



# The Parish Record

The First Church and Parish in Dedham

[www.de dhamuu.org](http://www.de dhamuu.org)

Volume CXXXIV, No. 5

January, 2014

## Sundays in the Meeting House

### January 5 10:00 AM: “The Common Good Cafe”

The Rev. Rali Weaver will preach.

How can the church become more relevant? What will be required to re-imagine the church in this technological age? These are the questions Rev. Weaver is attempting to answer in her Ph.D. program. This Sunday we will begin to unpack some of what she has learned and try to open our minds to how the church might transform in the years to come.

The Intergenerational Choir will sing. If you would like to participate rehearsal begins at 9:30 a.m. Sharp.

### January 12, 10:00 AM: “Private Vice and Public Benefit”

The Rev. Rali Weaver will preach

This Sunday we will examine the roots of capitalism and consider the works of economist Adam Smith in contrast to Bernard Mandeville’s *Fable of Bees*.

### January 19, 10:00 AM: “Sitting in order to Stand Up”

The Rev. Rali Weaver will preach.

Children will start in the Meetinghouse and be sung to their classes.

This Sunday we will remember the Richmond Public Library Sit In of 1939 and how sitting in can help us to stand up for justice.

We will share our Joys and Concerns this week.

### January 26, 10:00 AM: “On Salvation”

Kevin Carson, our ministerial intern, will preach.

Children will start in the Meetinghouse and be sung to their classes.

The idea of salvation has been central to Christianity from the beginning. Who was saved and how has been a source of debate for centuries, and it was of particular concern to the Universalists. Today, a sermon on salvation may send many UUs scurrying for the exits, but I suggest that salvation remains an important reason we come together as people of faith. What might “salvation” mean for us?

### February 2, 10:00 AM: Music Sunday

Join us for our annual music-centered service! Our choir will be joined by the choir from the First Unitarian Society of Newton, soloists, and a small orchestra, for a service featuring Vivaldi’s *Gloria*.

### Calendar

Friday evening – Sunday morning, Jan 3 to 5:  
(Youth) YES Conference

Sunday, Jan 5: Noon: Parish Players Rehearsal

Tuesday, Jan 7: 7pm: UU History Part 2

Friday, Jan 10: 9am – 6pm: LifeLine Screening

Tuesday, Jan 21: 7pm UU History Part 3

Please see our website  
for the complete and  
up-to-date calendar

## From Our Minister

We said goodbye to two marvelous women at the end of 2013.

Eileen Coffin and Marge Wiren were stalwarts of the church, generous spirits and loving kind matriarchs. In their lifetimes our denomination went from a primarily Christian Unitarian worshiping body to a primarily humanistic worshiping body. This is of course not the only way that times changed in their lives. Both Eileen and Marge witnessed great cultural transformation in their times. In many ways the church and our traditions stand as a beacon of things past, as much as we change we hold a marker of things past.

The Sunday we remembered Eileen in worship we read the Lord's Prayer in church. For some people I am sure this felt uncomfortable, for others, I know it felt affirming and wonderful. This tension between the old and the new is part of what we carry as a church and how we navigate this increasingly complex universe of change is the question that confronts all of us.

With global warming and globalization, we are challenged open our minds to new ideas, seek new solutions in ever urgent ways. Amidst all the world's changes, how much do we stay the same? How much do we allow the world to define us?

As we approach this New Year I want us all to consider what ways we might deepen our connection to the past while looking forward to the future. What changes need to be made for us to remain relevant to the widest body in the coming years? How can we deepen our practice, how can we invite more people to join us in our practice? How can we reduce our carbon footprint and preserve our buildings and history?

In January and February we will worship in the Dining Room of the Parish House to reduce our use of dependence on oil. February 2nd we will return to the Meeting House for Music Sunday. I know that some of you avoid worship in the winter months because you are uncomfortable worshipping in the Dining Room. I know others of you prefer the dining room worship. Every change in our community will speak to us each differently. It is my hope that whether we change or stay eternally the same we make all our decisions not in response to the fads of our times, but as a response to our collective values and sense of what is important.

May this new year find you engaging in life in the way that best serves your spirit and goals and may the activities of our church do the same.

Happy New Year.

Rali

## Religious Educator's Corner

### “Happy New Year!”

We have made it through the busy fall and “The Holidays,” welcomed some new friends and bid farewell to some, and now we are at the halfway point in our church year. This is a good time to focus on a very important initiative of our RE program, “Our Whole Lives” as our class for K-1 will be starting on January 26th. Speak with Aoife to register your child for this wonderful class!

