

FIRST RELIGIOUS SOCIETY

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NEIGHBOURS & FELLOW CREATURES

The First Religious Society in Carlisle
Unitarian Universalist
A Welcoming Congregation

Volume XXXI, No. 10

January 22, 2007



WE ARE LOCATED IN CARLISLE CENTER OPPOSITE THE COMMON, JUST OFF ROUTE 225 AROUND THE CORNER FROM THE ONLY ROTARY IN TOWN. A CLASSIC NEW ENGLAND MEETING HOUSE WITH THE TOWN CLOCK IN THE STEEPLE. COME AS YOU ARE. "LOVE IS THE DOCTRINE OF THIS CHURCH, THE QUEST FOR TRUTH IS OUR SACRAMENT AND SERVICE IS OUR PRAYER."

Newsletter for January 22, 2007

CHURCH INFORMATION

Church Service and Sunday School: Sunday at 10:30 a.m.
Coffee Hour following services.

Dates and details of church events on the Calendar on page 7 in this newsletter.

Church Office: 978-369-5180; Fax no. 978-369-1891

Web site: www.uucarlisle.org **E-mail address:** frs@uucarlisle.org

Church Mailing Address: [including minister and all business]
PO Box 817, Carlisle, MA 01741-0817

Minister: Tim Jensen (study and home) 978-369-0284, (cell) 503-816-2859,
Email: uucleric@mindspring.com

Minister Emeritus: Dr. Eugene R. Widrick

Parish Committee Co-Chair: Suzanne Whitney Smith, 978-369-0922;
swsmeslrs@earthlink.net

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Office Administrator: Kathy Varney, 978-369-5180

Religious Education Director: Molly Sorrows, 978-371-2217,
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Minister of Music: Marguerite Shaw, 978-501-4220; Email: frsmusic@comcast.net

Collector of Funds: Charlie Davis, 978-371-2844; Email: cdavis@modavi.com

Lay Minister: Sally Hayen, 978-369-7591

Membership Contact: Sue Kirk, 978-371-0176

Coffee Committee: Gio DiNicola, Anne Ketchen, Richard Ketchen, Tom Rourk,
Suzanne Whitney Smith, Jack O'Connor, Jenifer Bush

THE ECLECTIC CLERIC

***"It's a blessing we were born,
and it matters what we do,
What we know about god
is a piece of the truth,
Let the beauty we love
be what we do,
And we don't have to do it alone."***

These are the lyrics to a song written for "Chalice Camp," a Unitarian Universalist summer day camp created by Laila Ibrahim and the Reverend Sheri Prud'homme for six to twelve year-olds in California's Pacific Central District. Laila and Sheri are both members of the First Unitarian Church in Oakland, and Sheri is also an associate faculty member at the Starr King School for the Ministry in Berkeley. Chalice Camp was developed around a philosophy of using accessible theological language to help our youngsters become better able to understand and articulate their connection to our larger faith tradition in a environment that was fun, utilized "multiple learning modes," and which offered the kids an opportunity "to have deep and lasting connections with each other." Yet sometimes "out of the mouths of babes" come important insights for grown-ups too.

"It's a blessing we were born..." None of us

actually asked to be born, and none of us really deserve to be here either. Yet through grace, luck, or perhaps simply an accident of nature, here we are, and now it's up to us to make something of ourselves. The gift of life is literally a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, as well as a blessing -- not only for ourselves, but for all those whose lives we touch in a positive and meaningful way.

"It matters what we do..." The things we choose to do with our lives are important, and again not only for ourselves. In a very real sense, we are a part of the Universe which can think, and feel, and then act in ways that either make the world better or make it worse. Our decisions have consequences, which often last well beyond our own lifetimes.

"What we know about god is a piece of the truth..." Let's face facts. Nobody knows ALL the answers. But each of us, if we try, can at least cultivate a little insight into our own lives, and perhaps a little empathy for the experiences of others. Simply learning to be slow to judge and quick to forgive can do wonders for improving the quality of our relationships with one another, and eventually lead us all to a deeper understanding of the bigger picture.

"Let the beauty we love be what we do..."

THE ECLECTIC CLERIC (*continued*)

Listen to your passion. Follow your bliss. How many times have you heard that in your life? So what are you waiting for?

“...and we don’t have to do it alone.” The blessings of family, friendship, community and society itself all provide deeper meaning and a broader context to the blessing of our own existence. Once again, none of us have perfect relationships, and often times many of our most significant relationships can be quite difficult and troubling. But even so, we don’t have to do it alone. With over six and a half billion people on the planet, it would be hard to do so even if we wanted to.

