

NEIGHBOURS & FELLOW CREATURES
The First Religious Society in Carlisle
Unitarian Universalist
A Welcoming Congregation
Volume XXXVII No. 07
March 2013

“WE ARE A WELCOMING, INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY, STRIVING TO MAKE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE, NOW AND FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS. WE ARE DEDICATED TO SERVICE, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL ACTION. WE CARE FOR EACH OTHER AND FOSTER PERSONAL AND SPIRITUAL GROWTH.”

**“Dianiana” –
Reflections from Rev. Diane Miller**

I am writing my column from Salina, Kansas, where I am taking a grandmacation. I am thrilled to meet Grayson Matthew Durall, born February 15th to Cori Jo and Graham Durall, and to play with big sister Alivia. I’ll be back March 5th.

A new life is a miracle close at hand. And while I catch the wonder of this truth in fleeting glimpses, the non-stop pace of newborn care keeps the focus on the moment. It occurs to me that parenting is not unlike the life in some religious communities, designed to nurture the soul. Consider the spiritual disciplines involved: a focus on self-forgetting love and care for others, serving to keep the ego in check; interrupted sleep, providing awareness of the hours of day and night and challenging body and mind; shared labor of cooking, washing for the good of all, teaching the value of serving the needs of others; sacrificial suffering of the maternal body to bring new life into being and nurture it into the future. One need not sit Zazen or join a monastic order to be struck by the sacred and blessed by the holy.

Our Sunday celebration honoring Marguerite Shaw’s twenty five years of music with this congregation was splendid! Extraordinary music and glad tributes filled the sanctuary, along with everyone who ventured out on unplowed roads in the morning snow. The weeks leading up to the service brought the added pleasure of thinking back over the remarkable range of things that have happened here thanks to her leadership, and talent in drawing people into the musical life of this congregation. Our Minister of Music is looking ahead to more creative ventures with us all. Congratulations, Marguerite!

Upcoming Worship Services

Sundays at 10 o’clock
The Nursery opens at 9:00 am
Choir Rehearsal at 9:15 am
SUNDAYS and SPECIAL SERVICES in MARCH

March 3 Laura Scholten, will preach about Emerson's essay "Self-Reliance" and reflect on his ideas about humans, nature, and religion. Margaret Darling will share her Spiritual Journey. On this First Sunday the children begin in Union Hall with a program about Unitarian Universalist tradition.

March 10 “The Hot Potato Game,” Rev. Diane Miller. A sermon to launch our pledge drive. A member of the congregation will speak about Warmth and Generosity. In our Message for All Ages speaking time we will welcome Unitarian Clara Barton as our guest. Informal lunch will follow in Union Hall with an opportunity to talk with members of the Finance Committee.

March 17 A Multigenerational UU Pageant, led by the Senior Youth of the congregation. (See description on page 2).

March 24 “A Gated City,” Rev. Diane Miller. Palm Sunday and Membership Recognition. We will have palm branches to celebrate the hope of the story of Jesus entering Jerusalem. There is an opportunity to join the church by signing the membership book during this service. Henry David Thoreau will pay us a visit early in the service.

March 26th 6:00pm. Passover Seder in Union Hall. The Seder is both a religious service, telling the biblical story of escape from bondage, and a shared meal. Sign-up sheets will be out at Coffee Hour during March services.

March 28 Maundy Thursday 7:30pm. A service commemorating the final meal Jesus shared with his disciples, with communion in the Sanctuary.

March 31, Easter Sunrise Service 6:30 AM in the pasture at Elliott Farm, at the intersection of River Road and Skelton. A potluck brunch will be hosted by Liz and Maris Platais.

March 31, Easter Service at 10 AM “Enduring Presence,” Rev. Diane Miller. Festive music. Children will have a Tenebrae ritual and a special Easter Egg Hunt.

