

NEIGHBOURS & FELLOW CREATURES

The First Religious Society in Carlisle

Unitarian Universalist

A Welcoming Congregation

Volume XXXVI No. 7

March 2012



Message from the Minister

I had the opportunity to hear Azar Nafisi speak in Boston. She is the Iranian author of Reading Lolita in Tehran. Her nation, with its three thousand years of history, was a diverse culture rich with literature and poetry and ideas when she grew up in Tehran. Today it is a theocracy insistent on control and repression. The imposition of a monolithic understanding of Islam is a far cry from the former religious diversity of a land where the Baha'i faith emerged, where the agnostic poet Omar Khayyam was celebrated, where stories wove a complex tapestry of ideas and human experience.

Nafisi said that the point of reading literature is not to confirm our own experience and perspective, but to encounter the Other, human experience different from our own – and the stranger within ourselves.

Our religious tradition has long sought to be open to religious ideas without creedal limits. We embrace diversity of faith. As congregations, we seek to be communities of people who choose to walk together on a path of the human spirit.

There is inherent tension in holding values of religious freedom and covenanted community. We blaze the path as we go. This month we will focus as a church community on our vision of the future, and shape a Vision and Mission statement. Your perspective matters. Participate in a workshop on March 3rd (either morning or afternoon) and be part of our ongoing conversation about our faith.

Hearing Azar Nafisi reminded me of the fragility of religious diversity, as well as its great blessing and beauty.
----- Diane Miller

Upcoming Worship Services

March 4 “Wheels Within Wheels” Michael Griffeth, son of Nina Benkley, spent much of last year on a bicycle journey from coast to coast across our country. Along the way he stopped to work with various communities and to meet and experience new people, all the time gaining a new perspective on our world. This was a journey of growth for Michael, and he will share these experiences with us. Rev. Diane Miller will officiate. Children K-5 will begin downstairs for First Sunday program.

March 11 “Tables in the Temple” Rev. Diane Miller
The annual Pledge Drive kicks off with a sermon that looks afresh at the story of Jesus overturning the tables of the moneychangers, and asks what we might want to change about money and church. John Redding will speak about joyful generosity.

March 18 “Rules for Relationships” Rev. Diane Miller
What makes relationships work at church, and everywhere else? The minister will look at some guidelines that reflect values we hold dear. Paul Morrison will speak about joyful generosity.

March 25 “Coral Carbon Blues” Be on hand for an intergenerational pageant organized by **Alison Saylor**, Director of Religious Education. Muggsie Rocco will speak about joyful generosity.

Message from the Director of Religious Education

March is our month to prepare for the brand new Pageant “Coral Carbon Blues”. We borrowed most of the costumes, a song, and the title from David Burrows of Colorado. We used the February vacation time to make some scenery, props and costumes. We cut lots of little fish from a roll of bright silver adhesive paper found in the treasury of craft items in the RE closet.

We recycled poster board into signs saying “Manta Caye” and “Jamaica”, for two scenes in the Pageant. A large brimmed summer hat was transformed into a jellyfish. We made seaweed streamers for a tropical reef scene that has few marine creatures, but lots of seaweed. The *process* of getting ready for the Pageant is as important as the Pageant itself. By the time the first song begins with our parade of sea creatures entering the Sanctuary, the children will have read books about coral reefs, learned where they thrive, and what causes them harm. Choosing the right person for each role helps me to learn about each child’s style and personality. Some want as many lines as possible, others are happier just helping with the props and scenery. A request for a solo is easily granted, as is a request to not have to wear a costume or do anything “funny”.

The script is still a little too long, and so with a heavy heart I must cut out more lines and streamline some songs. I do hope you will be around on March 25 to both watch and participate in this fun environmental Pageant.

Our project of observing compost and growing seeds began on February 19 and continues to be on display on a window sill in Union Hall. For the compost experiment we can all watch what happens to the banana skin and apple in the left chamber, the wax paper and orange peel in the middle, and the plastic cup in the far right chamber. Will the temperature rise in some chambers? Will there be enough moisture and sun to grow the peas and beans in the display unit, or will the wicking material in the cut-off milk jug grow better? Will we be brave enough to use Neptune’s Harvest plant food, or is it too stinky? Hmmm. Stay tuned.

Director of Religious Education: Alison Saylor can be reached by phone at 978-369-5180 or by e-mail at DRE@uucarlisle.org

Message from the Student Minister

“Uncountable infinities”

One of my favorite things about becoming a minister is getting to contemplate truth and different people’s approaches to it. This week, I was sitting with a study partner talking about how we each felt about preaching the truth that needed to be heard in a given setting. We each acknowledged that in our experience, we have only ever heard what we were ready to hear. But if our messages were contextual, we wondered, how could we know they were still the truth?