Just because profound ideas can be printed on the back of tee-shirts or sung aloud by children doesn’t make them any less profound. Take these simple thoughts to heart, and let them guide your lives. And while you’re at it, don’t forget to drop by and spend a little quality time with your “neighbors and fellow creatures.”...twj

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UPCOMING SERVICES

Our speaker at the January 28 Sunday service will be Stephen Oleskey, senior partner at Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr in Boston. Mr. Oleskey has a decades-long record of pro bono work on behalf of victims of political and economic injustice. He has been chairman of the board of the Mass. Legal Assistance Corporation, past director and president of Greater Boston Legal Services, and past director and chairman of the Boston Bar Association’s Volunteer Lawyers Project. He received a Distinguished Service Award from Massachusetts Correctional Legal Services in 2005, and the Boston Bar Association’s Thurgood Marshall Award in 1992. He is lead counsel in *Boumediene et al v. Bush et al*, which has been consolidated with Guantanamo habeas corpus litigation. In this case he is representing six Bosnian citizens and residents who were abducted from their country in January 2002 and sent to Guantanamo Prison, where they remain today. His experiences in this case, his first-hand knowledge of conditions at the prison, and the implications for America’s view of itself and the world’s view of America will be the subject of his talk, entitled “Guantanamo After Five Years: American Injustice as Seen by Prisoners’ Counsel.”

February 4: Sermon Topic “Treasure”
Rev. Jensen

February 11: Sermon Topic “Vision”
Rev. Jensen

Please view the FRS calendar on our website under “Upcoming Events”.

All are welcome to attend Parish Committee meetings, except in cases of executive sessions

FRS Committee meetings are open to any interested party. To address a committee on a specific issue please contact the committee chair.

Next Newsletter Deadline is

If you would like to be added to or removed from the newsletter mailing list please call or email the church office.

UUA FUNDRAISING PHONATHON

As a supplement to periodic mailings, Friends of the UUA will be conducting a fundraising phonathon beginning the week of February 19th and continuing through the third week in March.

Outreach Associates, a telemarketing firm located in Pittsburgh, will be phoning members who are currently active Friends of the UUA to ask them to renew their support. Theme: Progress Report on Tapestry of Faith Lifespan Curriculum

Our contract with this firm requires that all callers must be courteous, respectful, and succinct as they offer identified Unitarian Universalists an opportunity to support our Association directly. Your feedback about the calls will help us to monitor their quality. We have established a Friends Phonathon Hotline to facilitate that feedback: **Members may call (617) 948-6525 to leave a message to ask to be placed on the "no call" list or to share a comment directly with a UUA staff member.**

STAFF AND OFFICE SCHEDULE

Church Office Hours: The church office will be open between the hours of 8:00am and 1:30pm on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday. The office will be closed on Tuesdays.

Minister Office Hours: Tim is generally available at church most mornings when the church office is open and other times by appointment. It is always a good idea to call in advance. You can reach him at 978-369-0284 (study or home), 503-816-2859 (cell) or by email at uucleric@mindspring.com.

Director of Religious Education: Molly Sorrows, DRE and Youth Advisor, can be reached by email (frs_re@comcast.net) or phone (church, 978-369-5180; home, 978-371-2217).

Music Rehearsals Schedule

The Choir
Wednesdays at 7:30-9:00pm
Sundays at 9:45am

KIDS KWIRE

Wednesdays 3:15-3:45pm

Handbell Choir TBA

The First Religious Society in Carlisle is an inclusive community bound together in the Unitarian Universalist tradition of friendship, free inquiry and service to humanity.

We recognize our commonality as spiritual seekers, and welcome and celebrate the participation of all people, without regard to age, race, religious heritage, political opinion, gender identity, sexual or affectional orientation, socio-economic status, disability or ethnicity.