“Our Whole Lives,” or OWL for short, replaced the ground-breaking class “About Your Sexuality” that was taught to teenagers in UU church school programs in the 70’s and 80’s. The class material was reexamined and expanded in a joint effort by UU and UCC religious educators and professional sexual health educators. The result is a lifespan sexuality (and spirituality) curriculum with age-appropriate courses for ages 5 through adult.

First Church has offered the year-long OWL course for grades 7-9 for several years now, as part of the two and a half year cycle with Neighboring Faiths and Coming of Age that culminates our children’s RE class experience. In recent past we have been proud to add the half-year courses for grades K-1 and 4-6. If you are interested in seeing the addition of the adult courses please talk to Aoife or Rali.

January 5 <sup>th</sup>	Class
January 12 <sup>th</sup>	Class
January 19 <sup>th</sup>	History Mystery Club/Special Activity
January 26 <sup>th</sup>	Teacher Breakfast/ First Class of Spring Term
February 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Special Activity- Secret Pals

Spring Classes for grades...

PreK: Spirit Play

K-1: OWL

2-3: Faithful Journeys

4-5: Honoring Mother Earth

6-7: Neighboring Faiths

On the next page is a FAQ sheet about our current OWL offerings. Please contact Aoife or Rali with any questions.

Aoife Barrington-Haber is our Director of Religious Education. She can be reached at [dedhamdre@gmail.com](mailto:dedhamdre@gmail.com)

## Religious Educator's Corner

### OWL Classes at First Church

"OWL K-1" for Five and Six Year Olds

**Spring 2014, 8 class sessions plus parent/child orientation in January!**

Facilitators: Kerrie Gallagher and Tom Donaghey

"OWL 4-6" for grades 5 and 6

Fall **or** Spring 2014/15, 8 class sessions plus parent/child orientation

Facilitators: Kerrie Gallagher and Tom Donaghey

"OWL 7-9" for grades 8 and 9

Year-long, Begins January 2015, runs through December 2015 (summer off)

Parent-only orientation session

Facilitators: Grace Pena\* and Tyler Carpenter

\*Pending training. (Welcome, Grace!)

In general OWL classes are held on Sunday mornings.

All classes require parental consent from both custodial parents and a commitment to attendance.

#### OWL K-1

- 8 class sessions + parent/child orientation session
  - Goals for the program include...
    - Supporting children's understanding of our bodies as good and beautiful, private and special.
    - Understanding the place of sexuality in human life and loving; families, celebrations, welcoming babies
    - Respecting self and others.
    - Developing good communication skills to keep them healthy and safe.
    - Provide children with accurate, age-appropriate information on human sexuality, reproduction and sexual identity.
    - Body safety: No-Go-Tell!
    - Inform and support parents in their role as primary sexuality educators of their children.
- Parent involvement in OWL K-1
  - Each child has a journal to take home
  - Stories from curriculum are included in journal
  - Each family purchases the book "What's the Big Secret?" by Laurie and Marc Brown, to read at home, and the optional Parent Guide to OWL K-1/4-6

## Religious Educator's Corner

### Spirituality in OWL; “But is this *religious* education??”

- Classes begin with a spoken chalice lighting, end with extinguishing
- Teachings support and are informed by our UU principles and values, including...
  - The inherent worth and dignity of every person, regardless of age, race, gender, ability and sexual orientation
  - Justice, equity and compassion in human relations
  - Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our community

*In short, children learn that this class and this church are a safe place where they are accepted, celebrated and loved.*

- They are encouraged to ask questions and promise to learn together by listening to, and not laughing at or teasing each other.
- Adolescents learn that their thoughts and concerns about what is happening to their bodies are completely normal, that sexuality is a part of our human nature and is expressed in a number of healthy ways.
- OWL 7-9 emphasizes the three R's, Respect, Relationship, and Responsibility, as being core to a healthy sexuality.
- Most importantly, they learn that their parents and RE teachers care about them and want them to be safe and healthy.

### Can we visit an OWL class to see what it is like?

- *Unlike other RE classes, visitors are not permitted.* This is because...
- In OWL classes, particularly those for adolescents, trust and confidentiality are vital. Having visitors drop in to the class violates the trust that the students and facilitators have worked hard to establish.
- All parents of participating children and adolescents are given a chance to review the materials before the class and attend a required orientation before granting permission for their child to participate.

### Who are the teachers/facilitators?

- OWL is taught by trusted adults from our congregation, sometimes in conjunction with facilitators from a neighboring congregation such as First Parish Needham.
- All facilitators must complete a two-day training offered by the UUA, which is paid for through the RE budget.
- Facilitators must pass a CORI check.

