



# Meetinghouse Messenger

from the First Religious Society

September 1, 2014  
through September 7, 2014

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### **This Sunday**

This Sunday, September 7, Services resume in the Sanctuary at 10am. **Bring a small amount of water from your life for the Water Ceremony.** We will welcome **Dan Ryan**, Director of Music, and **Lisa Perry-Wood**, Student Minister and Director of Religious Education. The choir will sing. The sermon is titled **"Hands Up -- A Prayer for Justice"** with **Rev. Miller** preaching. Children will begin in the sanctuary to participate in the Water Ceremony before leaving for Way Cool Sunday School. **Florence Goulet** will be our Spiritual Journeys speaker.

### **Religious Education news**

**Way Cool Sunday School** begins this Sunday! We have experienced teachers introducing the Bible as a library of books on September 7, and Creation stories on September 14th, to grades K-2 and grades 3-5. Children will be learning about the Hebrew and Christian bibles through important stories.

**Orientation** for Religious Education volunteers is this Saturday, September 6th, 9--10:30 AM, in Union Hall, with coffee and a nosh. Child care will be available. All teachers, assistants, high school youth assistants, and volunteers are asked to participate. Bring your license for the CORI paperwork. Meet Lisa Perry-Wood and our nursery caregiver, Nina Rich.

**A Message from the Flower Committee:** Are you interested in providing flowers for the pulpit during Sunday Service? Perhaps you would like to remember a loved one or celebrate a special occasion? The Flower Committee members, Deb Jancek, Jackie Schaeffer and Pam Hall invite you to

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participate, by speaking to one of the members in person, emailing Pam Hall or signing the calendar book available at coffee hour. We ask that you make contact by the Thursday prior to the Sunday you are requesting, so your occasion can be mentioned in the order of service. Please remember to put your name on any vases or containers you may want returned, and to let a committee member know if you plan to take your flowers home, or donate them to the church.

### **In the News**

**Work Party Saturday, September 6, 8:30-noon.** However much time you can spend helping the Buildings and Grounds Committee spruce up the inside and the outside of our beloved FRS would be greatly appreciated. Jobs include weeding, trimming, cleaning, etc. Bring tools, a strong back and a cheerful attitude.

**Climate Change Movie Screening:** The Environmental Action Committee (EAC) will show the premiere of the movie "Disruption" after coffee hour, at 11:30 AM, on **Sunday Sept. 7**, in the Widrick room. This hour-long film makes a compelling case for bold action on the climate crisis from a social, moral, and ecological viewpoint. It also discusses the importance of the upcoming People's Climate March in New York City on Sept. 21, the largest climate rally in history, during the UN world climate summit.

**People's Climate March** FRS Environmental Action Committee is participating in the People's Climate March on Sunday, Sept. 21, in New York City. This peaceful march from Central Park promises to be the largest climate rally in history, a fun and memorable family-friendly event. Occurring during a meeting of President Obama and world leaders at the United Nations talks on climate change, marchers will join UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon in urging governments to support an ambitious global agreement to dramatically reduce global warming pollution. As climate scientists world-wide have now reached a consensus about the urgency of this issue, virtually every national environmental organization is sponsoring this rally. For more information, see <http://peoplesclimate.org/>.

### **Third Friday Potlucks and Programs begin September 19.**

A series of six Third Friday Potlucks for all ages, followed by a choice of programs and activities, are planned for the church year -- in the months of September, October, November and February, March and April. You are welcome to come only for the potluck,

or a program, or both. The potluck will begin early, at 5:30, to allow time for the evening programs. So far we have Cakes and UU Film (see details below). Other programs are in planning stages.

**"Cakes for the Queen of Heaven"** is a woman-honoring adult religious education curriculum widely used in Unitarian Universalist congregations. It is both informational and designed for personal growth and reflection. There are two parts. "On the Threshold," is a 6-week series that reclaims the stories of powerful women in ancient Judaism and early Christianity, as well as Goddess cultures. We will begin with "On the Threshold" to parallel the Timeless Themes curriculum in Religious Education. "Cakes" will be led by Rev. Diane Miller. If you are interested in signing up, please send an email to Rev. Miller to be on the list for more information.

*Long Strange Trip* is a six-part video series by Ron Cordes of Bedford, MA, that explores the history of Unitarian and Universalist thought and practice from the early, liberal strands in faith at the beginning of the Christian era to what we know today as Unitarian Universalism. Each part of *Long Strange Trip* is approximately one hour in length. We are seeking a volunteer to lead the screenings and discussion of the DVDs following the Third Friday potlucks.

**Harvest Fair (10am-2pm) on September 27 (early this year).** Featuring a new menu item: Sloppy Joes from locally produced ground beef. This will augment the traditional chili and chili dogs. As always, there will be a bake table, a silent auction and many local artisans and vendors. This year there will also be a **Harvest Potluck Supper at 6pm.** Stay tuned for more details.

#### **Behind the Scenes**

The Pancake Breakfast was a delicious and delightful gathering after the summer, and a chance to celebrate the new flooring and paint in Union Hall. Huzzahs to **Lisa Sama** and **Tom Rourk** for co-chairing the Pancake Breakfast, with help from a great team: **Pauline Arms, Eric Darling, Lillian and Angelo DeBenedictis, Michael Dundorf, Betsy Fell, Asia Forcucci, John Forcucci, Samantha Garrett, Mike Hanauer, Eva Herndon, Mary and Tim Hult, Anne and Richard Ketchen, Hope Luder, Bob Luoma, Diane Miller, Ann Quenin, Fontaine Richardson, Barbara Ritz, Muggsie & Greg Rocco, Joan Sarcia, Dan Scholten, Nancy Shohet-West, Bob Wallhagen, Marina White.**

Union Hall looked bright and welcoming after all the work done

over the summer. A slide show of the project was displayed. The team who worked on the flooring and painting renovations were **Ann James, Susan Emmons, Bryan and Molly Sorrows, Dave Ives & Beth Sullivan.**

### **Community Events**

**Habitat for Humanity** invites you to join them Thursday, September 11 for a Commemoration of 9/11, Home Blessing, Celebration of Community and a Habitat Build. 10:00 am Gathering, 10:30 -1130 estimated Program time. 95 Friendship Street, Billerica, MA

### **SafeTALK, Suicide Alertness Training for Everyone**

Thursday, October 2nd 10 am -- 1 pm at Gleason Public Library, Carlisle. Open to all local and neighboring community members. Pre-registration is required. Call Jennifer Clarke, Concord Carlisle Youth Services Coordinator at 978-318-3043.

### **SALT -- UU College of Social Justice and UU Mass Action -- registration starting in September**

The mission of SALT --Spiritual Activist Leadership Training -- program in Massachusetts is to empower young adults to cultivate peace and justice through faith-based relationship building, action, and reflection, grounded in Unitarian Universalist values. This six-month program, beginning in early 2015, is designed for young adults who are in their 20s and early 30s. Participants will develop social change projects within their own communities while receiving ongoing training and mentorship, through a mix of weekend intensive trainings, regular Internet and phone contact, and readings and spiritual practices. For more about the program, go to:

<http://www.uumassaction.org/uuma/about-us/salt/>

The Unitarian Universalist Association will have a Dedication of their new Headquarters building at 24 Farnsworth Street, Boston, in the Innovation District on the weekend of October 4 & 5. Tickets can be purchased from the UUA. The event will be live streamed at 6 pm on October 4th.