

The Gleam

January 2010 Newsletter

Unitarian Universalist Church of Wakefield



From Our Minister

We stand at the cusp of another year and many of our thoughts may go back to ten years ago when the attention of the world was on the turning of a new Millennium and the possible arrival of the Y2K bug. You may remember that the Year 2000 technology problem was created in the early days of computers when memory in computers was very expensive. Many of us remember the computers that took up whole rooms. Programmers saved space by using a two digit entry for dates rather than four. That meant as we approached the Year 2000, the worry was that programs that were coded with two digit codes would not distinguish between the years 2000 and 1900. Governments, financial institutions, and businesses worked to resolve this complicated situation. Even we Unitarian Universalists got into the mix with a special uuy2k website, and our ministers' association posted jokes about it on its humor list ("Convert to Judaism, then begin worrying about the Y10K bug...Party like it's 1899!") We really didn't know what might happen. Many people stockpiled food and batteries. As it turned out, the issues were addressed and this predicted disaster never came. Instead there were unexpected natural disasters, 9/11, and wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

As we finish the first decade since the turn to the new Millennium, it is inevitable that the media look back at the Best of the Arts and Music, as well as the news of our world. As we as individuals finish out the same decade and another year, we may turn reflective as well, including what our goals had been and which ones we have reached. And we look ahead to the New Year and our goals and wishes. This can be part of our spiritual practice, if we are intentional about it. Here at church, it has been one year since I came to serve you, and I am thinking about the scope of a year and what we have accomplished together, as well as what lies ahead. Some successes are the new roof and the painting of the foyer, the successful new concert series, our Meditation Practice and Rise Up Singing groups which mix our members with the community, and our Outreach Committee which has helped our ongoing programs be more visible to the larger community. Areas we will focus on in 2010 are our religious education program and social action. What are our goals and wishes for revitalizing these parts of our lives together as a faith community? How do we discern what these goals and wishes might look like?

As Unitarian Universalists we use our Principles and Purposes as a guide for our life together, here in Wakefield and beyond. The Principles and Purposes are the core of our faith and a place where we can ground our goals and wishes as individuals and as a congregation. Our religious education program will be considering the Principles and Purposes this spring, and I will return to them from time to time, starting with my sermon on January 12th, "We Covenant to Affirm." Unitarian Universalism encompasses a wide range of beliefs. Our seven principles sum up what is core to our faith. Let us explore them together. And I wish you a happy and healthy new year.

On the path of our faith,

Maddie

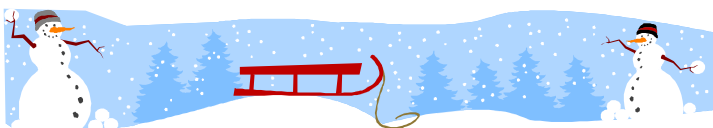


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Worship at the Wakefield UU Church

January 3 New Year's Fire Cleaning Service

led by Janine Fabiano

Each person will be asked to write down regret, a disappointment, resentment, a hurt, a fear, a conflict, etc. that they want to let go of and start the new year fresh without. They will then be invited to come forward, read it aloud if they so wish and burn the paper to release it.

January 10 We Covenant to Affirm

As our Religious Education program considers the Principles and Purposes of Unitarian Universalism during the second half of the church year, we revisit this core document to see what it may have to teach us as we start a new year.

January 17 Guest Minister: Michael Hall

January 24 Working on the Holy

Rev. Sifantus considers the phrase often heard these days, "I am spiritual but not religious." Do you name the holy God? Do we browse for religion in a new religious marketplace? In this complex world, many of us are drawn to a spiritual path or practice. How do the more pluralistic and experiential approaches to the religious evident in the America today influence us as Unitarian Universalists?

January 31 Stewardship service led by Peter Stickel

Guest minister for January service:

Michael F. Hall is in his final year at Andover Newton Theological School. Ministry is Michael's second career having spent 18 years as a "pilgrim" at the Plimoth Plantation living history museum. In the coming years Michael hopes to focus his ministry on strengthening smaller UU congregations and building new ones. He also loves the camaraderie and roils of interfaith dialogue. Michael lives in Middleborough with his wife, Jill, and their three children: Lilia, 13, Jonah, 9, and Sylvie, 2. Michael's mother, Pat, rounds out his bustling home.

Mr. Hall spoke at our church last November and we look forward to his return.