One metaphor that helped me think about multiple truths was the concept in abstract mathematics of countable versus uncountable infinities. The set of all positive integers, $\{1,2,3,\dots\}$, is countably infinite. The set of all real numbers, \mathbb{R} , (including fractions, decimals, algebraic numbers and *TRANSCENDENTAL* numbers [yes, that’s a real thing, I just looked it up!]) is uncountably infinite. That means that even though both sets have an infinite number of elements, you can prove that there are more elements in the uncountably infinite set.

When I told my dad about this, he said “countable infinity, uncountable infinity...aren’t they all part of the great cosmic infinity?” This is how I think about human experience; we each carry the complete and infinite experience of our lives around with us, while also participating in the greater infinities of humanity and the universe. We are each literally blessed with more gifts than we could ever possibly share, and yet together we somehow possess even more than that.

I look forward to experiencing your gifts this month as spring approaches with its infinite renewal.

----- Bucky Rogers

FRS Programs and Announcements

Behind the scenes: A belated but sincere **thank you** to **Natalie and Dave Ives** for singlehandedly (doublehandedly?) folding, sealing and sticking labels on 287 February newsletters; **thanks** to **Tom Rourk** for helping arrange **Dick O’Keefe’s** presence at church. It was wonderful to see him and to welcome him back; to **Annie Hill** for donating cloth covered wardrobes for storing Pageant costumes, to **Anne Ketchen** for donating yarn to the RE Program, to **Susan Emmons** for getting the color printer up and running; and for working with Stanley elevator; to **Stew Roberts** for applying for a Community Preservation Grant for steeple restoration at FRS, sponsored by the Historical Commission; to **Members of the Music and Worship Committee** for serving as Vergers, the term they are using for their varied responsibilities for the Sunday Service; to **Diane Miller** for picking up the fabulous Pageant costumes from Swampscott for the March 25 Pageant, to **Kathy Booth** for offering to costume Charles Darwin for the Pageant, to **Campbell MacDonald** for drawing a picture of our church in the future, and to **Bucky Rogers** for getting it scanned so it may grace the cover of a future Order of Service; to **Fontaine Richardson** for making the Visioning posters that now hang in Union Hall; to **John Lyons, Paul Morrison, Roger Goulet** and **Fontaine Richardson** for doing a thorough and realistic Ministerial Fellowship Committee mock interview for student minister Bucky Rogers, and to committee **chair Ellen Huber** for chipping in from afar; to **Janice Saul** and **Stew Roberts** for their vocal and guitar music at the service on 2/12; to **Mike Saylor, Alison Saylor, Sue Kirk,** and **Bob Wallhagen** for helping out in small ways that made a big difference before and after coffee hour; to **Mary Hult** for researching the best choice for credit card payment at the church auction; to **Lisa Sama** for planning and involving people in the church auction; to **Mike and Alison Saylor** for researching and buying an LED TV and a mobile stand for displaying information & educational use at FRS; to the **Environmental Action Committee** for sponsoring the winter Farmers Market in Union Hall, and to **all the farmers and crafters and cooks** who bring the fruits of their labors to the Market; to **Leslie Thomas** for organizing the market and leaving a bag of organic apples for coffee hour; to **Gallagher Hannah** and **Dave Erickson** of Black Brook Farm for a donation of \$30 to FRS in appreciation for using the kitchen; to **John Redding** for coordinating the ongoing weekly Carlisle Resilience group, and to **Steve Kirk** for speaking to the group on February 21st; and to **Amy, Maddie, Acadia, and Cameron Smack, Christine and Elizabeth Lear, and Aaron Schaefer** for making props and signs for the upcoming Pageant.

Do you ever wonder what happens to our donations for the Open Pantry in Lowell? **Max Barber, Ellen Huber, Sue Kirk,** and **Barbara Ritz** are the regulars who deliver our offerings to Lowell and assist with serving and distribution. Many thanks to these four, and their occasional substitutes.

FRS FAMILY Pot Luck, Saturday, March 10th, 4:30-7:30pm. This is a pot luck dinner geared for families with kids. We’ll gather in Union Hall for food and drinks, and there will be sitters and activities downstairs in the Red Balloon space for kids of various ages. The hope is to deliver a fun time for the kids and to orchestrate it so that the parents may even be able to have some conversation and connect with other parents! Mark your calendars and invite your friends and neighbors – all are welcome! Contact Kathy MacDonald with any questions or if you would like to help organize – kathmv@yahoo.com or 617-803-7244.

