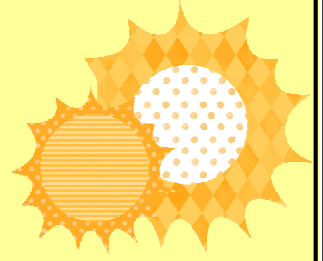


The Gleam

Summer 2008 Newsletter

Unitarian Universalist Church of Wakefield



News and Musings

What a busy summer! While I suspect many of us find ourselves saying this every year, this one sure seems to be a doozy. Never mind all the demands in our personal lives, we have two big items on the congregational agenda: Searching for a new minister, and scheduling the removal of our building's spire.

In addition, our Board of Management has the development of a strong mission/purpose and formal mission statement as a top priority, one that is crucial to the continuation and success of our congregation. Work on our mission is the main agenda item of the annual BOM retreat taking place on August 9. See page 5 for more details, as well as spire news.

The Ministerial Search process is underway and is discussed on page 6. However, I'd like to add here that we have also, as provided for in our budget, joined the Church of the Larger Fellowship (CLF) as a small congregation "Church on Loan" member. This membership provides an amazing amount of high quality resources, including over 200 complete Sunday services (yes, including the sermon) and a wealth of RE materials. Please let the worship committee know if you would be interested in presenting a CFL or other lay-led service this fall.

Do also take note of all the opportunities available to take part in the life of our congregation. If we each take on a modest role, we can get things done without feeling overburdened. And, to new members and friends, and to folks who have been out of touch for a few years, remember that volunteering is a great way to get to better know others in our church community.

Don't miss Jeff Workman's "From the Music Director" column starting on page 7! Jeff has done a lovely job of presenting fond memories, old and new, as well as highlighting the wealth of music that is such a big part of worship in our church.

While summer has its charm, I am also looking forward to once again gathering together for Sunday morning services. It's going to be an interesting year, and I am confident that we have the strength, determination, and resources to grow well beyond our recent and current challenges and transform them into opportunities.

Onward we go!

Wendy Dennis, BOM President

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Upcoming Worship Schedule

Each Sunday from June 15 through August 31:

9:00 am—meet at the Wakefield entrance of Breakheart Reservation for a walk. Children and dogs welcome!

10:30 am—meet at Brother's, 404 Main St. Wakefield for breakfast.

Come once or twice, come every week—a great way to stay in touch over the summer!

September 7—Opening Sunday. The focus of this service will be our traditional Water Communion, to which all are invited to bring water from a special place they visited, or representing a special event or milestone that took place over the summer.

Give Diane a Lift!

Diane Brown needs rides to and from church on Sundays and for other church events. If you can take a turn once a month or so, OR coordinate these rides, please email admin@wakefielduu.org with “Diane Ride” in the subject line or call Wendy at 781-246-9751. Diane live in Reading on the Wakefield line.

What is the Water Communion?

The Water Communion, also sometimes called Water Ceremony, was first used at a Unitarian Universalist worship service in the 1980s. Many UU congregations now hold a Water Communion once a year, often at the beginning of the new church year (September).

Members bring to the service a small amount of water from a place that is special to them. During the appointed time in the service, people one by one pour their water together into a large bowl. As the water is added, the person who brought it tells why this water is special to them. The combined water is symbolic of our shared faith coming from many different sources. It is often then blessed by the congregation, and sometimes is later boiled and used as the congregation's "holy water" in child dedication ceremonies and similar events. —from the UUA website www.uua.org

Worship at the Wakefield UU Church

Although we are in the process or searching for new Minister, the church year will begin without a minister in place. Just a few years ago we were in the same situation, and through the efforts of the worship committee and a number of other members of the congregation, the fall services were interesting, diverse, and of high quality, featuring guest ministers and speakers, and congregational lay-led services.

The Worship Committee is scheduled to meet on **Monday, August 11 at 7:30 pm** in the church nursery to begin planning our fall services and other related worship service details. All committee members and anyone else interested in the worship at our church are invited to attend. The Committee is always open to new members.

Worship Committee Co-Chair, Janine Fabiano, j9fabiano@yahoo.com; 781-245-0631.

Knoxville Relief Fund

We are all deeply saddened by the news of the tragic shootings at the Tennessee Valley UU Church. The Knoxville Relief Fund has been established to bring ministry, spiritual care, and practical financial assistance to those affected by the shootings. To find out more, visit:

www.uua.org/giving/donatenow/117168.shtml.

Or you can send a check made payable to “Knoxville Relief Fund” c/o Tom Klein to:

Unitarian Universalist Association
Stewardship and Development, 6th Floor
25 Beacon Street
Boston, MA 02108

Around the Block

Bob Hooker is home from teaching ESL in Moscow and will go to China to teach at the beginning of September. You can often see Bob on the Sunday morning Breakheart walks.

