

The Gleam

March 2009 Newsletter

Unitarian Universalist Church of Wakefield



From our Minister

Here we are getting ready to go into March—yippee! Whether it comes in as a lamb or a lion, it won't be soon enough for me and, I expect some of you. I have had just about enough of ice and snow, trips to the store for ice-melt, and driving down my driveway to get my mail out of the mailbox. When it gets to be March, we just know the days of spring are ahead, even if pansies are not coming up yet in our own gardens, as they are in the garden of one of you, as reported during the joys on Sunday. Now that's a reason to celebrate!

This brings me to Sunday, March 8, when we will celebrate our community together. My theme for that Sunday is *Come Sunday and Celebrate*. As we collect our pledges at this time of year, we will celebrate the generous spirits who keep the Unitarian Universalist Church of Wakefield going, week to week, year to year. We will celebrate our gifts of the time, talent and financial support we give our church with a special parade of the World Religion banners which once hung on our walls, special music, and words. Afterwards (or even if you can't come to the worship service), join us downstairs for a delicious lunch. This would be a great Sunday for you to bring your pledge card to the church. I know I will be bringing mine.

My service on March 22, *The Sacred Pause*, will explore meditation and Buddhism. That evening I will lead a group downstairs in the Library at 7:30 PM in some discussion, as well as some guided and silent meditation. If there is enough interest, I would be happy to plan a sitting group that would meet on a regular basis. I have found meditation an essential spiritual practice—and you don't have to be a Buddhist to incorporate it into your life.

You have probably noticed that there have been some small changes in our order of service in recent weeks. We have begun having a Story for All Ages each Sunday. This is followed by an anthem from the choir. We then sing the children downstairs to the song "Go Now in Peace." The minister or worship leader will let you know when it is time for the children to leave the sanctuary. It is good to be a whole, multigenerational community for a short time each Sunday. Please let me know if you would like to tell a story some Sunday!

I have heard told that former ministers have held "soup with the minister" from time to time. *(continued to page 2)*

Mark Your Calendar!

March 8: Celebration Sunday Service and Luncheon

March 20 11:30 am Soup with the Minister

March 22 7:30 pm Meditation Group

April 15 7:30 pm Annual Meeting

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Worship at the Wakefield UU Church

March 1: Rev. Paul L'Herrou

A Crazy Quilt of Love—Our culture values rugged individualism, yet our connections to one another are essential to our well being and our ability to find fulfillment, meaning, and spiritual grounding for our lives.

March 8: Rev. Maddie Sifantus

Come Sunday and Celebrate—This special service, which is becoming a UU tradition, will celebrate our gifts of the time, talent and financial support that we give our church and all that we are and do as a congregation.

March 15: Tim House, Ministerial Intern

Grace and Gratitude—Tim taught at Emerson College for 20 plus years before pursuing the ministry.

March 22: Rev. Maddie Sifantus

The Sacred Pause—An exploration of Buddhism and meditation.

March 29: Rev. Laura Cavicchio

Yes to Life—Finding our purpose, even in challenging times.

(continued from page 1)

That sounds good to me! I will bring soup and bread to the church on Friday, March 20 at 11:30 AM. Please join me in the kitchen for sharing lunch together and casual conversation. All are invited! And if anyone wants dessert, please bring that along.

Finally, many of you know that I have been a professional singer since I was a teenager. My current life doesn't allow for much performance but my group, TVS (The Vocal Section), will be appearing at the Acton Jazz Café on Saturday, March 14 from 7-8:30 PM. TVS is beginning its 31st year of singing together. We perform high energy gospel and R and B music—and any song that takes our fancy. The Acton Jazz Café is located on Route 2A in Acton and is a bit of a commute from Wakefield. Reservations are highly recommended. You can make reservations, directions, or get more information on their website which is www.actonjazzcafe.com or calling (978) 263-6161.

Walking with you in faith,

Maddie

Celebration

Luncheon

Sunday March 8

11:30 am—directly following the Sunday service.