St Paul Feeding Ministry - Community Supper, St Paul’s Church, Eliot Street Lowell, March 30, 2012. On Friday March 30, FRS members will prepare and serve dinner for 100 of Lowell’s needy. As always we would really appreciate donations of lasagna, salad, desserts, bread and rolls, and milk. If you can help with any of these items please contact Frank Rigg at frank.rigg@comcast.net or at 978 369 0277 and look for the sign-up sheets on the tables during Sunday coffee hour.

Path to Membership - Sunday, March 25th. Those interested in learning about church membership are invited to join us for a special coffee hour after the service on March 25th following the service in the upstairs conference room. Childcare will be available. This will be an opportunity to learn about the programs offered here at FRS, learn about Unitarian Universalism, meet church leaders, and get answers to your questions about what it means to become a member of this congregation. RSVPs are appreciated but not mandatory. Please contact Ann at the church office if you plan to come. frs@uucarlisle.org or 978-369-5180.

WomenSpirit Potluck Supper - Friday, March 30th. The next WomenSpirit Potluck Supper will be Friday, March 30th in Union Hall at 7:00pm. Bring a dish to share (appetizer, salad, entree or dessert). New women and friends are welcome to join us for a pleasant evening filled with lively discussion and good food. We’ll identify some dates to begin

discussing the UU Women and Religion program, Cakes for the Queen of Heaven.

<http://www.cakesforthequeenofheaven.org/> Please RSVP to Sue Kirk sukirk@aol.com so we'll know how many tables to set up.

The **Junior Youth Group** and **Senior Youth Group** together will see the musical "Godspell" on Saturday night, March 31, performed by the Lexington Players (www.lexingtonplayers.org) at Hancock Church in Lexington. This popular Broadway musical tells the story of Jesus and his disciples and the parables he preached. This is a performance by mostly young adults: high school, college, and a little beyond. We'll meet at FRS at 7:15 pm to carpool, or you may meet us directly at the Hancock Church (1912 Mass Ave.) by 7:45 in time to get seats together (no reserved seating) for the 8:00 pm show. Tickets are \$16 for youth and \$18 for adults, but we will be able to get a 10% discount if our total group is at least 10 people. Additional adults are most welcome. Heather Hedden is coordinating this event. Please let Heather know by March 24 and pay her by the time of the show, heather@hedden.net, 978-371-0822.

Easter and Passover at FRS: We have several holiday observances planned. The minister's class, "Jesus in Jerusalem" continues on March 1, 15 and 29. Palm Sunday on April 1. Maundy Thursday UU Communion on April 5 at 7:30 pm in the Sanctuary. Meditation in the Sanctuary on Good Friday. Passover Seder on Saturday evening, April 7. Easter Sunrise Service at 5 AM at River Road Farm, and Easter Service at 10 AM. Watch for more information in the Weekly Announcements and sign up in the office for the Seder.

The Parish Committee held their monthly meeting on Tuesday evening, February 21. The PC reviewed the proposed revised 2012-2013 budget from the Finance Committee. We agreed that FRS would have to do without a student minister for the next year, and that we are committed to salary raises for staff if at all possible. We are taking steps to establish a Cell Tower Task Force to identify and possibly sign on with another company to rent the cell tower space. After a lengthy discussion it was decided that FRS will not rent its facilities to political parties, but will host events or representatives of social issues at the discretion of the church. The Parish Committee approved the proposed wedding rental fees developed by staff. In March, Bucky Rogers will have his interview with the UUA's Ministerial Fellowship Committee, the denominational credentialing body. Upon approval, FRS will hold a congregational vote to ordain him in late May. We are still encouraging folks to sign up and participate in the Visioning Weekend, contact Christine Lear if you have any questions or would like to sign up! cmlteatime@comcast.net

Our church's largest and most important fundraiser is May 5, the date for the FRS auction. Our theme this year is Paris and I am seeking volunteers to help turn Union Hall into a Parisian Cafe. Do you have a flare for the dramatic or the theatrical? Put your creative side to work for a great cause. Please, please email me at LMSama@comcast.net or call me at 978-692-6592 if you would be willing to facilitate the decorating. I really need you! The decorators would help with Union Hall and dining decorations, as well as be responsible for setting up the silent auction item tables with an eye for making the silent auction a fun and inviting experience.

