

FIRST RELIGIOUS SOCIETY

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NEIGHBOURS & FELLOW CREATURES

The First Religious Society in Carlisle

Unitarian Universalist
A Welcoming Congregation

Volume XXX, No. 20

July 24, 2006



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 July 24, 2006

CHURCH INFORMATION

Summer Church Services at 9:30 a.m.

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

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THE ECLECTIC CLERIC

"Open Source Philanthropy"

Last month the media was all a-buzz with the news that Warren Buffet has decided to join with his friend Bill Gates by donating a large portion of his personal fortune to several philanthropic organizations, including the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (which is already, I've heard, the best-funded private philanthropic foundation in the world). I heartily applaud the generosity of these self-made billionaires, and share their desire to create a better world by improving the health and education of the world's most vulnerable inhabitants. Yet I also have an odd concern which is difficult for me to articulate, mostly because it still isn't quite clear in my own mind.

Bill Gates and I are about the same age, and grew up within a few miles of one another in the suburbs of Seattle. In fact, if my mother (with the encouragement of my public High School vice principal) had gotten her way instead of my dad, Trey and I might even have been classmates at Seattle's Lakeside Academy. We have a handful of mutual friends (most notably one of my early mentors in the ministry and his wife, who, like Melinda, are also both Duke alums), and...well, I don't want to make too much of this either. Let's just say that, like a lot of people around the world, I've always been kind of interested in what the world's Chief Geek has to say for himself, and tend to take him pretty seriously when he speaks.

So, what's my odd concern? I guess simply that despite its good intentions, a charitable organization as large as the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation might somehow have unintended and unforeseen consequences regarding the nature of philanthropic activities in general.

Is it just paranoia, or some sort of dark, melancholic tendency of my own psyche to see the glass half-empty rather than half-full? Maybe. OK, probably. But let me put it another way. If the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation does for personal philanthropy what Microsoft did for personal computing, will that be a good thing or a bad thing? Or if it turns out (as I suspect it will) to be a little of both, what can be done to emphasize the former and minimize the latter?

Not that I'll have any real say in the matter. But here's the deal as I see it. Any time there's a large amount of money up for grabs, the temptation to try to "game the system" is never far away, while the firewalls intended to prevent that abuse of trust can potentially become even worse than the abuse itself.

(continued on page 7 of this newsletter)

OUR PEOPLE

Sonie Boor is now a member of the Greater Boston Youth Symphony (GBYSO). She auditioned with the Telemann piece she played at FRS in April. By the time she auditioned at the end of May it was quite polished. Still waiting to hear from Longy (a music school in Cambridge) where she auditioned for chamber music. Thank you for having her play in church. Patti Russo and Steve Boor

Alex Stengrevics will be attending Hartwick College in Oneonta, New York in the fall. Congratulations Alex!

Welcome To The World, Little Giselle! Dian & Bill Cuccinello proudly announce the birth of their first grandchild, a grand-daughter, Giselle Destiny Digiambattista, born on May 11, 2006, at exactly the moment the Red Sox won the game that day. I know, because Gina and I were both watching it, as she gave birth to Giselle. WHAT A GAME!! WHAT A WIN!! WHAT A BABY!!!! The very happy, (on two counts) parents, are, Gina Victoria and Adolfo Digiambattista. Gina is the daughter of Bill Cuccinello, and Dian Francesca is her delighted stepmother. (A.K.A. Nana) :) Look out world....Here comes Giselle!

We extend our sympathy to Art Turner and Sally Naumann and all their family. Art's mother, Elizabeth Turner, almost 102, died at her home in Harvard on June 20.

Mike Dundorf is well on the road to recovery after his mid-June double knee replacement. He is now recuperating at the home of his friend Jeanne Reynolds in Methuen and hopes to be back at his new apartment in Lowell by mid-August.

Congratulations to long time active, young member of our congregation Carly Saylor Cox on the occasion of her June 24th marriage to Chris Cox. Our Minister of Music Marguerite Shaw officiated at the event held outdoors at the Saylor's home. The reception was beautifully catered by Dian Cuccinello. Carly is the daughter of Alison and Mike.

Congratulations, too, to Stephen Hackbarth and Hazel Davis. They were married on June 24 at Hazel's family farm in Rhode Island. The reception which was to have been on outdoors at Hackbarths' on June 25 made a quick weather-inspired switch to Union Hall. Stephen's parents are Stephanie and Paul. The FRS has been privileged to hear the French horn playing of both Stephen and Hazel over the years.

Donna & Newel Cantrill were selected as "Honored Citizens" at our Old Home Day festivities.

Congratulations to all FRSers who participated in Olde Home Day!

ECLECTIC CLERIC *(continued)*

So what can be done to prevent or minimize this problem? Transparency, obviously...along with democratization, decentralized decision making, diversification of activities...in effect, an "open source" philanthropy which builds a real partnership between "developers" (the philanthropists) and "end users" (the intended beneficiaries), and allows the "clients" of the philanthropy the maximum amount of input and control, while still recognizing that a certain number of false starts and outright mistakes are probably unavoidable.