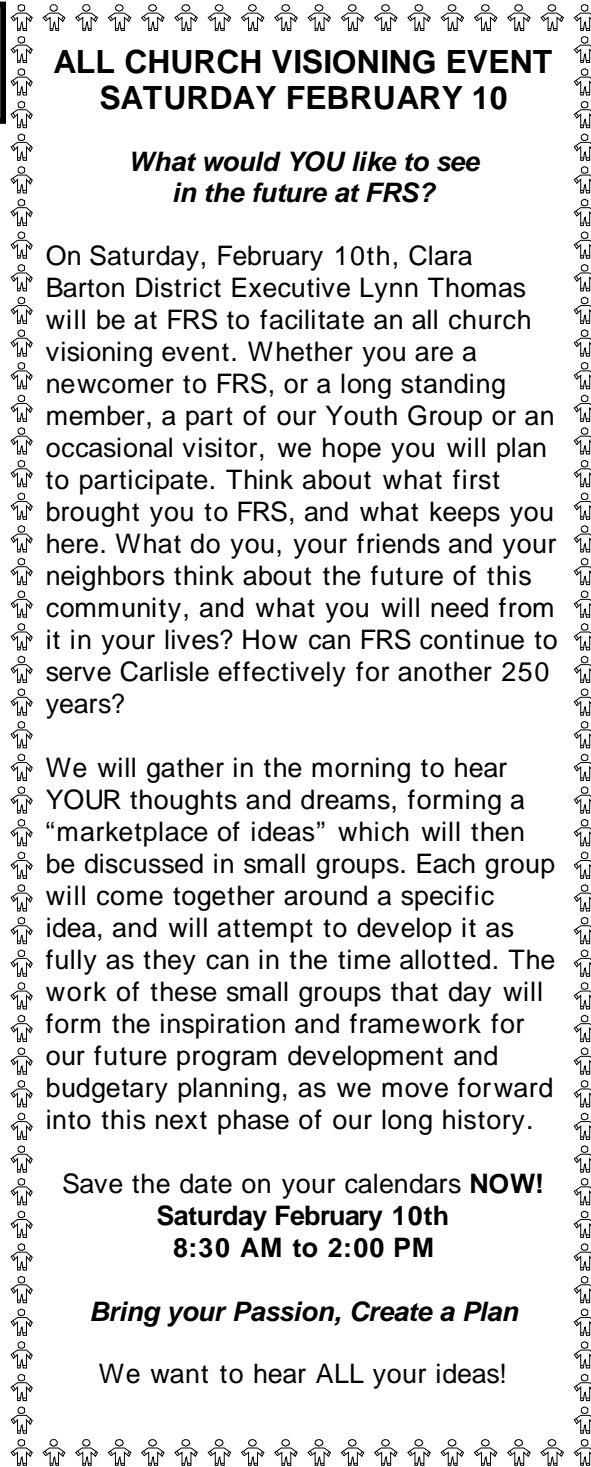
We are committed to continual learning and growth toward affirmation of the enriching diversity of humankind, and to working to create a more just, sustainable and loving world.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS by Molly Sorrows and Nancy West

Fantastic jobs as apprentices in different Marketplace 29A.D. shops are resulting in a buzz of enthusiasm, creativity and excitement among the children and youth on Sunday mornings. We started our Winter Workshops with well building, bread baking, opening a clothing shop and discussing daily life. Future shops include basket weaving, rope making, spinning and weaving, and the job of the scribe. It's easy to join in at anytime, so don't hesitate to come. Many thanks to the adults who have already volunteered and to the kids who are working so hard! Our shops will continue through the end of February.

Save These Dates!
2nd Annual FRS Soup & Games Night - Feb. 11, 4-6 PM in Union Hall! Join friends of all ages for a thoroughly enjoyable midwinter party. We'll start out with icebreakers and group games; then the JYG will lead Bible Jeopardy. A light supper of homemade soups along with rolls and cookies will be served, and after that we'll break out the board games. Bring your favorite game if you'd like, and/or a pot of soup or a batch of cookies if you'd like. Most importantly, bring yourselves, your family and some friends. Questions? Contact Nancy West at 978-369- 6515 or NancySWest@hughes.net

Saturday, March 3rd is a special event for middle school youth. All 6th to 8th graders in our Clara Barton District are invited to a **Youth Rally**. This is an annual one-day event, which FRS kids have loved in the past, though we have not sent a group in several years. The day will include worship, workshops, socializing and food. Keep your eyes open for details!



ALL CHURCH VISIONING EVENT SATURDAY FEBRUARY 10

What would YOU like to see in the future at FRS?

On Saturday, February 10th, Clara Barton District Executive Lynn Thomas will be at FRS to facilitate an all church visioning event. Whether you are a newcomer to FRS, or a long standing member, a part of our Youth Group or an occasional visitor, we hope you will plan to participate. Think about what first brought you to FRS, and what keeps you here. What do you, your friends and your neighbors think about the future of this community, and what you will need from it in your lives? How can FRS continue to serve Carlisle effectively for another 250 years?

We will gather in the morning to hear YOUR thoughts and dreams, forming a "marketplace of ideas" which will then be discussed in small groups. Each group will come together around a specific idea, and will attempt to develop it as fully as they can in the time allotted. The work of these small groups that day will form the inspiration and framework for our future program development and budgetary planning, as we move forward into this next phase of our long history.

Save the date on your calendars **NOW!**
Saturday February 10th
8:30 AM to 2:00 PM

Bring your Passion, Create a Plan

We want to hear ALL your ideas!

