



B.U.U.C. News

Volume 13, Issue 2

October 2008

**BROOKFIELD UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH, 9 Upper River Street, Brookfield, MA
(508) 867-5145**

On Line at www.buuc.org

A MOMENT OF THOUGHT

Dear Friends,

The church year is now getting up and running and will soon be in full swing. It won't be long until summer is a distant memory and we are hunkering down in anticipation for the months of cold and snow. This is my favorite time of year! When just as nature is preparing for sleep and displaying some of her most glorious color we, the members and friends of the BUUC, are together reengaging our spirits and hearts. Something powerful lies in that image – of religious people gathering and recommitting in the midst of the brilliance of autumn (that will all too soon slide into the stark barrenness of deep winter) – nature ablaze with changing light, souls ablaze with hope. There is a small window we get between the rush of excitement at seeing one another after an extended absence and the fullness of the Holiday season, in which we just *are* with one another *doing* church.

Often this time of year there is a mad dash to get things into place for the coming months: committees holding initial meetings to determine what needs doing and who is going to do it; staff trying to map out the expected and anticipate the unexpected; the Executive Committee shaping the priorities for the year and figuring out how to implement all we dream of. Quite a bit of effort goes into creating and maintaining the liberal religious community known as the 'Little Stone Church That Rocks!'

There could be a tendency in all this planning and meeting for us to see what we do at church as only more work amidst everything else in our lives that already feels overwhelming. In all the demand to get things organized and set we can forget why it is we come together and *do* all this *stuff*. Because we seek to feed our spirits; find religious people with whom we can share honestly our beliefs, ideas and fears, even when we disagree; to belong somewhere our hearts and minds can be opened and nurtured.

I would like to introduce the inevitability or to maybe just remind us that the work of church is ultimately and intimately the work of our souls. "From you I receive, to you I give, together we share and from this we live," reads hymn #402 of our hymnal. It is the interchange of our spirits that creates religious community. We grow, learn and change by the willingness and ability to offer to each other what of truth

we have gained in our living. This is what lies underneath all the tasks of church work – what we can give to and receive from one another.

Ensuring that this amazing congregation is able to share, with all who come, its gifts and strengths and unique freedom is our spiritual practice and duty. It is together that we create the rockin' church! It is to our advantage, to the advantage of our children and our lives to do our part to guarantee the smooth workings of *our* religious community. For if you take away with you something worthwhile when you go out into the world then know you have also left something worthwhile behind.

So if over the next few weeks or months you are asked to help in some small way or even in some big way, whether to help out a committee or in worship or at some event or even to offer financial support, I ask that you remember your gift to this church in effort or money is also a gift from your spirit to all others who call you friend & companion on our journey toward truth.

See you in church!

Blessings,
Rev. Sara

MESSAGE FROM GREG

"Many hands make light work", they say. Some of our church jobs seem pretty daunting, like the cleanup before the first regular service of the year. The job this year was made much lighter by many helpers - thanks go out (in no particular order) to Daphne, Jerry, Wendy, Rev. Sara, Barb, Diane OJ, Randy, Gaelen, Brian, Raja, and the *entire* Adams family Rob, Maryann, Seth, Jared, Amy.

Thank you all very much!

~Greg Hale, President

RE NEWS

H E L P ! RE needs HELP!

**The Explorers/Searchers group
needs assistant ...**

....teachers to help out weekly. Assistant teachers will assist the younger children, and may, after listening to the lesson presented by the lead teacher, lead

discussion. People without children in the group are strongly encouraged to volunteer.

RE Needs a Fundraiser:

RE children will be voting on a cause/charity to which to donate. Following our theme of World Religions, we will be considering a worldly cause and of course, in order to make a donation, we'll need to earn some money!! **Please let me know if you have a hands-on fundraiser idea for all ages.**

In the past we have made "Thumbs Up" note cards, doing "card art" workshops on Sundays at 9:30. Donated envelopes and recycled paper are the main ingredients for our cards and they are sold in the parlor during coffee hour. Everyone is invited (implored) to create card art at Card Workshops. In order to do this:

- ✓ **RE Needs Card Art Workshop Leaders:** I can help with scheduling, ideas, supplies...whatever you might need.
- ✓ **RE Needs Your Loose Change:** Is the ashtray in your car full of pennies? Do you have a dish of change next to your laundry? Do you toss change in a vat that is almost too heavy to carry? Does the thought of rolling all that change cause your fingers to go numb? As with most concerns...bring it to church! RE kids will collect it, count it, roll it, add it up and vote on donating it at the end of the church year. Look for the WHITE BUCKETS!