Join us for a luncheon prepared by Chefs Kay Lewis and Wendy Dennis. At the close of our Stewardship Drive, we are celebrating all that this church is over great food and great company. This also will be a wonderful opportunity to thank all of our committee volunteers, and for the church community to learn more about what each committee does to support this church community.

Please bring your completed pledge card if you have not returned it yet to be eligible for our special door prize drawing! Please join us even if you were not attending the Sunday service. Don't miss this fun celebration!

From the chefs: There is a sign-up sheet in the Social Hall, or call Wendy 781-246-9751 or email her at wendy.dennis@verizon.net so she and Kay will know who is coming for lunch! Please include any dietary restrictions/preferences so we can accommodate as best we can.



My Brother's Table

A great volunteer opportunity!

Saturday, March 28 is our turn to serve at My Brother's Table in Lynn. We are seeing increasing numbers of people eating at the Table and we need your help. We prepare the meal from about 12:30 to when the doors open for our guests at 2:30. We serve until 4:30 and are always out the door by that time. Children as young as 9 or so are more than welcome. **So, come and have some fun and meet some new people!**

For directions and questions and to let Martie know you're coming, call 781-245-8408 or e-mail martie1@earthlink.net. Thank you.

—Martie Vatalaro

Religious Education

Albert Einstein said that, "All religions, arts and sciences are branches of the same tree. All these aspirations are directed toward ennobling man's life, lifting it from the sphere of mere physical existence and leading the individual towards freedom."

As Unitarian Universalists we draw upon many sources, one of which is the wisdom of world's many religions which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual lives. For the next three months the children will be meeting a new classroom star each week. These imaginary, but not unreal, guests will share their own unique beliefs, holiday celebrations, and ritual practices. Each week we will try to relate the religion of the classroom star with our own beliefs and practices as UUs.

NOTE: Some sessions will involve food preparation and other classes will involve sitting still in meditation, practicing tai chi and learning about different forms of prayer and other celebratory elements of worship.

YOUTH RE SCHEUDLE:

March 1st	Meet All the New Friends
March 8th	Christianity: Catholicism
March 15th	Islam: Shiite
March 22nd	Islam: Sunni
March 29th	Hinduism
April 5th	Theravada Buddhism
April 12th	Easter
April 19th	Buddhism: Meditation
April 26th	Confucianism
May 3rd	Taoism
May 10th	Earth Centered: Wicca
May 17th	Earth Centered: Hopi
May 24th	Sikhism
May 31st	Judaism
June 7th	Children's Sunday

RE Committee Meeting

March 12, 9 am at Beebe Library

The Religious Education Committee will be holding its monthly meeting on Thursday, March 12, 2009. The meeting will be at 9 a.m. in the small conference room of the Beebe Library. All are welcome to attend. If you can't attend the meeting and have a suggestion or concern to share with the Committee, please pass it on to Starbuck Hersey our DRE, or Committee members Susan Kilkelly or Lucy Skeldon.

Important ! Still seeking members and friends who are First Aid and CPR Certified!

The Safe Congregation Committee (SCC) wishes to update the list of congregants and friends that are currently CPR and/or First Aid certified and Healthcare Professionals to list your name in our First Aid Kit. Having this list in the kit can make serving a medical need within the church happen more efficiently should an incident occur and a listed person is in the building. If you have a current CPR and/or First Aid certification and are willing to be included on the list, please contact Kelli Parece, SCC Chair, at 781-245-3965.

Time for the Church "Mice" to play! Wednesday March 25, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Once again, the church needs some cleaning and straightening up around the church building, particularly in the kitchen, hall and library/stage.

There is always dusting and surface cleaning to do, too. Many hands make light work and more fun - be a "church mouse" on March 25!

Contact: Janine Fabiano,
j9fabiano@yahoo.com;781-245-0631

Around the Block

Hello to Carolyn Grammer, Louise and Don Gannon, Gerry Lee, and Del Taylor. Hope you can come to the Celebration Sunday Luncheon on March 8!