PROGRAM NEWS

Thanksgiving 2006: The Social Action Committee wishes to thank the generosity of the Congregation for once again donating money to buy groceries for five needy families in Lowell. The families are identified through the staff at the Stoklosa Middle School and Guidance Councilor, Patty Abissi is our contact. Shopping and delivery which took place on Monday, November 20, 2006, were provided by Ellen Huber, Donna Carter, Helen Lyons and Dollina Borella. Each family received crackers, cheese, chip, dip, turkey, stuffing, gravy, cranberry sauce, dinner rolls, butter, potatoes, carrots, celery, carrots, onions, squash, green beans, olives, apple pie, pumpkin pie, Clementine's, apples, cider, juice, plastic wrap, aluminum foil and after dinner mints. The total bill for the five families was \$383.74. However, the manager at Market Basket at Treble Cove Plaza was appreciative of our project and gave us 5, \$5.00 gift certificates, which brought the total to \$358.74. Any questions on this project can be addressed to Dollina Borella, 978-371-0149. There will be an additional write up on the Christmas part of this project.

Our FRS Greens Sale of 2006 was a big success earning over \$8,000 for our church budget. Thanks to Charlie Davis, Mary Hult and Kathy Varney for handling all the monies so efficiently.. I hop all of you will once again help with this wonderful event during our most busy Christmas Season. May you have a prosperous and happy 2007.

Janice Kissinger

WomenSpirit Potluck Supper - Friday, February 9th - 7:00pm: Our next WomenSpirit gathering will be Friday, February 9th at the home of Heather Hedden where we'll share a potluck supper. Start time is 7:00pm. All women are welcome! Bring an appetizer, entree, salad or dessert. Any questions, call Sue Kirk 978-371-0176 or sukirk@aol.com. Please contact Heather Hedden at 978-371-0822 if you are planning to attend.

KIDS KWIRE

We had our first rehearsal of the KIDS KWIRE on January 17 with eleven singers. The kids were enthusiastic and caught on very quickly. Any child in 3rd grade up through 6th (and above too) is still welcome to join up. We have a great group so far: Emily Barrow, Kevin Barrow, Peter Fox, Gavin Saylor, Graeme Piette, Charlie Gettys, Henry Hedden, Chasidy Jaquith, Erika Hedden, Anastasia Forcucci, Eliza Randazzo, Harriet Ketchen, Daniel Moore, Katherine Sorrows, and Elisabeth Sorrows. Contact me at frsmusic@comcast.net, or call 978-369-5180.

PROGRAM NEWS

Pastoral Concerns Committee: We serve as a means of outreach to people in our church who need our special support and friendship. We will arrange rides, visits, childcare, meals or anything else that lends a helping hand during short or long-term crises. If you are or know of anyone in need of this support, please contact Anne Ketchen at 978-369-1661 during the month of January and Tricia Reed at 978-369-0135 during the month of February.

Parish Committee needs childcare (sitters for the Saturday, February 10 Visioning Event.) Coverage is required at church from 8:30am to 2:00pm. If you are interested or know someone who is interested and able, please leave message at the church office or with Suzanne Whitney Smith at 978-369-0922.\

Carlisle Valentine Community Dance
Saturday, February 17th, 7:30 - 11:00pm
tickets \$10 per person (pay at the door) in Union Hall. We will provide the LOVELY atmosphere, DJ, appetizers, soft drinks, and door prizes, but BYOB. Singles and couples, young and old...all are welcome! Table reservations cheerfully accepted. Please send table reservations and music requests for the DJ to Alison Saylor at saylorfarm@comcast.net or Dian Cuccinello Dianfrancesca@comcast.net.

Sven's Bridge presented during the Sunday Service, March 25 The Spring Pageant this year will be a dramatization of a charming children's book *Sven's Bridge* by Anita Lobel. We will use music, costumes, props and an intergenerational cast to bring alive the idea that being dedicated, friendly, compassionate and patient is good, and being self centered, impulsive and impatient is not. Making props, finding costumes and rehearsing the songs and dialog will begin in March. Great news! The Jazz Trio has agreed to play some of the music for this drama, which will include a mix of musical styles, solos and group singing. Please save Sunday March 25 to watch or, preferably, participate in the FRS script-in-hand production of *Sven's Bridge*. Please contact Alison Saylor (978) 369-1809 saylorfarm@comcast.net with any questions, suggestions or offers to help with this project.

My sister, Dorothea Christina Cook, recently passed away after surviving breast cancer for 20 years. She was most active in West Chester, PA as President of the area League of Women Voters and as an elementary school teacher for 37 years. She was my sister and my best friend.

-Janice Kissinger