Message from the Director of Religious Education

Look for the big God mural on display in Union Hall. Not Cod mural, but God mural, but you knew that was a G didn't you? There are five posters all cut into puzzle shapes and then reassembled into the long, rather floppy banner that is attached to the wooden rolling bulletin board. On each puzzle piece is a picture or words from children and adults created before, during, and after the February 3rd Hide and Seek with God service. All the classes have been discussing how varied are the ideas about God are in our Unitarian Universalist faith, and that our ideas about God change as we grow. This God project is a major topic for our year journey of learning about Unitarian Universalism.

Plans are being made to find creative ways to teach UU History. We hope to have some field trips to the Carlisle Historical Society Heald house and to historical sites in Concord. Ralph Waldo Emerson, Thoreau, and Clara Barton will be "visiting" the RE classes later this year. The UU Pageants are another way to "bring history alive" to our church children and youth. With narration, song and drama the UU Pageant I on Sunday March 17 will present how the Unitarians merged with the Universalists, where both U's boast about their history and talk of their beliefs. The April 28 UU Pageant II is about the Universalist John Murray, and is set in the 17th century. This second UU Pageant will have more active involvement of the children.

More immediately we are helping the children understand homelessness with a "hands-on" project of making play dough, which we will give to the children living at the House of Hope in Lowell. We made our first batch during February vacation, and plan to make more dough, add color, and package it into gift packages in the coming weeks. Calum has a good way of making beads out of dough, so we look forward to having him teach us and the House of Hope children to do this fun home-made dough project together.
Namaste...Alison

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

FRS Snow/Inclement Weather Policy

When snow storms, ice, power outage, or other weather events coincide with Sunday mornings, the FRS policy is to encourage parishioners to decide for themselves if conditions are safe for coming to church. We plan to go ahead with services regardless of weather, adapting the service and religious education as needed. Because we rely on volunteers to clear snow and ice from entrances, come prepared. In case of weekday closing and cancellations, Ann, the Office Administrator, will post changes or cancellations on the church website (uucarlisle.org).

Minutes of the Special Congregational Meeting, First Religious Society

February 10, 2013

A special meeting was convened in the Sanctuary, at the close of the February 10, 2013 service, for the purpose of voting to approve the participation of FRS, in the ordination of Linda Simmons to the Unitarian Universalist ministry. The meeting was chaired by John Lyons, Parish Committee chair. Our participation (ordaining jointly with First Church Boston) in the ordination of Linda Simmons was approved by unanimous voice vote. The ordination will be held at the First Church in Boston on Saturday, May 4, 2013.

Respectfully submitted,
Don Emmons, secretary/clerk

Message from soon-to-be-ordained UU Minister Linda Simmons

Linda Simmons will be teaching a Lenten program focusing on Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam, Judaism and Christianity. This class will look at the themes of rebirth, cleansing as an act of faith and purification as commitment to the holy in each of these five religions.

There will be 5 classes held on Thursdays from 1-3pm beginning on March 28th and ending April 25th.

If you have questions or would like to sign up, please email Linda at lsimmons@mail.harvard.edu. You can also register on the sign-up sheet during coffee hour.

Linda Simmons was our Student Minister in 2009-2010 as a part time Field Education Student in her first year at Harvard Divinity School. She then completed two years of half-time Internship at the First Church in Boston, and is working part time at the First Religious Society this academic year with Junior Youth Group and the Coming of Age Program. Linda has passed the Ministerial Fellowship Credentialing process of the Unitarian Universalist Association and will complete her Master of Divinity degree in May.

FRS Programs and Announcements

A memorial Service for Janet (Given) Masaoy, former Carlislean and a member of FRS, will be held on Saturday, March 2 at 1pm in the Sanctuary. A reception will follow in Union Hall. The Obituary was in the February 8th edition of the Carlisle Mosquito. Her niece, Rev. Kim Crawford Harvie, minister of Boston's Arlington Street Church, will conduct the service.