Melrose Unitarian United Church Invited US

The Adult Enrichment Committee has invited us to attend a program with the Melrose minister, Barbara Threet on Thursday, January 7 at 7:30 PM in their Parish Hall, Melrose Unitarian Universalist Church, 70 West Emerson Street, Melrose. Barbara traveled to Romania last summer and will be sharing her experiences and pictures of the trip. She will describe how Unitarianism developed in Transylvania originally and unravel the tangled Hungarian, Romanian and Transylvanian history. They also hope to talk that night about how we in Wakefield and Melrose can strengthen the ties between our churches. Our suggestions are welcome!

OFFICE HOURS:

Maddie is happy to meet with you during her office hours or by special appointment. Her office hours are generally 11 AM to 3 PM on Wednesday afternoons. She is often in Wakefield or in the office on Sunday afternoons. There will be no office hours on Wednesday, January 27 as she will be in Colorado meeting with the President of the Unitarian Universalist Society for Community Ministries from January 25-30, as Maddie is nominating chair of UUSCM. Check the yahoo calendar or call her on her cell phone: 508-733-8860. Maddie's office is in the back of the lower level of the church, adjacent to the stage in the Social Hall. Maddie is happy to visit you in your home, should that be of interest to you, is interested to receive news of our members, can make appointments on other days than Wednesdays and Sundays, and will visit you in your workplace, time permitting.

Meditation Practice Group—The Sacred Pause



As we start the New Year, it may be a good time to refocus on a spiritual practice. Being mindful of the present moment, being really present to ourselves and our surroundings benefit from practice. Our Meditation Practice Group meets weekly on Sundays at 5:00 PM on the stage in our Social Hall. If you have never tried meditation, check out the group that gathers, some brand new to the practice and others more experienced. Allow about an hour, bring your meditation cushion, if you have one, or you can sit in a chair. The group is open to everyone, church members and the larger community; there is no commitment to be there every week and no cost. A free-will offering to the church is always welcome. For more information, call Maddie Sifantus at 508-358-7091 or email her at msifantus@aol.com.

SOUP WITH THE MINISTER



Please join our minister, Maddie, for soup and casual conversation on Wednesday, January 6 at 11:30 AM. in the Social Hall. "Soup with the Minister" is held the first Wednesday of the month through June. Maddie will provide soup and a beverage. You bring the conversation and some dessert, if you wish. No need to sign up—just show up.

Look for extra bottles of Hand Sanitizer in the church to help aid us all in precautions against the flu. During this time of growing numbers of persons ill with the flu, please be mindful of your health if planning on visiting the church.

Thank you,
The Safe Congregations Committee



The Membership Committee meets on the 3rd Sunday of every month, after church. All interested parties are welcome to attend.

Nancy Trimper, Chair,
nptrim@verizon.net



RE Committee

For the next several months, the Religious Education program will be learning about our 7 Principles. Our explorations will be through stories, crafts, games, and some tales from scripture. We will also learn about some people from UU history, and how they demonstrated the Principles in their lives.

We will begin with the first Principle, "Each person is important." The children may also know it as "Respect all people" (the Red Promise).

The RE Committee is working together with Rev. Meg Anzalone to create an interesting and enjoyable curriculum. We welcome assistance and input from any and all in our church community! RE Committee meetings are held after services on a monthly basis. Our January meeting will take place on January 10th, and is open to everyone interested in assisting in the planning of lessons for the coming months.

Foyer Project

Great progress has been made on the foyer project! Around five years ago the family of former church member Martha Allman donated \$10,500 in her memory. The family asked that the money be used in a way that would honor Martha. The Allman Memorial Fund Sub Committee was formed and the foyer redecorating project was decided upon with the approval of the Board of Management and the family.

The redecorating got underway several years ago. New lighting fixtures had been installed before the project was put on hold because of the continuous water seepage due to the failed church roof. With the roof now replaced, the project was ready to resume. First the ceiling was replaced and walls were repaired. Then with the assistance of professional interior designer, paint colors were selected. The painting began the week of December 15 and was completed in time for the December 20 Christmas concert and the Christmas Eve service. The wainscoting still needs to be cleaned (by church volunteers) and the stairs leading up to the sanctuary still need to be repainted (by the professional painters). Once those tasks are completed, the flooring will be selected and installed. Lastly, a stand-alone handsome storage hutch/wardrobe/cabinet needs to be obtained for storage of shovels, cones, etc.