Welcoming People as They Are by Greg Buckland, Youth and Young Adult Ministries

In Fall 2007 I walked through the doors of the First UU Society of Exeter, NH seeking sanctuary. My job as a Field Organizer in the harrowing NH Presidential Primary demanded seven long days a week, with only a brief break on Sunday morning. I needed somewhere to be still and be touched; to connect with human beings, if only briefly, outside the context of work.

The relatively accessible hours (the congregation offered 9am and 11am services) allowed me flexible access to the worship. I found warm smiles welcoming me at the open door. The folks in the next pew slid over to introduce themselves. "I don't know if I've seen you before... I'm Jill." They didn't assume I was new, only that they hadn't met me, and maybe they had something to learn. Neither did they bombard me with questions or expectations.

We worshipped together. The music was varied and thoughtfully chosen. The congregants were engaged in multiple ways: from singing with heart, to sharing stories of joy or sorrow, to being both centered and challenged by the sermon. I had to rush off after the service, but from that point on I dedicated that space and time on Sundays. Nine out of ten Sundays, I was there.

Campaign life is extreme, but many young adults (18-35) are in a similar place. Overworked, facing student debt, a poor economy, a society focused on TV and consumption, we are seeking connection to others, wisdom to understand, and strength to

persevere. Most of us are no longer living in the communities of our youth. Work may be frantic or dehumanizing. Early Sunday morning may be a time to sleep in or to recover.

What I found in New Hampshire though was a true ministry: a strong community of caring, where members took good care of each other, and welcomed the stranger, willing to accept me just as I was. I was a part of the church for only a few months before I was transferred for work. But the welcome, the respite and the warmth I found there helped me understand genuine hospitality is possible and we as Unitarian Universalists can be its vessel.

Resources for Young Adult Ministry:

Ministering to the Missing Generation by Carol Howard Merritt

The Multigenerational Congregation by Gil Rendle
Greg Buckland, gbuckland@mbduua.org,
617-816-0402

Accepting people as they are:

Radical Hospitality by Homan and Pratt

Growing a Beloved Community by Tom Owen-Towle

Learning Hospitality:

Rev. Dr. T. Cooley's slide presentation of
Hospitality 202 at
www.mbdoua.org/uploadsHospitality.pdf
www.mbdoua.org | 617-393-4216

UUA Connection



We've had a lot on our plate the past few years, and we still have a lot of challenges to face as to our building and congregation. However, it is worth our while to keep in tune with the happenings in the larger Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA).

If you are a member of the congregation, you should be getting The UU World magazine delivered to your home. And, anyone can access the online version at <http://www.uuworld.org/>.

Yet another resource is the Monthly Mailing to Congregations, a collection of announcements and updates from the staff groups and committees of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) of Congregations, and from

the Church of the Larger Fellowship (CLF). You can access these packets online by going to <http://www.uua.org/leaders/leaderslibrary/congregationalmonthly/>

From the Editor

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 admin@wakefielduu.org, and include the word "Gleam" in the subject line.**

The next Gleam deadline is March 25.

NOTE: If you receive a "paper copy" of the Gleam, and do have an email address through which you could receive an electronic copy of the Gleam, please email us at admin@wakefielduu.org and we will put you on the "online" Gleam email list. This reduces church postage, ink, and paper costs. Every bit helps!

**Linden Tree Coffeehouse
24th Season!**

March 21 2009

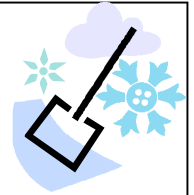
**Michael Smith, with
Gerry Ryan & Charlie Ortolani opening**



Michael Smith is a veteran songwriter whose name may be unfamiliar but whose songs are almost universally known. Michael Smith has been singing and writing since the early 1960's and his rich and challenging songs have been recorded by more than 30 performers, including Jimmy Buffet, Jerry Jeff Walker, and Anne Hills. He is considered by his peers to be one of today's most intelligent, literate songwriters.