RE Dates:

Hinduism Unit Begins October 12
Youth Trip to Salem October 19
Youth Trip to Sarva Dev Mandir October 26
PULSE Celebration: Hinduism November 2
Buddhism Unit Begins November 9
Seekers, Youth Trip to Wild Goose Zendo November 16
Your input, your questions are always welcome.

Big Blessings,
Laurel Burdon, Director of Religious Education

MUSIC NOTES

The Importance of History

UU History Reading list mentioned in Sept Newsletter:

In the Sept Newsletter I mentioned the professional development day spent with Mark Belletini, on UU History. The following is the reading list I promised:

Arius in the Mirror: The Alexandrian Dissent And How It Is Reflected in Modern Unitarian Universalist Practice and Discourse by Mark Belletini. (I have this paper which I am happy to loan to anyone interested.-Lila)

American Universalism; a Bicentennial Historical Essay by George Huntston Williams. 1971

For Faith and Freedom; A Short History of Unitarianism in Europe by Charles A Howe. Skinner House. 1997

American Transcendentalism; A History by Philip F Gura. Hill and Wang. 2007

Making the Manifesto; The Birth of Religious Humanism by William F. Schultz. Skinner House. 2002

There are others, of course. Rev. Sara may have favorites or recommendations. All of the above, I got on Inter Library Loan from my local library and I think Brookfield may be purchasing Phil Gura's book. (For those of this community who worked at Old Sturbridge Village in the 70's---Yes, it's the Phil Gura who was a summer employee during those years)

I will add that surreptitiously the Sept issue of "Quest", The Church of the Larger Fellowship newsletter, has a short UU History by Rev Jane Rzepka, that was a good summation, and I am keeping a copy handy for myself and anyone who wants to borrow that, as well. She quotes David McCullough: "History is a guide to navigation in perilous times. History is who we are and why we are the way we are." Reading these books and essays has helped me have a better understanding of who we are.

Certainly much of the music we do here at BUUC is a reflection of our history. At the same time, there is much new music being written. Now might be a good time to remind everyone that when the composer or the writer of the words in the hymnal is a UU, there is a little chalice symbol next to their name at the bottom of the page. (and more information may be found in the book, *Between the Lines; Sources for Singing the Living Tradition*) In addition, when the composer of a choir piece is a UU, there is a little chalice symbol next to their name in the Order of Service. If I have met them at a UU Musicians Network conference, and have a photo or other information, this will be posted on the little reed organ in the parlor (music info central), where you can check it out during coffee hour. This was true for both of the pieces the choir sang on Homecoming Sunday, September 7; *This House* by David Schafer (member of the choir in New Haven, Connecticut) and *Yonder Come Day* arranged by Clif Hardin (Music Director in Bethesda, Maryland).

Sharing the GA Experience.

I would also like to reiterate that I have Forrest Church's latest (and last) book, *Love & Death; My Journey Through the Valley of the Shadow* and a CD of his presentation at General Assembly (GA) and also a DVD of the Ware Lecture at GA given by activist Van Jones. Because I was so moved by both of these GA events, I bought the CD and the DVD for the express purpose of sharing it with you all, so please see me if you would like to borrow them.

~Lila M Farrar, Music Director

CONCERT SERIES KICK OFF!

Hear Fiske and Herrera October 5th.

The BUUC Concert Series resumes this October 5 with the return of the original acoustic duo, Fiske and Herrera.

Jared Fiske and Amy Herrera are well-known in the area for their seamless harmony vocals, beautiful, intertwining guitars and stunning original songs. They will be debuting new material from their

upcoming CD. Audience members will also be able to pre-order copies of the new release.

Rob Adams will open the show.

The concert will be at 3:00 pm on Sunday, October 5, at the Brookfield Unitarian Universalist Church, Upper River St. (Rte. 148) across from the Brookfield Town Common. Donation: \$10.

ALL ABOARD!!



MEMBERSHIP MEMOS

Get Involved in Membership!

Congratulations, you're on the Membership Committee this year! In fact, many of you have been participating in Membership without even knowing it! Maybe you attended the BUUC night at the Tornados this summer, or you've gotten together with friends from the church, or attended a Rob Adams concert, or you've made a meal for another member, or given them a ride somewhere – there is probably something you have done quite naturally and unconsciously that helped build the church community.