**A Thank You, and another
Congratulations
to Carol Allman-Morton!**

On June 22, our congregation had the honor of joining with the Old Ship Church, First Parish, Hingham to ordain longtime Wakefield UU member Carol Allman-Morton to the Unitarian Universalist Ministry.

A number of us were able to attend the service in Hingham, where we were treated to wonderful speakers, a great sermon, and some fine music, including some from our own choir. (See From the Music Director, starting on page 7)

Carol, we are so proud of you, and we are also so pleased that we were able to be part of your becoming an ordained Unitarian Universalist Minister!

Do You Have an Email Buddy?

As more and more church communication takes place via the Internet, and especially email, it is difficult to make sure that everyone in our church community knows what is going on.

The fact that we do not currently have a paid Administrator is compounding the challenge!

Over the summer, the Board will be working on an improved communication system that will use the Internet as much as possible. **We need those of you not online to find an “email buddy” who can help you stay in touch when mail or phone calls can’t get all the news across.** I

If you are not online, ask a church member or friend who is online to be YOUR email buddy and let you know when important news gets sent out from the church via email and help you communicate with others via email or use the yahoo group site. You can also call any Board member for help in finding an email buddy. AND, if you are online and are willing to be someone’s email buddy, send an email saying so to: admin@wakefielduu.org.

THANK YOU!

Caring Circle: How it Works

If you need help (rides to the doctor, a death in the family, etc.) contact Wendy, 781-246-9751, wendy.dennis@verizon.net. Wendy will email from the church address asking for volunteers, including one person willing to be the point person for the church member or friend in need. She will then hook up the point person with the others who offer to help. If you do not have email but want be alerted when help is needed, ask Wendy to put you on the phone call list.. If you would like to take on the coordination of Caring Circle needs, please also contact Wendy!

Seeking Worship Service Weekly Task Coordinator

We are still in need of a Sunday morning service coordinator to line up volunteers to usher, announce, greet, and turn on the heat each Sunday starting in the fall. Please contact Janine about this position.

Janine Fabiano, Worship Committee co-chair,
j9fabiano@yahoo.com; 781-245-0631

Seeking Coffee Hour Weekly Task Coordinator

The Membership Committee is seeking a Sunday morning coffee hour volunteer coordinator. This person will be responsible for lining up bakers and people to set up and clean up each week. Please contact Nancy Trimper about this position.

Nancy Trimper, Membership Chair,
nptrim@rcn.com, 781-245-8562

And, remember that you can sign up for any of the Sunday morning worship and coffee hour volunteer positions in the “Sunday Morning Volunteers” database on the WakefieldUU Yahoo Group:

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

Church Auction: Saturday, November 8

Let's get started organizing this year's Annual Church Auction! An organizational meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 12, 7:00 pm at Janine Fabiano's home, 29 Lafayette St. I hope all church members and friends will help out with the church's most profitable and very fun fundraiser. There are many great ways to assist without any one person becoming over worked. Here are some of ways you can help:

- Follow up with businesses to which we mail a donation request letter
 - Track donations from businesses and individuals
 - Publicity
 - Set up with online auction site
 - Prepare and distribute donations forms
 - Preparation of the Auction booklet
 - Prepare forms and placards for live and silent auction
 - Hall setup
 - Silent auction setup
 - Auctioneers
 - Refreshment coordinator
 - Refreshment setup, cleanup, prep
 - Auction check in
 - Silent Auction tally
 - Live auction tally
 - Checkout Cashiers
 - Clean-up

Please contact me if you are willing to work on the auction this year, and if you plan to attend the August 12 meeting.

Auction Committee Chair, Janine Fabiano,
j9fabiano@yahoo.com; 781-245-0631

Money, Money, Money

A repeat, but important!

Good! Now that I have your attention this is a reminder from the Finance Committee that all monetary issues should be coordinated through the Finance Committee, which meets 4-6 times a year as a finance committee, and more often when in budget and pledge mode. This means if anyone wants to do a church fundraiser, you should contact Susan Kilkelly, Finance Chair (for real now!) with the dates and other information. The purpose of coordination is not to stifle great ideas, but to make sure all the brilliant plans don't get in each other's way. We are working up a form to make it simple, but for now just start with an e-mail (mkilkelly@aol.com) or call 781-245-7245 with your plan. —Susan Kilkelly

\$\$ A Pledge Reminder \$\$

Expenses continue throughout the summer, so please continue your pledges, too. Our creditors and staff will be happy to be paid, and I will be happy to be able to do so without biting my nails to the quick. Thank you. — Kay Lewis, Treasurer

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 pickup their orders at the church on the second Thursday between 7-8 pm.. Contact George Snow at 781-246-0365

Annual Board Retreat on Saturday August 9.