Or at least that's how it seems to me. In the meantime, congratulations to all concerned regarding this magnificent expression of generosity and compassion. And may the accomplishments prove worthy of the dream....twj

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 Marcia Wallhagen at 978-369-4070 during the month of August.

SUMMER SERVICES UPDATE

by Roger Goulet

We have had three lay-led summer services so far -- all different, all interesting, all well-attended. The schedule for the remainder of the summer follows. (All services are at 9:30 AM.)

July 30: Small Group Ministries (see article on page 3 in this newsletter).

August 6: TBA

August 13: Paul Morrison, "Looking For Spirituality".

August 20: John Ballantine, "Building Social Capital."

August 27: Small Group Ministries.

Next Newsletter Deadline is August 18.

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

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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.

**LETTER OF THANKS FROM
STOKLOSA SCHOOL PRINCIPAL**

Dollina Borella, our social action liaison with the Stoklosa Middle School in Lowell received the following letter in June from school principal Jackie Travers who was on medical leave for the past year.

Dear Dollina,

I can't tell you how much we appreciate the continual support we get from your congregation. What makes it special is that we have had opportunities to truly bond and I feel like your congregation has become as important as any staff member in our school. You understand our needs and our student population.

The recent \$500 you donated will go into an account for next year. We will use it for students who are unable to pay for attendance to the STARTS program. This program is run by the University of Lowell and offers quality dramatic and musical productions for students in the Greater Lowell community.

I look forward to visiting you and your congregations next year. God bless you all.

With gratitude,

*Jackie Travers
P.S. I have now recovered from my car accident and have started back part-time to the school. I will be at the helm again in August and cannot wait!"*

**MESSAGE FROM THE BAG-
SHAWS**

Hi Marguerite

Thought you'd like to know that your former family singer David has just been accepted in to the UK National Boys Choir. He went for an audition two weeks ago and has just been accepted. It means he gets to go on a summer school in August and they tour together at Easter. It's pretty competitive only 1 in 6 auditions get accepted – he did really well – and it will last until his voice breaks – so few years yet! You would have been proud of us warming up together – doing the mama likes to mash my m&m's routine in the car park! He's a bit of a minor celeb in our town at the moment as he was also on television in May on a hymn singing program called Songs of Praise – which is shown on BBC 1 on a Sunday afternoon. So from little acorns of the Family Singers start to grow oaks !!

I've also just remembered they sang the "Rhythm of Life" at their last concert – which was great fun – he is really enjoying himself.

Hope you are well yourself and enjoying the summer !

Best wishes and a hug !

Steve

JULY 30 SUNDAY MORNING SERVICE AT 9:30

The July 30 service will be run as a small group ministry meeting. Last September Steve Kirk presented the concept of small group ministry to our congregation. In January a group of about eight FRSers began monthly meetings to discuss how our church might develop such a program. The second meeting was part organizational and part a meeting following the typical SGM format. Meeting topics over the next few months included "Turning Points," "Living with Anger," "Issue Intensity: what issue are you most passionate about in your life?" and "Reverence." In May Steve and Mike Dundorf presented the SGM concept during "A Message for all Ages."

The topic for the July 30 service/meeting (in Union Hall) will be "**Democracy and Civility.**" All are invited to take an active part. Ernie and Ellen Huber will be the facilitators.

The tentative morning program follows:

Chalice Lighting: May the light of this flame illuminate lives and strivings of the spirit. May it heal misunderstandings and strengthen love.

Rev. Elizabeth Lerner, past FRS student intern

Opening Words: Civil dialogue over differences is democracy's true engine...

Stephen L. Carter from "Civility"

Check-in/Sharing: A chance to catch up, briefly, with what has been happening with everyone.

Topic Introduction: In a July 14 Globe op-ed piece John Dean, former Nixon White House counsel, talks of the impact of authoritarianism on our democracy. He talks of those who "...seek to destroy the deliberative nature of the U. S. Senate by eliminating its extended-debate tradition, which has been the institution's distinctive contribution to our democracy..." The fifth principle of our denomination says "We affirm and promote: the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregation and in society at large." Stephen Carter says that "Civility requires that we listen to others with knowledge of the possibility that they are right and we are wrong." Early in his book on civility he writes "Civility, I shall argue, is the sum of the many sacrifices we are called to make

for the sake of living together."

Questions for discussion: Everyone will have the opportunity to respond to any or all.

1. Who in public life today uses civil discourse to enhance our democracy and how?
2. Where and how as a church should we use the democratic process?
3. Where in your own life has your own lack of listening well had a negative impact?
4. Give examples in your own life of where and how you could have made, or where you did make, things better through good listening.

Check-out: your response to this meeting

Closing words: Suppose that we were able to share meanings freely without a compulsive urge to impose our own view or to conform to those of others and without distortion and self-deception. Would this not constitute a real revolution in culture and therefore eventually in all society?

David Bohm, theoretical physicist

On August 27 Bob Luoma will lead another SGM session. The topic will be either "Welcoming the Stranger" or "The Wild Within."