Transgender Film Series continuing at FRS: Our successful series last Fall provided all who attended an opportunity for reflection and questions. We began the new series on January 27, and continue on **March 10 and April 28 from 4-6pm.** The goal is to apply our quest for knowledge toward deeper understanding of an evolving area of human identity. The films selected have been previewed and chosen for their quality. We are not announcing the titles due to licensing requirements, so call Rev. Diane Miller if you would like specifics. 617-851-8222.

Would you like to visit Cambodia with TSF? Are you interested in helping The Sharing Foundation while visiting a corner of the world so foreign from our own? We are investigating the possibility of a group trip to Cambodia in the latter part of January, 2014.

Join Nancy Hendrie, Ellen Huber and Sally Stokes on Sunday evening, March 17th, at 7:30 p.m. in Union Hall for a discussion of possible activities, a short slide show and a question-and-answer session. We would appreciate knowing whether you will join us March 17th so that we know how many to set up for (email sstokes@sharingfoundation.org), but if you get a hankering at the last minute, please do join us!

If you might be interested in the trip but are unable to attend the discussion on March 17th, please let Sally know.

Should we get a late season snowstorm on March 17th, call Sally at (978) 369-1240 to learn whether we will meet or to find out about rescheduling.

WomenSpirit potluck Supper March 15 in Union Hall at 6pm. Bring a dish to share (appetizer, salad, entree or dessert). Nothing fancy expected or required. Our theme this year is Transitions. What kinds of transitions are we facing? How can we best support each other? Are there activities we can be doing individually and as a group to help us weather transitions in a positive way. Our discussion will focus on tools and resources that help you through transitions and change in your life.

Carlisle Resilience: Carlisle Resilience is a weekly gathering of people who are looking for employment, changing careers, and starting new ventures. The group constitutes a talent pool of diverse skills, so if you are looking for talent and skills, or have an inside track on job openings, this is where you might find the right person for the job. If you have expertise you can offer to a group of job seekers, we appreciate having guest presenters. Tuesday mornings at 10 AM the group gathers at FRS. It is a changing group of people from FRS and the larger community. There is a brief check-in from everyone present, and then we delve into an aspect of search in greater depth. Looking for work is complicated. Getting no responses or rejections can be deeply discouraging. Being out of work can begin a cascade of problems. We are here to offer support and encouragement and real connections. Facilitators are Rev. Diane Miller, John Redding and Michael Dundorf. There is hot coffee, and no charge for the meetings. Contact John (JohnEhRedding@gmail.com) or Diane (minister@uucarlisle.org) to find out more, or just drop in.

Reminder: If you plan a meeting or an event at FRS, please reserve the space with Ann via email or telephone well in advance. She will then put it on the office calendar and on the website and will cite it in the weekly newsletter and the monthly newsletter. Please put “room reservation” on the subject line if you are sending the request by email.

Denominational News

Civil Rights Pilgrimage: The Unitarian Universalist Living Legacy Pilgrimage to sites of the Civil Rights struggle happens next September 21—28, 2013. Registration has opened. Rev. Diane Miller went on an earlier version of this trip and recommends the journey and the excellent leaders who guide the trip. For details see <http://www.uulivinglegacy.org/>

With Gratitude

“Thank you so much for your matching donation of \$130.25 from the Harvest Fair toward school uniforms for disadvantaged Cambodian children. Thanks to you, eighteen young Cambodians will be able to attend school now that they have the required uniforms to wear.” *Sally Stokes, President of the Sharing Foundation.*

Community Events

9th Annual Interfaith Homelessness Forum – Sunday, March 3, from 3 – 5 p.m. at First Parish in Concord. Members of our Social Action Committee have attended in the past but the event is open to all. The forum title is “The Adverse Effects of Housing Insecurity on Children’s Health, Mental Health and Overall Development.” Keynote speaker: Christina Murphy, Campaign to End Family Homelessness at The National Center on Family Homelessness.