Many people have claimed the BUUC as their "spiritual home", but many come to church to participate in our community because they like associating with like-minded people. My goal as the head of Membership this year is to encourage you to engage with the church in as many ways as possible this year, so that others in the larger community can find a touch point with us.

A membership "event" can be as simple as two church members enjoying each other's company, or two or more church couples going out for dinner, or kids from different families playing together.

Membership held an "events brainstorming session" after the Sept. 14 service. The full list of the ideas are posted in the parlor, but here is a sampling in addition to the usual fare (coffee house, circle suppers, yard sale, etc.):

- Workshops / Discussions (non-spiritual): e.g. investing, cooking
- Sermon Discussions / Podcasts
- Yahoo BUUC Discussion Site
- Hyland Farm gathering
- Bowling Party
- Bonfire at Walker Pond
- Snow Tubing in Carlton
- Game Night (e.g. Scrabble, Chess, Bridge)
- Themed Pot Luck
- Healthy Theme Potluck
- Plant Swap
- Holiday Cookie Swap
- Cooking a Meal Together
- Pool Party

Hopefully, this list triggers some of your own ideas. Please add your ideas to the list in the parlor. Use a

Sharpie, pen, pencil, whatever – as long as we capture them. As you look at the list, write down your name next to an idea if you are interested in participating in or leading one of the activities. If you are interested, but unsure of next steps, we can help you get going. If six church members have a good time together at the same time, then that's a successful event!

Please join in the success of the congregation!

~Brian Rossetti

brian_rossetti@bose.com

REMINDER: ALLERGIES AMONG US

More and more children and adults are developing **sensitivities to chemicals and fragrances**. Typical reactions in people with these sensitivities are sore throat, blocked ears and coughing and wheezing and potentially life-threatening asthma attacks. Please help keep everyone safe by **minimizing your use of perfumes, colognes and heavily scented creams and lotions including products considered to be "All Natural."** **Chemical concerns are the use of Lysol products, Glade products, scented cleaners or scented candles.**

Think about **LATEX** and leave as much as possible at home. Latex Allergy is a big concern for some of us and is potentially life threatening. If you might be decorating or celebrating, please, no latex balloons! Vinyl protective gloves have replaced latex gloves for diapering or handling emergencies involving bodily fluids.



OCTOBER EVENTS!

- ~Wednesday, October 1, 9:00 a.m., **Staff Meeting.**
- ~Wednesday, October 1, noon, **Elder Luncheon.**
- ~Each Thursday in October, 6:55 to 8:30 p.m., **Choir Practice.**
- ~Sunday, October 5, 10:30 a.m., **Flower Communion.**
- ~Sunday, October 5, 3:00 p.m., **Fiske and Herrera Concert.**
- ~Sundays, October 5 and 19, 6:00 p.m., **Meditation Group.**
- ~Monday, October 6, 7:00 p.m., **Executive Committee Meeting.**
- ~Tuesday, October 7, **Music Committee.**
- ~Tuesday, October 7, 7:00 p.m., **Welcoming Committee Team Meeting.**
- ~Wednesday, October 8, 7:00 p.m., **Religious Education Committee Meeting.**
- ~Saturday, October 11, **Yard Sale and Brookfield Apple Country Fair.**

~Sunday, October 12, **Beginning of Hindu Unit in Religious Education.**

~Tuesday, October 14, 7:00 p.m., **Women's Alliance Dessert Pot Luck.**

~Wednesday, October 15, **Newsletter Deadline.**

~Wednesday, October 15, **Church Council Meeting.**

~Friday, October 17 and Saturday, October 18, **New England UU Conference at DCU Center, Worcester.**

~Saturday, October 18, **Mulligan-Light Wedding.**

~Sunday, October 19, **Youth Trip to Salem.**

~Sunday, October 26, **Youth Trip to Sarva Dev Mandir**

Previews of Coming Attractions!

~Saturday, November 15, **Excellence in Religious Education**, more information at www.cbd.uua.org

~Sunday, November 16, **Seekers, Youth Trip to Wild Goose Zendo**

~Wednesday, December 17, **Winter Solstice Service.**

OCTOBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

October 5: Rev. Sara (Flower Communion), Choir

October 9: Rev. Sara, Non-Choral Music

October 19: Guest, Choir

October 26: Guest, Non Choral Music

FROM THE FLOWER COMMITTEE

The Flower Committee reminds you that everyone is invited to provide flowers for morning worship. October 5 is Flower Communion Sunday. On that day everyone is asked to bring a twig or flower. After that, there are many open dates for the rest of the fall. Please see the sign up sheet in the parlor. The church can provide vases. Homegrown and wild collections are welcome, but because of serious allergies, please, **no strongly scented flowers, particularly lilies and hyacinths.** If you have any questions, ask Donna Sullivan, Judy Trifone, or Lila Farrar.

