious/spiritual community. Woodstock itself is hardly new to him, though, having learned to ski at Bunny's Tows (the old Suicide Six), gone to summer camp on Silver Lake in Barnard, studied at Dartmouth, and for many years having worked for Laurence Rockefeller's Rockresorts, a part of which was the Woodstock Inn. So, this move is very much like coming home. John has two children and four grandchildren, is an active reader, singer in the choir, and fitness buff.

North Universalist Chapel Society
7 Church Street
Woodstock, VT 05091



Summer Quest

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

Return Service Requested