For more details please speak with or email Aoife Barrington-Haber at [dedhamdre@gmail.com](mailto:dedhamdre@gmail.com), 617-872-6960

## All Around the Church Community

### **Adult Religious Education (Time Change) UU History: The First 225,000 Years**

Unitarian Universalism is a movement that emerged from a very long cumulative tradition. In this three session class, we will look at a timeline of the many religious influences that contributed to the movement we see today, discussing important events, people, and ideas along the way. Each session is independent, but we won't be retracing our steps.

Session 2 January 7<sup>th</sup>, 7-9:00 PM 1800 to 1961 "Forming an Identity"  
Session 3 January 21<sup>st</sup>, 7-9:00 PM to the Present – "The UUA and Beyond"

Kevin Carson, our ministerial intern, will teach this class. Please sign up by emailing him [kmcarson@aol.com](mailto:kmcarson@aol.com) or signing up on the bulletin board outside the Dining Room of the Parish Hall

### **Daytime Discussion Groups Will Continue Mondays, starting January 13<sup>th</sup>**

1-2:30 in the Minister's office. To the first meeting bring books you think the group might enjoy and we will decide from whatever books are present.

### **Membership Growth and YOU!**

Do you care about growing our church? Do you want to see more people in the pews each Sunday? Have you often wondered why Unitarian Universalism is the best kept secret? Well if so we need your input – please plan to stay after worship on February 2<sup>nd</sup> for a membership brainstorming session (and a chance to sign up to help!) The Membership brainstorming session will take place at 11:30 in the Minister's office contact Rev. Rali Weaver for more details 617 459 5979 [raliweaver@dedhamuu.org](mailto:raliweaver@dedhamuu.org).

### **Life Line Screening Friday, January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2012**

Lifeline will be in the Dining Room of our Parish Hall offering preventative health screenings. Get the flyer from the Church Office to receive a discount and go to <https://secure.lifelinescreening.com/ecom/location.aspx> to set up an appointment.

## **Minutes of the Parish Committee Meeting October 7, 2013**

### Present:

Virginia Hickey-Ferentinos, Henry Keene, Geoff Tegnell, Rali Weaver, Judy Barrington, Debbie Harrison, Andrea Gilmore, Sharon Lane, Natalie Jensen, Cindy Jones, Diane Cullen-Moore, Betsy Hetzler

Meeting called to order: 7:08 p.m.

### Reflections of gratitude

### Minutes of September 6, 2013:

--Motion to approve minutes with corrections--seconded--approved

### Minister's Report—Rali Weaver

--Special Fall Congregational Meeting: Sunday, November 24

--Open Studios this past Sunday went well; 16 artists displayed at First Church

--Teal hymn books: yesterday after service with special music, anonymous person donated money for 50 'teal' hymnbooks

--Board member of several organizations to spread name of First Church and reflect UU values; some weeks those responsibilities decrease time for church business

--Website: spent time refreshing and changing our website; plans for password protected area

--Committee Chairs meeting this Sunday to outline objectives

--PhD.: financial support from First Church?

Motion to accept report—seconded--approved

Religious Education: written report of Acting Director Aoife Barrington-Haber

--Seeking new committee member

### Building and Grounds—Andrea Gilmore

--Plymouth house (Virginia Jones bequest): problem with insurance resolved; new roof needed

-- Larcom room painted; Parish House: front door and cellar hatch repaired

--New carpet installed in Dining Room; kitchen counter and sink soon; gas stove reconnect soon

Treasurer's Report—Sharon Lane

- 24% of pledged paid; 20% non pledge income received
- Harvest Dinner to happen as fundraiser? (No: this year other fundraisers)
- Meeting House electricity bill much higher than usual; investigating cause(s)
- Office expenses close to budget
- Quickbooks' \$300 cost no longer through Kathy Elefterakis; church needs to pick up cost
- \$1,476.85 under budget so far.
- Motion to accept report--seconded—approved

Old business

- Music and Worship Committee: thanks Natalie, Virginia, and committee for workshop Saturday and wonderful service yesterday with Jeannie Gagne
- Open Studios went well
- Fall Meeting Date: Sunday, November 24, 2013

New Business

- Coffee Hour: Parish Comm. hosts Christmas Sunday (Dec, 22) and Easter Sunday (April 20)
- suggest other committees host ; Rali will mention to Chairs
- Encourage experienced people to host with new people
- Parish Committee Meeting Dates: add Monday, June 2
- Chalice Lighting: Parish Comm. Nov. 10; Deacons Nov. 24
- Thanks to Natlie and Jim for Dining Room carpet; hallway will also be done after repairs
- Japanese screen damaged after carpet installed; possible repair

Next Meeting: Monday, November 4, 2013 at 7:00

- Motion to adjourn to executive session—seconded--approved

Meeting adjourned: 8:07 p.m.

Executive session:

Meeting adjourned: 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Harrison