GREEN TIPS:

Recycling Update.

Up to date recycling information from CO-OP America. This from *Real Money*, which is one of their excellent publications. 1) Steel 2/3rds of the steel in this country is processed from recycled products, which is far cheaper and uses 74% less energy. 2) Paper recycling in the US has reached a new high of 51.5% in 2005. Recycling paper uses only 36% of energy that virgin timber uses and uses fewer chemicals. 3) Plastic has only a 17% recycling rate. Recycling saves 80% of the energy used than in manufacturing virgin plastic. Americans purchase 200 plastic bottles each annually, 80% or 3.2 billion pounds end up in landfills. PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE, RECYCLE.

The Dirty Dozen:

From www.thedailygreen.com: "Sweet Bell Peppers have thin skins that don't offer much of a barrier to pesticides. They are one of the most heavily sprayed

vegetables out there and victim to 39 pesticides commonly used to keep them insect free. Can't find organic? Safe alternatives: green peas, broccoli, and cabbage." My garden is currently full of organic green peppers, which are so easy to freeze. Just slice the skin and put in freezer.

~Submitted by Daphne Stevens

UU NEW ENGLAND

CONFERENCE

October 17 and 18.

The UU New England Conference will be held this year on October 17 and 18 at the DCU Center Arena and Convention Complex in Worcester, Massachusetts. The theme of this year's conference is *The Future of Unitarian Universalism*.

Friday night activities include district gatherings, worship and meet the candidates for UUA President, Laurel Hallman, Senior Minister of the First Unitarian Church of Dallas, Texas and Peter Morales, Senior Minister of the Jefferson Unitarian Church, Golden, Colorado.

Saturday activities include worship lead by Rev. William Sinkford, current President of the UUA, keynotes from Rev. Hallman and Rev. Morales and workshops from presenters on the cutting-edge of transforming our faith. Plus, you will be able to engage in conversation with the UUA's Board of Trustee as they solicit input about the difference our faith will make in the world.

It is very exciting that the BUUC is offering the Friday night worship service for the Conference and is assisting Rev. Sinkford in the Saturday morning service!! Hope you all are there.

WELCOMING CONGREGATION

Meets October 7th.

Our first meeting this year will be October 7 at 7:00 p.m. at the church. Please come so we can discuss our plans for the year. If you haven't come to a meeting before, but are interested in discussing or knowing more about the Unitarian Universalist Association's Welcoming Congregation Program, please plan to attend. The Welcoming Congregation Program was developed by the UUA to help congregations become intentionally more welcoming to Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender people.

BUUC YARD SALE:

Donate, help out or both!

The BUUC will hold its annual yard sale 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Saturday, October 11, during Brookfield's Apple Country Fair. Please bring items for donation to the church beginning Sunday, September 28 (immediately following the service) and during the designated times (the times are posted on the bulletin

board in the parlor) during that week leading up to the

Fair. **PLEASE DONATE:**

- CLEAN clothing, shoes, bags, belts
- Books in GOOD condition
- Home decorations (e.g. pictures, knick-knacks, candles)
- Kitchenware
- WORKING tools and accessories
- Crafts
- COMPLETE Games
- Kid's furniture, toys, books
- WORKING lamps
- USABLE Sporting goods

DO NOT DONATE:

- BROKEN or UNUSABLE goods
- Stuffed toys
- Puzzles
- Car Seats
- Highchairs
- Large exercise equipment
- Large furniture
- OUTDATED ELECTRONICS (e.g. old TVs and computers)

IF IT'S LARGER THAN A BREAD BOX...

MARK THE ITEM WITH YOUR NAME: If the item does not sell, we may ask you to take it back. The church has NO storage space for unpurchased items. Unsold items will be discarded. Local landfills can charge us for large amounts of trash, so we want to limit the amount of stuff we throw away. This is our largest fundraiser of the year. Please help by donating your unwanted, but usable items, and/or your time.

REVERSE TRICK-OR-TREATING

From the Unitarian Universalist

Service Committee Site.

On Halloween night, do your part to spread the word about the need for fair trade by reversing the Halloween tradition.