(Signed) Lisa Sama

Coffee Hour Goodies: Here's the line-up for March:

March 4 - Congregants whose last names begin with J – M; March 11-Finance Committee; March 18 - Congregants whose last names begin with N – R; March 25 – RE Committee

Please bring finger foods that are easy to eat while simultaneously holding a cup of coffee or tea in one hand. (Signed) Anne & Richard Ketchen, Co-chairs, Coffee Committee

Environmental Action Committee News: The Environmental Action Committee (EAC) is once again sponsoring the Carlisle Winter Farmer's Market for monthly Saturday mornings in Union Hall. The goal is to support local, sustainable food and crafts year round. The Winter Market will continue this year – upcoming dates are **March 10** and April 21. The EAC will be selling coffee, tea and other fair trade items at the market.

Reduce your carbon footprint for Lent. The FRS Environmental Action Committee urges everyone to sign up for the Mass. Interfaith Power and Light (MIP&L) 2012 Ecumenical Lenten Carbon Fast at <http://mipandl.org/MIPLnews.html>. You will then receive, during Lent, daily emails about ways to reduce your carbon footprint. The U.S. public still is confused about the science surrounding climate change. Only about 40% of US citizens believe that most scientists are in agreement that humans are causing climate change, while the same number believe there is a wide gulf among scientists. In reality, last year the National Academy of Sciences stated that 97 percent of climate scientists agree that humans are the primary drivers of climate change.

Edible church landscape: Windowsill compost experiment and seed growing. Look in the windowsills of Union Hall to see the botany experiments and seed growing endeavors of the RE program. The plan is to vegetables (the three sisters; corn, beans and pumpkins) in the church landscape. We will also be growing annual flowers, kale, winter squash, peas, and if there is an interest, also okra, potatoes and yams. The flowers are for the Infinity Garden, the peas will be an early crop to be ready for Old Home Day, and the rest will be harvested in the fall. Look for more detailed plans to emerge in the next few weeks. Contact Alison Saylor for more information dre@uucarlisle.org

Community Events

The FRS Social Action Committee is once again a co-sponsor of the annual interfaith homelessness forum. The event will be held **Sunday, March 11, from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. at Trinity Episcopal Church at 81 Elm Street in Concord.** The forum title is "How Homelessness Hurts Children's Health and How You Can Help." Family homelessness remains a severe problem in Massachusetts. Over 42,000 families sought state housing assistance in the year ending July 2011, 30% more than in 2010. Expectant women experiencing homelessness are 30% more likely to deliver pre-term and 50% more likely to have low-weight babies. Children living without permanent housing are 70% more likely to have developmental delays and 50% more likely to be in poor health than children who enjoy stable housing. **Learn what we can do to protect children's health by sustaining the state's successful Homelessness Prevention Program NOW AT RISK due to limits in state budget funding.**

Speakers will be Dr. Megan Sandel, Associate Professor of Pediatrics and Public Health at Boston Medical Center and a nationally recognized expert on housing and child health; Robert Pulster, Associate Director, Department of Housing Stabilization, Mass. Department of Housing and Community Development; a formerly homeless mother; and a panel of area state legislators. The forum, organized by the Advocacy Network to End Family Homelessness, is free and open to all. A flyer with more information is posted on the social action bulletin board.

"Economic Assistance Resources for Carlisle Residents" is a compilation listed on the home page of the Town website. You can also locate the page at www.carlislema.gov/Pages/CarlisleMa_housing/index

Rev. Diane Miller is a fan of both Jimmy Tingle and the UU Service Committee, so she will celebrate St. Patrick's Day at the First Parish in Bedford. She invites anyone interested to get a ticket and carpool with her. **"Jimmy Tingle's American Dream - Live and On Stage"** will come to The First Parish in Bedford on St. Patrick's Day, Saturday, March 17 at 7:00 p.m. Tickets are \$25 and available from uubedford.org or jimmytingle.com. Proceeds benefit the human rights work of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee. For more information: <http://archive.constantcontact.com/fs060/1102534574609/archive/1109298680300.html>

Project Bread's 44th Walk for Hunger will take place on Sunday, May 6. Online registration is now open. For details, go to www.projectbread.org/walk

The Timothy Wheeler House in Concord Center, a boarding home for well elders, **has two vacancies.** Contact info@timothywheelerhouse.com or 978-369-3771

Pastoral Concerns

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 in need of this support, or know of someone who needs this support, please contact Sally Hayden at 978-369-7591.



We Are a Welcoming Congregation

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.