The work that has been done to date has made a world of difference to the church entrance, and, upon completion, the foyer will give an elegantly warm and welcoming feeling.

CSF Trivia Contest

Is your head full of useless knowledge, like mine? It's time to start thinking about the annual Trivia Team Challenge, run as a fundraiser by the Citizens' Scholarship Foundation. Last year, for the ninth (I think?) year in a row, the church was represented by a team. Some years we have had two teams, and it is always a good time, for a great cause. Details have not been announced for this year, but the event is usually held the last Saturday in February. Registration begins in January. Teams are limited to four members, and there is an entry fee of \$100 per team (if it's the same as last year). Many of last year's team members will probably be back. (We may not be too bright, but we're stubborn.) However, there may be openings, or additional teams if there is enough interest. We have a private donation to cover the entry fees, though additional donations are always welcome. Contact Greg Moulton at 781-246-0738 or gmoulton@partners.org if you are interested.

Greg Moulton

Readers Wanted!

Book group will meet on Sunday, January 24th at about noon in the nursery. Since we missed our last meeting because of the snow, let's have another free read. We'll talk about whatever we have been reading (any gift books to report on?) All are welcome!

Mary Adele Taylor
deletaylor@rcn.com



Musical Notes:



Candlelight Christmas a success;

Valentine Program Coming Up



A Candlelight Christmas, the second concert of the Standing Room Only series, was a success by several measures: 1) a full house; 2) over \$3500 in net income; and 3) very positive feedback by audience members and artists. Thanks to all who attended; Wendy, Lori, Theo and Kory for concert help; Janine, Wendy, Matthew J, Kelli and others for ongoing support; John Bumstead for emergency personnel assistance when we got robbed by the Boston Symphony and another orchestra; Joe Cresta for his belief and hard work before, during and after, and for feeding the orchestra; Maddie for her inspiration and for her heroic performance, coming out of a sick bed; four artists who volunteered; sixteen who shared enormous talent and effort for a confidential honorarium; Elizabeth and Emma Lowry for shooting and editing a first class video; and Elizabeth and Matthew Lowry for the amazing job of redesigning and decorating our beautiful sanctuary to create a gorgeous concert venue. To all those involved in the long process of getting the foyer painted in time for the concert, we are also very grateful.

The next SRO concert is *The Sweet Sound of Love, Remembering Nat King Cole*, featuring Paul Broadnax with bassist Peter Kontrimas on Valentine's Day, Sunday, February 14 at 7:00pm. Tickets are available after church or at Silver Clay, 391 Main St, Wakefield.

Rise Up Singing!

Don't miss this event for all ages!



RISE UP SINGING!

Our Rise Up Singing group begins the new year. The *Rise Up Singing* songbook has 1200 songs to choose from—none of us know remotely all of them! And singers are invited to bring their favorite song, as long as they can lead it. All are invited to sing with us. No music reading ability is needed. You can join in the fun on the third Friday evening of each month at 7:30 PM. We meet in the Social Hall downstairs at the church. Singers and instrumentalists of all ages are welcome to this informal and spirited evening of shared music making. Bring a copy of *Rise Up Singing* if you have one. Some copies will be available for those who don't have their own. There is no charge to attend but donations towards our collection of books and to our building fund are welcome. All ages are invited to join our minister and professional singer Maddie Sifantus, members of the church and the larger community. Our next meeting will be Friday, January 15. For more information, call Maddie at her home office: 508-358-7091 or leave a message on the church answering machine (781-245-4632).

Linden Tree Coffeehouse 25th Season!

All shows start at 8pm; doors open at 7:30pm

January 9, 2010 \$15

Southern Rail

Southern Rail's music is high-energy exuberant fun, with riveting harmonies, irreverent humor and sparkling banjo and mandolin solo work. Their songs have graced Bluegrass Unlimited's Top Thirty Singles Chart for a combined total of 32 months, receiving heavy national airplay. Southern Rail's reputation for strong original material, heart-stopping harmonies, and infectious good humor has spread to both coasts, spurred on by a heavy touring schedule and 10 successful recordings. Southern Rail has recently celebrated their 30th year with the release of their album, the Road from Appomattox.