Through Reverse Trick-or-Treating, your children and local group(s) will hand out samples of fair trade chocolate to candy-givers, as they go house to house on Halloween night. Each piece of fair trade chocolate they give will be accompanied by a card that describes the social and environmental injustices in the corporate cocoa industry and how buying fair trade chocolate is the solution.

Last year, Reverse Trick-or-Treaters brought fair trade chocolate to the doorsteps of over 72,000 houses in the United States and Canada. Parents raved about how Reverse Trick-or-Treating transformed Halloween into a meaningful event, when children could give back to their neighbors and to cocoa-growing communities.

Reverse Trick-or-Treating is an initiative of Global Exchange, with leadership from Equal Exchange, and is a collaborative effort of countless children, youth, and adults supported by nonprofit organizations such as

UUSC, Americans for Informed Democracy, Coop America, International Labor Rights Forum, Slow Food, and others.

For more information, please go to the UUSC website: http://www.uusc.org/content/reverse_trick-or-treating

POLITE REMINDERS

Please keep the following things in mind at church:

- When you schedule and hold a meeting or other function in the church basement, please return the space to the way it was when you arrived. It is difficult on Sunday mornings to rearrange a lot of chairs and other furniture in time for the children's Religious Education program.
- Thank you for signing up for Coffee Hour but please come a little early in order to prepare. Preparation activities need to stop when the service begins (chimes), so no one is distracted from the service. If you are running late, don't worry. There are plenty of people willing to lend a hand after the benediction.
- We all enjoy coffee hour but please remember that we do not have a regular janitorial service that comes in directly afterwards. Please be responsible for your own empty cups, food and other garbage and place them in the proper receptacle.
- Please remember that we now recycle paper, plastics and glass. There is a blue container at the end of the aisle for your convenience in recycling your orders of service as you leave the sanctuary.
- Please remember that the church service begins at 10:30 a.m. when the chimes are sounded. Please finish up your conversations by that time.
- The Religious Education (RE) Program doesn't finish up on Sundays until 11:45 a.m. Conversations in the stairwell are distracting to the classes. Please don't enter the RE area unless you have an urgent reason to do so.



The monthly Elder Luncheon will be held on **Wednesday, October 1**. We will gather at noon with lunch to follow. Rev. Sara will provide a main dish. Contributions to the meal are most welcome. Please call Rev. Sara with any questions at (508) 867-5145.

**BROOKFIELD UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
CHURCH**

**P. O. Box 386
9 Upper River Street
Brookfield, MA 01506**

The Brookfield Unitarian Universalist
Church
is a fellowship of seekers after truth,
bound by no dogma, restricted by no creed.



Sunday services are held at 10:30 a.m.
Brookfield Unitarian Universalist Church

"The Little Stone Church That Rocks"
On the Common
Telephone (508) 867-5145

www.buuc.org

TO:

**BUUC CALENDAR OF EVENTS
October 2008**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 Staff Mtg., 9 am Elder Luncheon noon YARD SALE DROP OFF	2 Choir Practice, 6:55-8:30 pm YARD SALE DROP OFF	3	4
5 Sunday Service, 10:30 am (Flower Communion) Fiske & Herrera Concert 3 pm YARD SALE DROP OFF Meditation Group, 6 pm	6 Executive Com Meeting 7 pm YARD SALE DROP OFF	7 Music Committee Meeting Welcoming Committee Meeting, 7 pm YARD SALE DROP OFF	8 Religious Education Committee Meeting, 7 pm YARD SALE DROP OFF	9 Choir Practice, 6:55-8:30 pm YARD SALE DROP OFF	10 Yard Sale Work Party 6 to 9 pm YARD SALE DROP OFF	11 Brookfield Apple Country Fair and BUUC Yard Sale, 8 am to 2 pm
12 Sunday Service, 10:30 a.m.	13	14 Women's Alliance Dessert Pot Luck, 7 pm	15 Newsletter deadline Church Council, 7 pm	16 Choir Practice, 6:55-8:30 pm	17 New England UU Conference at DCU Center, Worcester 7 pm	18 New England UU Conference at DCU Center, Worcester 9 am – 4 pm Wedding
19 Sunday Service, 10:30 a.m. Youth Trip to Salem Meditation Group, 6 pm	20	21 Green Sanctuary Mtg., 7 pm	22	23 Choir Practice, 6:55-8:30 pm	24	25
26 Sunday Service, 10:30 a.m. Youth Trip to Sarva Dev Mandir	27	28	29	30 Choir Practice, 6:55-8:30 pm	31	