Communications



Neighbours & Fellow Creatures is a monthly publication. To submit items for publication send to:

Ann Quenin, Administrator, P.O. Box 817, Carlisle, MA 01741, 978-369-5180, frs@uucarlisle.org

- If you would like to be added to or removed from this mailing please email us at frs@uucarlisle.org.
- The next newsletter deadline is January 23, 2012.
- To receive the weekly newsletter send the church office a note at frs@uucarlisle.org

Parish Committee

Parish Committee Co-chair: Michael Dundorf 978-390-9505, email: mdundorf@comcast.net
 Parish Committee Co-chair: John Lyons 978-369-1216, email: johnalyons@comcast.net
 Parish Committee: Paul Morrison, Muggsie Rocco, John Lyons, Christine Lear, Eric Darling, Michael Dundorf, Mary Hult

Church Treasurers

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 John James 978-369-1296, email: jjames3@mac.com

Standing Committees

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 Max Barber 978-369-7943, email: damabar@comcast.net

For a complete calendar of meetings and activities here at The First Religious Society please go to the church calendar on our website: <http://www.uucarlisle.org/calendar.html>

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.

Hospitality Committees

Coffee Committee Co-chairs: Anne and Richard Ketchen
 Greeter Committee: Eva Herndon, Nancy West, Karen Dunkers, Tom Dunkers
 Flower Committee: Donna Carter, Alison Saylor, George Bishop

The First Religious Society –March 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 11:30am Robbins-Brook luncheon/UH 1:2:20pm “Jesus in Jerusalem” upstairs 3:00pm COA tap class UH 7-8:30pm “Jesus in Jerusalem” upstairs	2 9:30am COA Line Dance UH Afternoon: Visioning Facilitators’ Mtg	3 8:30am-12:30pm Visioning Workshop 1pm-5pm Visioning Workshop
4 9:00 Nursery 10:00am Worship Service 3-6:15pm Morris Dancing classes/UH	5 Staff 10:45-noon 7pm: EAC downstairs	6 9:00am Carlisle Resilience//FRS upstairs 7pm M&W upstairs	7 7pm dance rehearsal/UH 7:30pm Choir practice	8 3:00pm COA tap class UH 7pm Membership Comm., downstairs	9 9:30am COA Line Dance UH 6:30pm: potluck and Contra dance/UH	10 7am Mens group/UH 9:00am-1:00pm Farmers Market/UH 4:30-8:00pm Family potluck, UH
11 9:00 Nursery 10:00am Worship Service (Pledge kickoff) 3-6:15pm Morris Dancing classes/UH	12 Staff 10:45-noon	13 9:00am Carlisle Resilience//FRS upstairs 7:00pm Buildings and Grounds Comm., downstairs	14 7pm dance rehearsal/UH 7:30pm Choir practice	15 11:30am COA luncheon/Union Hall 1:2:30pm “Jesus in Jerusalem” upstairs 3pm COA tap class UH 7:30pm KISS (offsite) 7-8:30pm “Jesus in Jerusalem” upstairs	16 9:30am COA Line Dance UH	17
18 9:00 Nursery 10:00am Worship service 3-6:15pm Morris Dancing classes/UH	19 Staff 10:45-noon	20 9:00am Carlisle Resilience//FRS upstairs	21 7pm dance rehearsal/UH 7:30pm Choir practice	22 3-4pm COA tap dance/UH 7:30pm SAC downstairs	23 9:30am COA Line Dance UH 7-9pm Beekeepers/UH	24 1:30-2:30pm kids’ yoga class, UH (Carlisle Parents Connection)
25 9:00 Nursery 10:00am Coral Carbon Blues 11:30am Path to membership 3--6:15pm Morris Dancing classes/UH	26 Staff 10:45-noon	27 9:00am Carlisle Resilience//FRS upstairs	28 7pm dance rehearsal/UH 7:30pm Choir practice	29 1:2:30pm “Jesus in Jerusalem” upstairs 3pm COA tap class UH 7-8:30pm “Jesus in Jerusalem” upstairs	30 9:30am COA Line Dance UH 5pm Eliot Church dinner 7pm Womenspirit potluck, UH	31 3:30-5:30pm Handbell rehearsal, Sanctuary

The First Religious Society
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NEIGHBOURS & FELLOW CREATURES

The First Religious Society in Carlisle, Unitarian Universalist
A Welcoming Congregation

WE ARE LOCATED AT 27 SCHOOL STREET 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."

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE MARCH 23, 2012
SEND ANNOUNCEMENTS TO ANN QUENIN IN THE CHURCH OFFICE.