Additional speakers: LizBeth Heyer, Associate Director, Division of Public Housing and Rental Assistance, Mass. Department of Housing and Community Development; Kelly Turley, Mass. Coalition on the Homeless; and a formerly homeless mother reflecting on the effects of homelessness on her children. For more information look at the flyer on the Social Action bulletin board in Union Hall.

Two seats left at the FRS table: March 8th. The Annual Habitat Gala fundraising dinner and auction will be held at the Umass Lowell Inn & Conference Center, 50 Warren St., Lowell. This year's Gala will raise funds for the new build in Lowell. Tickets are \$100 and \$85 each for a table for 10. Last year FRS had a table for ten and John Redding is organizing one for this year. Contact him to sign up for a seat at johnhredding@gmail.com or call 978-505-8003.

Tour of the Habitat for Humanity ReStore in Billerica, Sat., March 9. Suzanne Marlowe, ReStore Manager, will give interested FRSers a tour of the facility at 9:30 a.m. on the 9th. Please let Max Barber (369-7943, damaabar@comcast.net) know if you would like to go. We’ll meet at the church at 9:10 a.m. to carpool. The large facility opened last June and the setup is impressive. People donate goods of all sorts, including building supplies, which the store sells for the benefit of Lowell Habitat. Suzanne will include information about possible volunteer opportunities at the store.

Cambridge Society for Early Music (CSEM) returns to FRS on Thursday, April 11 at 7:30 pm, with a program entitled “Baroque Treasures of Venice, performed by the ensemble “Gut Reaction,” with our own Sarah Darling on violin and viola. For more information go to www.csem.org or call 617-489-2062.

Mortgage Loan Program for Unemployed and Underemployed: A pilot program to assist middle class families who are experiencing a drop of income has already made a difference to a number of families in Middlesex and Essex Counties, and will be continued. After meeting with a HUD Housing counselor, eligible homeowners can borrow up to \$20,000 at 0% interest with flexible re-payment plans. For more information call Frank Carvalho 978-970-0600 Ext 5. This program was featured in a Mosquito article on February 17, 2012, and in a program at Town Hall led by Carlisle's Housing specialist, Elizabeth Barnett. The goal of this program is to help families keep their homes and to bridge an income gap in this time of recession. -- Diane Miller

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, the Pastoral Concerns contact for February is Sally Hayen, 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 Cretures* is a monthly publication. To submit items send to: Ann Quenin, 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 let us know.
- The next newsletter deadline is
- March 21, 2013.
- To receive the weekly enewsletter send a note to frs@uucarlisle.org

Parish Committee

Parish Committee chair: John Lyons 978-369-1216, email: johnlyons@comcast.net
Members: Paul Morrison, Muggsie Rocco, John Lyons, Christine Lear, Eric Darling,
Mary Hult, Stew Roberts

Church Treasurers

Mary Hult 978-369-0448, email: mphult@comcast.net
John James 978-369-1296, email: jjames3@mac.com

Staff

Minister: Rev. Diane Miller, cell: 617-851-8222, email: minister@uucarlisle.org
Minister of Music: Marguerite Shaw, 978-369-5180, email: music@uucarlisle.org
Director of Religious Education: Alison Saylor, 978-369-5180, email: dre@uucarlisle.org
Administrator: Ann Quenin, 978-369-5180, email: frs@uucarlisle.org
Coming of Age Advisor: Linda Simmons 603-498-9520 las897@mail.harvard.edu