On the agenda : Creating a “working draft” of our congregation’s mission, including that in the larger community, for use in publicity and grant applications.

Also, determining the best process by which the entire congregation can be involved with articulating our mission as it relates to who we are to, and what we offer each other as a spiritual community and who we are and what we offer to the larger community. We also hope to take some time to review our bylaws, or at least determine a process for updating our bylaws over the next church year.

We will also be working on our Congregational Record. This questionnaire is provided by the UUA Ministerial Transitions Office via the Ministerial Settlement System.

Along with being recommended for use in the ministerial search process, it provides a comprehensive set of questions that will be most helpful as we develop a strong mission statement and articulate to ourselves and others exactly who we are as a congregation.

To view the questions about ministry and congregational life, see the following pdf files posted on our website.

<http://www.wakefielduu.org/CongregationalRecord.pdf>

<http://www.wakefielduu.org/CongregationalRecordcontinued.pdf>

See the September Gleam for a report on the Board Retreat and how you can participate as we all work on our mission and mission statement.

From The Ad Hoc Building Committee

As of press time, we have accepted the proposal for the removal of the spire from Chris Burgess, The Burgess Company of Pembroke MA. Chris comes with excellent recommendations, having done work for a number of churches, including restoration work at the Old Ship Church in Hingham and installing cell antennas for our neighbors across the street at the First Baptist Church.

Chris’s proposal included capping the belfry with a temporary (but sturdy!) rubber roof. We are now waiting for Chris’s proposal for installing a permanent roof on which the weathervane can be immediately reinstalled. Depending on cost and the state of our investment funds, we hope to choose the permanent roof option at this time. In any case, the goal is for the work to take place late August or early September.

All members and active friends of the congregation will be notified via email or telephone once the work is actually scheduled.

Seeking Property Project Coordinator!

Contact wendy.dennis@verizon.net or call Wendy 781-246-9751 if interested. ALSO, see the new Property Committee Task List database at:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/WakefieldUU/database>. Feel free to sign up for a task!

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 August 27.

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, and every little bit does help.

John Swanson (781) 245-0441

News From The Board of Management—Ministerial Search

As we wish Holly good luck when she moves on to her new position, the Board of Management (BOM) has begun the process of hiring a Consulting Minister with the goals of having continuity in the pulpit and pastoral care coverage for the members and friends of our congregation.

Here is the plan: The BOM, with input from the congregation, will work with the Mass Bay District and the UUA Ministerial Transitions Office to hire a part-time Consulting Minister. If a good match has not been found after interviewing initial candidates, we will continue the search and implement “Plan B” in the meantime.

Plan B has the same priorities of continuity in the pulpit and pastoral care coverage. We are researching alternative ways to ensure basic coverage if we are unable to find a good match for a consulting minister by September. These include reaching out to local ministers, both UU and nondenominational, to see if any are available for "on call" pastoral needs. We will check the Guest Preacher list for ministers or speakers who might be interested in committing to a certain number of Sundays during the church year. These would be paid by a specific contract or per diem rate, as negotiated and within the approved budget. We are also open to any suggestions from anyone in the congregation, and look forward to any other ideas that should be considered.

To clarify what it means to have a "Consulting" Minister, and why we are opting for a Consulting Minister instead of an Interim Minister and/or a search for a “called” minister, here are some comparisons between called, interim, and consulting ministers:

A **Called Minister** is hired by congregational vote after an in-depth search process and signs a perpetual contract that can only be ended by the minister resigning or the congregation voting to fire the minister. This is a serious, hopefully long-term commitment that should be made only when the congregation is financially secure and has a very clear idea of its mission and what sort of minister would be a good match.

An **Interim Minister** is hired by the BOM with the specific understanding that he or she will help the congregation transition between called ministers (or to a called minister) and can also help the congregation address and heal problems as well as assist with issues such as lay leadership, growth, or mission development. An Interim minister can only serve for one or at most two years and cannot be called by that congregation without a waiting period of three years after the end of the initial term.

A **Consulting Minister**, like an Interim Minister, can help a congregation through transitions and coach a congregation in areas such as lay leadership, growth, or mission development. A Consulting Minister, in contrast to an Interim Minister, can serve for any number of years and, if the congregation so chooses, the consulting minister can be called at any time. Like an Interim Minister, a Consulting Minister is hired by the BOM rather than by a congregational vote and is hired via a negotiated contract that must be renewed each year. In addition, the BOM (with input from the congregation, of course!) can specify/negotiate what duties for which the Consulting Minister will be responsible and how much time should be spent in each area.