For more information and future dates, see
www.lindentreecoffeehouse.org

We Are a Welcoming Congregation

Having fulfilled the requirements of our denomination to be a "Welcoming Congregation", the Wakefield UU Church is intentional about celebrating the presence and full participation of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons in all aspects of congregational life. We also welcome all persons regardless of race, economic status, theological and political perspective, or other distinctions that keep us from embracing our common humanity. We acknowledge that we still have work to do and we welcome your advice about how we may be more welcoming. We want to say, truthfully, "All are welcome here!"



MANY THANKS FOR YOUR CHRISTMAS GENEROSITY!

Just a note to say thank you to everyone who donated much-needed gifts to our Salvation Army Wakefield families. We had at least 8 large bags of gifts to help bring some comfort and joy to those families. Thank you for keeping this outreach mission alive.



Sheila Moran



Around the Block

- On December 6, Maddie performed a child dedication in the sanctuary for Addison Grace Roberts, daughter of Brien and Stephanie Roberts. She performed their wedding last year in Sudbury.
- The child dedication of Morgan Fae Rush, daughter of Sarah Trow and John Rush, was to have taken place during the service on December 20. Since we had a snow cancelation, it will now take place during the service on January 10. Her family will be providing the refreshments at coffee hour.
- It was wonderful to see a full sanctuary for *A Candlelight Christmas* and so many friends and members in attendance Christmas Eve. Kudos to the Outreach Committee team and those who helped with the concert and the readers and singers who participated on Christmas Eve.
- Carolyn Grammer has been under the weather and is worried about her brother Edmund who is currently in a Rehab in Natick. We wish them renewed health in the New Year.
- Louise and Don Gannon report that they loved seeing *A Candlelight Christmas* on cable. They had an enjoyable Christmas and send their wishes to their church friends.
- Gerri Lee reports that Bob is feeling well. They are expecting his heart surgery to be early in the new year.
- Maddie is aware of how difficult the holiday season and start of a new year can be for many. Please don't hesitate to call her if you wish to chat.

Linden Tree Food Cooperative

Our church is home to the Linden Tree Food Coop which orders a variety of food, household products, personal care items, pets' items, etc., for its members each month. The members select their choices from a catalog they receive in the mail monthly which includes sales items for that month. They submit their orders by the Sunday before the second Thursday of the month, and pick up their orders at the church on the second Thursday between 7-8pm.. Contact George Snow at 781-246-0365.

With Mugs, Red Means Go...

...and introduce yourself!

The Membership Committee purchased RED mugs and asks that guests and visitors use them at coffee hour so we will know who is new to our church. Please look out for the RED mugs and take a minute to say "Hi" to our guests and visitors during coffee hour. If you are a guest or visitor, or have been away for a while, please use one of our RED mugs for your tea or coffee.



Snow Shovelers ALWAYS Wanted!!!

We have the snow plowed after big storms, but we still need to shovel the smaller storms, and the places the plow can't reach. Snow tends to fall at inconvenient times, so if we have a number of people on our list, it makes it easier to get the job done. **Contact Mike McLane** at 781-224-0133 or mmclane2002@yahoo.com if you are able to help. Thank you, Mike, for volunteering to be "Head Snowman" this year! And, a big thank you to Greg Moulton for all his years in this important role.



Cancellations will now be posted with the WBZ StormCenter!

Along with being posted at www.wakefielduu.org, you can now find out if church services are cancelled by tuning into WBZ TV or radio 1030 or checking the WBZ Storm Center online.

See Something Needing Fixing?

Talk to a Property Committee member: Mike Blake, Steve Breton, Matthew Jewett, Matt Lowry, George Snow, or email admin@wakefielduu.org

To see the current Property Committee Task List, go to:

<http://www.wakefielduu.org/PropertyCommitteeTaskList.PDF>



Calling all Potential Piano Students!!!!

Alla Vishnevetsky, our esteemed accompanist, is not just an extremely talented pianist, she is also an excellent teacher.

If you, your child, or anyone you know has ever thought about taking piano lessons, this is the perfect opportunity.

For more information, you can call Alla at 617-776-5362 or email her at markalla@hotmail.com.



From the Editors: All submissions to the Gleam must be in writing -- email, paper copy, or disk. Please include the contact name, phone #, and/or email address for each article. Please send e-mail submissions to news@wakefielduu.org, and include the word "Gleam" in the subject line.

The next Gleam deadline is January 26.