Gerry Ryan & Charlie Ortolani are a versatile group who combine decades of musical experience to produce some of the sweetest harmonic and rhythmic sounds around. You may hear catchy original tunes, American acoustic classics, country blues, Celtic covers, swing and jazz standards. They have performed at Geoff Bartley's Singer/songwriter nights at the Cantab Lounge in Cambridge, In a Pig's Eye in Salem, MA, the MayFair in Harvard Square for WUMB-FM, and the Sit n' Bull Pub in Maynard. .

**Cancellations will now be posted
with the WBZ StormCenter!**



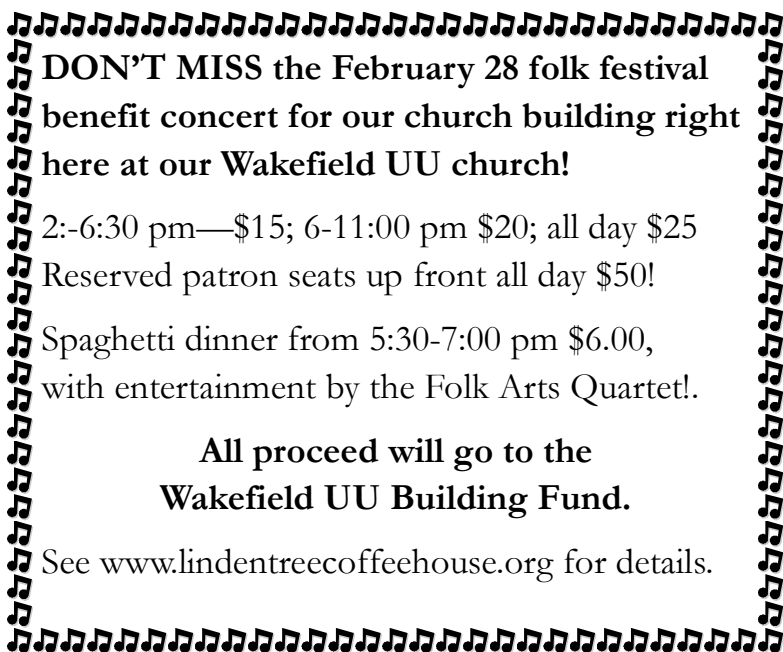
Along with being posted at www.wakefielduu.org, you can now find out if church services are cancelled by tuning into WBZ TV or radio 1030 or checking the WBZ Storm Center online.

**Bluegrass with Southern Rail
8:00 pm March 7, 2009, Tickets: \$18**

A special benefit concert at Temple Emmanuel

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 9 successful recordings Southern Rail celebrated their first twenty-five years with their 8th recording, Coal Tattoo, featuring the group's prodigious harmonies. In 2008 they recorded Southern Rail, Live at the Linden Tree in Wakefield. www.southernrail.com

\$18—Reservations recommended, checks mailed to Temple Emmanuel Bluegrass Night , 120 Chestnut St Wakefield MA 01880 by March 3. Questions? (781)245-1886 <http://wakefieldtemple.org>



**DON'T MISS the February 28 folk festival
benefit concert for our church building right
here at our Wakefield UU church!**

2:-6:30 pm—\$15; 6-11:00 pm \$20; all day \$25
Reserved patron seats up front all day \$50!
Spaghetti dinner from 5:30-7:00 pm \$6.00,
with entertainment by the Folk Arts Quartet!.

**All proceed will go to the
Wakefield UU Building Fund.**

See www.lindentreecoffeehouse.org for details.

**Wakefield UU Book Group —
March 22**



The March book group meeting will be held in the nursery at noon on Sunday March 22. It is a "free read" month, with all welcome to share about any of their favorite books.

Mary Adele Taylor, deletaylor@rcn.com

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.