Standing Committee Chairs

Activities Committee:	Janice Kissinger 978-369-8968,
Buildings & Grounds	Ann James 978-369-1296, email: ajames3@comcast.net Susan Emmons 978-369-7921, email: susansemmons@comcast.net
Coffee Committee	Pam Fox 978-371-9042, email: pam_woodhull@hotmail.com
Environmental Action Committee:	Dan Scholten 978-369-1209, email: dks@mitre.org Ernie Huber 978-369-6678 email: e2huber@verizon.net Lisa Sama 978-692-6592 email: lmsama@comcast.net
Finance Committee:	Joe Sheedy 978-256-5068, email: jos.sheedy@verizon.net
Music and Worship Committee:	Tom Rourk 978-369-5366 email: tfrpiano@comcast.net
Membership Committee:	Sue Kirk 978-371-0176, email: sukirk@aol.com
Nominating Committee:	Nancy West email: nancyswest@gmail.com
Pastoral Concerns:	Sally Hayen 978-369-7591
Religious Education Committee:	Jackie Schaefer, 978-256-6770, email: jackie.schaefer@comcast.net
Social Action Committee	Ellen Huber 978-369-6678, email e2huber@verizon.net Max Barber 978-369-7943, email: damabar@comcast.net

For a complete calendar of meetings and activities here at FRS 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

Greeter Committee: Eva Herndon, Nancy West, Karen Dunkers, Tom Dunkers
Flower Committee: Pam Hall, Alison Saylor
Coffee Committee: Pam Fox

The First Religious Society – March 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 7-9am Men's Group, UH 1pm Given Memorial UH
3 9:00 Nursery 10:00am Worship Service 11:00am Coffee Hour 3-6:15pm Morris dancers, UH	4 7:00pm EAC meeting	5 9:00am Staff 10:00am Carlisle Resilience UH 7:00pm Music & Worship Comm.	6 11:30 COA luncheon 2:45-3:45pm COA tap class 7pm dance rehearsal/UH 7:30pm choir rehearsal	7	8 6:30pm: potluck and Contra dance/UH	9
10 9:00 Nursery 10:00am Worship Service 11:00am Coffee hour 12 noon Pledge drive luncheon 3-6:15pm Morris dancers, UH	11 7:00pm Building and Grounds mtg	12 9:00am Staff 10:00am Carlisle Resilience UH 12:30-2pm Daisy scout troupe, Union Hall	13 2:45-3:45pm COA tap class 7pm dance rehearsal/UH 7:30pm choir rehearsal	14	15 6pm WomenSpirit Potluck	16 6pm Singalong and potluck – 3 choirs at Cong. Church
17 9:00 Nursery 10:00am Spring Pageant 11:00am Coffee Hour 1-3pm Coming of Age 3-6:15pm Morris dancers, UH	18	19 9:00am Staff 10:00am Carlisle Resilience UH 7:30pm Parish Comm. Upstairs 6:30-9pm private piano recital	20 2:45-3:45pm COA tap UH 7pm dance rehearsal/UH 7:30pm choir rehearsal	21 11:30am COA luncheon UH 7:00pm KISS meeting, offsite	22 7:00-9:00pm Beekeepers, UH	23 5:00pm-9:00pm Chili cookoff and potluck
24 9:00 Nursery 10:00am Worship Service 11:00am Coffee Hour 1-3pm Coming of Age 3-7:15pm Morris dancers, UH	25	26 9:00am Staff 10:00am Carlisle Resilience UH 6pm Passover Seder	27 2:45-3:45pm COA tap UH 7pm dance rehearsal/UH 7:30pm choir rehearsal	28 1-3pm World Religion class, downstairs 7:30pm Maundy Thursday service	29 Lowell Ministry dinner	30 10am-2pm – CPC Easter egg hunt, playground, Red Balloon and Union Hall
31 Easter 6:30am Sunrise service 10am Worship						

The First Religious Society
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Carlisle, MA 01741

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A Welcoming Congregation

OUR MISSION STATEMENT: "WE ARE A WELCOMING INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY, STRIVING TO MAKE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE, NOW AND FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS. WE ARE DEDICATED TO SERVICE, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL ACTION. WE CARE FOR EACH OTHER AND FOSTER PERSONAL AND SPIRITUAL GROWTH."

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 21, 2013
SEND ANNOUNCEMENTS TO ANN QUENIN IN THE CHURCH OFFICE.