Gleam Editors: Lucy Skeldon, Marcia Calvin; Copy Readers: Sheila Moran, Matthew Jewett; Publisher: Wendy Dennis; Reporters: You!

Sunday Morning Volunteers

The following volunteer positions are available each week. Please consider helping out on a monthly or occasional basis.

Worship: Usher, Announcer, Greeter

Coffee hour: Set-up, Clean-up, Baked goods

And, since we don't have a dumpster or town trash pickup, we need to take turns bringing a bag or two of trash home with us.

Having one or two folks available to take a turn, here and there, opening the sanctuary radiators early Sunday mornings would be great!

You can sign up on the database at:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/WakefieldUU/>
database or contact the following person for the specific task:

Greeter: Serena Murley — 781-481-9177

Usher: Janet Schuchter — 781-245-0735

Announcer: Peter Stickel — 781-245-8029

If you can help with Coffee Hour Baking, Set-up, or Clean-up, please sign up on the Yahoo database, email admin@wakefielduu.org with the date and task or, if you are not online, call Nancy Trimper at 781-245-8562.

Better Know a UU

Don't forget—One of the best ways to meet folks or get to better know others in the congregation is to join a committee or volunteer for a one-time, occasional, or ongoing task or project.

Another way is to simply attend church-sponsored events. There is a lot going on, so check your calendar and come have some fun!

Church Officers and Staff

Minister - Rev. Maddie Sifantus
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Religious Education Dir. - Open

Contact: Lucy Skeldon: 781-245-1867
Skuff1@aol.com

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Pianist - Alla Vishnevetzky
88 Wheatland St. # 3 Somerville, MA 02145
(617) 776-5362 markalla@hotmail.com

Church Rentals - Wendy Dennis
(781) 246-9751 wendy.dennis@verizon.net

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Email: admin@wakefielduu.org

Yahoo Group:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/WakefieldUU/>

To email the Yahoo Group:

WakefieldUU@yahoogroups.com

Wakefield UU Calendar: January 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 10:30a Sunday Morning Brunch; No Service & RE 5p NO Meditation Practice Group	28 12p professional weekly cleaning - morning	29 7p Choir Practice	30	31	1 [January] New Year's Day	2 2-9 Concert Event (rock/ska)
3 10:30a Service & RE 3p Rental - Laugh Club 5p Meditation Practice Group	4 12p professional weekly cleaning - morning 1:30p Rental - KCC	5 3p Irish Dance 6:30p dog training class 7p Choir Practice	6 11a Minister's Office Hours 11:30a Soup with the Minister 7:30p Finance Committee	7 1:30p Rental - KCC	8	9 3p Linden Tree Coffeehouse set-up 3:00 pm show at 8:00 p.m.
10 10:30a Service & RE 5p Meditation Practice Group	11 12p professional weekly cleaning - morning 1:30p Rental - KCC	12 3p Irish Dance 6:30p dog training class 7p Choir Practice	13 11a Minister's Office Hours 7:30p Board of Management	14 1:30p Rental - KCC 7p Food Coop pickup	15 7:30p Rise Up Singing Group	16 7:30a Rental - anger management course
17 10:30a Service & RE 3p Cancelled today Rental - Laugh Club 5p Meditation Practice Group	18 12p professional weekly cleaning - morning 1:30p Rental - KCC	19 3p Irish Dance 6:30p dog training class 7p Choir Practice	20 11a Minister's Office Hours 7p LGBT Social	21 1:30p Rental - KCC	22 5p Rental - anger management course	23 7:30a Rental - anger management course 12:45p My Brother's Table
24 10:30a Service & RE 5p Meditation Practice Group	25 12p professional weekly cleaning - morning 1:30p Rental - KCC	26 3p Irish Dance 6:30p dog training class 7p Choir Practice	27 11a NO Minister's Office Hours	28 1:30p Rental - KCC	29 5p Rental - anger management course	30 7:30a Rental - anger management course
31 10:30a Service & RE 5p Meditation Practice Group	1 [February] 12p professional weekly cleaning - morning 1:30p Rental - KCC	2 3p Irish Dance 6:30p dog training class 7p Choir Practice	3 11a Minister's Office Hours 11:30a Soup with the Minister	4 1:30p Rental - KCC	5 5p Rental - anger management course	6 7:30a Rental - anger management course

Unitarian Universalist Church of Wakefield
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