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, which includes what has already been done this winter, go to:

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

Church Officers and Staff

Minister - Rev. Maddie Sifantus
7 Holiday Rd., Wayland, MA 01778
(508) 358-7091 msifantus@aol.com

President - Wendy Dennis
12 Armory St., Wakefield, MA 01880
(781) 246-9751 wendy.dennis@verizon.net

Treasurer - Kay Lewis
114 Main St., Wakefield, MA 01880
(781) 246-227 ksletl@juno.com

Collector - Kelli Parece
16 Rossmore Rd., Wakefield, MA 01880
(781) 245-3965 kparece@verizon.net

Board of Directors -
Janine Fabiano: 781-245-0631
j9fabiano@yahoo.com
Dennis Fardy: 781-279-1445;
dfardy@massamontinsurance.com
Michael McLane: 781-224-0133
mmclane2002@yahoo.com
Matthew Jewett: 781-224-0135
md_jewett@hotmail.com
Janet Schuchter: 781-245-0735
jschuchter@verizon.net

Religious Education Dir. - Starbuck Hersey
26 Otis St, Wakefield, MA 01880
(443) 745-8338 SarahStarbuck529@gmail.com

Music Director - Jeff Workman
30 Cordis St., Wakefield, MA 01880
(781) 245-0549 gummiprism@yahoo.com

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

Church Rentals - Wendy Dennis
12 Armory St., Wakefield, MA 01880
(781) 246-9751 wendy.dennis@verizon.net

How to Reach Us:

Address: - 326 Main St, PO Box 529,
Wakefield, MA 01880

Telephone: 781-245-4632

Web site: www.wakefielduu.org

Email: admin@wakefielduu.org

Yahoo Group:

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

To email the Yahoo Group:

WakefieldUU@yahoogroups.com

March 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Services and RE 10:30 am (Laugh Club 3-4)	2 <i>prof. cleaning</i> (KCC 1:30 – 8:00)	3 Irish Dance 2:30 - 6:00 pm) (Dog Training 6:30- 7:30) Choir 7:00 pm	4 (WCAP Board Meeting 7:30 pm)	5	6	7 Southern Rail at Temple Emmanuel 8:00 pm
8 Services and RE 10:30 am Celebration Sunday Luncheon 11:30 am Food Coop order due	9 <i>prof. cleaning</i> (KCC 1:30 – 8:00)	10 Irish Dance 2:30 - 6:00 pm) (Dog Training 6:30- 7:30) Choir 7:00 pm	11 Board of Management 7:30 pm	12 Food Coop pickup 7:00 pm	13	14 Riverside Teen Club noon-4:00 pm)
15 Services and RE 10:30 am (Laugh Club 3-4)	16 <i>prof. cleaning</i> (KCC 1:30 – 8:00)	17 Irish Dance 2:30 - 6:00 pm) (Dog Training 6:30- 7:30) Choir 7:00 pm	18	19 2009-2010 Church Budget working meeting 7:30 pm	20 Soup with the Minister 11:30 am	21 LTC setup 3:30- Linden Tree Coffee House 8pm
22 Services and RE 10:30 am Meditation Group 7:30 pm	23 <i>prof. cleaning</i> (KCC 1:30 – 8:00)	24 Irish Dance 2:30 - 6:00 pm) (Dog Training 6:30- 7:30) Choir 7:00 pm	25	26	27	28 Riverside Teen Club noon -4:00 pm) My Brother's Table in Lynn 1:45 pm
29 Services and RE 10:30 am	30 <i>prof. cleaning</i> (KCC 1:30 – 8:00)	31 Flea Market Set Up – All Day all week	<i>Check the Yahoo Calendar for updates</i>	All meetings & events are at the church unless otherwise noted	() parenthesis represents rentals <i>Italics</i> for dates of general interest	Don't Forget! April 4 Flea Market 9:00 am – 1:00 pm!

Unitarian Universalist Church of Wakefield
PO Box 529
Wakefield MA 01880