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY *by George Bishop*

Habitat for Humanity of Greater Lowell has taken ownership of the two lots in Reading. The lots are wooded and low. Clearing of the trees has started and Ralph Anderson who works with the Tuesday "over the hill gang" reported helping with the cleaning. Because the lots are low the houses will be built on slabs. Putting in the utilities and pouring the slabs will be done professionally. Opportunities for volunteers will come once framing the walls and roofing start. The last word we had is that we might have an opportunity to work there in August. For us at FRS that would be the 3rd Saturday, August 26.

In the meantime Habitat has been busy fund raising to pay for building materials and utility connections. FRS helped at Habitat's June 9th fund raiser held at the Lowell Memorial Auditorium in conjunction with a performance by the comedian Wayne Brady. Habitat had a block of tickets in the balcony and a reception room nearby. There was a pre-show event with appetizers, a cash bar, silent auction, and a raffle. Ann Barber, Dick Dagavarian, Nadine and George Bishop staffed the silent auction and the raffle. We sold raffle tickets and encouraged people to bid on the silent auction. When the auction was declared closed just before the start of the show Ann and Nadine collected the bid sheets and then tabulated the winning bidder and bid on flip charts. During the show we stayed in the reception room to watch over the auction items. It was not all work. We feasted on some of the many appetizers, which were excellent, and made a stop at the cash bar. When people returned to the reception after the performance Ann and Nadine helped collect payments for the auction items, and Dick and George helped with the raffle. The fund raiser was quite successful. The silent auction proceeds totaled \$4700; the raffle \$515 and we had a good time.

We will keep you posted on when we can start helping with the construction. For more information contact Ernie Huber at 978-369-6678 or George Bishop at 978-369-5080. Ernie maintains an email list to which he sends out notices. Contact him if you would like to be on the list.

Junior High Youth Group Summer Party on Thursday, August 24, 4-6pm at the Boor/Russo's home, 63 Carleton Road

Ice cream, swimming and fun games
This is for all youth entering the 6th, 7th and 8th grades!
Bring your swim stuff and your favorite ice cream toppings for make-your-own sundaes. Welcome to the new 6th graders!

Parents are invited/optional for casual poolside adult conversation. Parents can hear about plans and share ideas for the Junior Youth Group (JYG). Organized by Linda, Patti, Susan E and Jackie. RSVP requested to Molly at (978-371-2217)

LEE MILLIKEN MEMORIAL CONCERT

The Beacon Brass will present a concert sponsored by The First Religious Society in loving memory of Lee Milliken at Corey Auditorium on October 1 at 7:00 pm. Their music is beautiful and exciting. They were here about ten years ago and it was a wonderful experience for all ages. Please save the date now to attend this community-wide, admission-free event, and invite your friends to join you.

PROGRAM NEWS

More Pledges...

The Finance Committee would like to recognize the following individuals for their 2006-7 pledges. Thank you for supporting FRS!

John & Carol Bergeron
Lucy & Bill Cornish
Joan & John Dalton
Lillian & Angelo DeBenedictis
Suzanne Hill & Ray Offenheiser
Bob & Lyn Oleksiak
Muggsie & Greg Rocco
Mark & Nancy Szczesniak

Church Office Hours During The Summer: The church office is not open regular hours during the summer months. Phone messages and emails are checked regularly. Please leave a phone message (978-369-5180) or send an email (frs@uucarlisle.org) and Kathy in the church office will get back to you. **Enjoy the summer!**

Minister Office Hours: Tim does not keep regular office hours during the summer. He is still available most days by phone. You can reach him at 978-369-0284 (study/home), 503-816-2859 (cell) or by email at ucleric@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 Director: Almost always available by phone (978-501-4220) and occasionally by e-mail (frsmusic@comcast.net). Will be away from July 23 - 30 and August 2 - 7.

Knit for People Who Are Homeless: Tuesday, August 8 at 7:30pm Union Hall

As a follow up to the FRS visit to Cathedral on the Common in Boston last Spring, we are knitting simple scarves and hats for people who are homeless (90% are men so dark colors are suggested) for the upcoming winter. We welcome all to knit for this cause until final collection on November 5 when Rev. Joan Murray of Common Cathedral visits us as guest preacher. Her organization will distribute the hats and scarves to her congregants as Christmas presents. Thank you to all those who attended our first knitting night. It was a fun evening with women, junior and senior youth, both beginners and experienced knitters. We shared patterns, knitting needles, tips, and instructions. Feel free to knit on your own over the summer and/or join us at our next gathering, August 8. You are invited to attach a note or card to the recipient (signed with your first name). Use your own patterns or go to <http://www.ecclesia-ministries.org/help/volunteer.php>. Any questions or suggestions contact Linda at lindamt@comcast.net or 371-1919.

The Hedden family will again be hosting a German teenager this summer. 19-year-old Eva will be staying with the Heddens on East Riding Dr. from June 24 to August 28 while she works weekdays as a day camp counselor at a Girl Scout camp. She graduated from high school a year ago and has taken the past year off working before starting college this fall to study tourism management. Any similar aged youth interested in meeting and getting together with Eva on weekends or evening should give her a call at the Heddens: 978-371-0822.