We have posted two documents on our website that will help you understand all the details and differences:

http://www.wakefielduu.org/Big_ideas_about_Ministry.pdf

http://www.wakefielduu.org/interim_consulting_ministries.pdf

Note: these are direct/private links and are not reachable via a link from the main website.

If you do not have online access, please call Wendy at 781-245-9751 for hard copies of these documents. And, please email or call any BOM member with your thoughts and concerns.

See separate article on the upcoming Board Retreat and goals for developing and articulating our mission statement.

- Wendy Dennis, President
for the Board of Management

From Our Music Director:

Sparkling June Music

A happy sunny day (June 1st) in the upper seventies perfectly matched the choir's mood as Alla had the adult choir (Wendy, Janine, Janet & Jeff) raising the roof with the infectious spiritual "Sit Down Servant", and soon after romping through the merry sixteenth century piece "Sing We and Chant It."

The music director energetically accompanied a favorite folk song from the 1960's penned by a member of the Kingston Trio, John Stewart (1939-2008). The song has an uplifting text looking forward to the future: "The New Frontier". Jr. Choir & Ensemble singers included Janet, Marcia, Annette, Cole, Emma and Jeff. Perhaps the weather was just *too* nice, inasmuch as there were plenty of seats left. The usher count was 29 adults and 4 children. Holly delivered her final sermon in her tenure here: "Elements of Change".

In Memory of Carl Brown

Our church people appeared in greater numbers later in the afternoon (usher count 63 adults and 8 kids) for a celebration of the life of Carl Brown, Jr. – longtime and beloved member of this church. Holly delivered a splendid eulogy. Diane Brown chose her father's favorite hymns: "Morning Has Broken", "Spirit of Life", "Let There Be Peace On Earth". Carl had never been shy about telling the choir over the years which songs he liked. Therefore it was a no-brainer to put "Velvet Shoes" on the list. To forestall any head scratching from those sitting in the pews, Wendy Dennis thought it prudent to explain, and did, why we were singing a winter song about snow on a lovely June day. But you've all heard that story. Carl enjoyed being teased and the choir lost no opportunity when it came to "Velvet Shoes". We dedicated its performance to him every year both in church and in the



newspaper (he loved it). And because we have four choral settings of the Elinor Wylie poem, we were able to try to embarrass Carl four times this past winter. Ah, Carl. We're gonna miss ya.

In a nod to Carl's fondness for the 23rd Psalm the choir (all the singers from the morning service plus Kelli) performed a lovely piece arranged from an Old Southern Hymn Tune: "My Shepherd Will Supply My Need". We also included a lively seventeenth century song by Henry Purcell: "Nymphs and Shepherds". The music director spoke aloud to the congregation relating how Carl had once taken him aside and wryly said in his understated way, "You can do that one again". Well Carl, we have. And it was for you.

Carl's mortal remains reside in Lakeside Cemetery here in Wakefield. The Rev. Holly Baylies performed the funeral service on May 19.

Closing Sunday, and music dedicated to Arthur Brooks

Closing Sunday's music asked that we hold on to our dreams and to follow where the music takes us. The choral anthems that the adult choir (Wendy Dennis, Janet Schuchter, and Jeff Workman) sang were the inspiring "Hold On To Your Dreams" by Andrea Klouse and a newly published song by that grandmaster of choral composers Jay Althouse: "The Music of Life". The latter piece has a kind of samba rhythm to it that works well with the Spanish lyrics.

Because the choir likes "The Music of Life" so much, we figured that our biggest fan would too. So we dedicated our performance that morning to his memory. Alas, the man we speak of died in 2006. Arthur Brooks was a delight; he'd come early every Sunday morning and listen to us practice. Holly wrote a piece about him for the July 2006 Gleam. He's still in our thoughts and that's how it should be. Here's what Holly wrote:

"Arthur Brooks was a treasured member of this congregation who passed from this life on May 11, 2006. His Celebration of Life took place at our church on July 12, 2006.

As a young man Arthur was a talented figure skater with his eyes on the Olympics until he contracted polio which ended his skating career. Arthur attended Northeastern University for his Bachelors and Masters degrees in biochemistry and doctorate in physiology from the School of Arts and Sciences. He taught at Graham Community College, served as a consultant to the nursing programs at Mt. Auburn Hospital and did further graduate studies at Stanford. He served on the staff at Labouré College in Milton for 15 years before retiring. Arthur was a very talented artist whose mosaics were of museum quality; he was a great cook and a devoted friend to all who knew and cared for him.

Arthur was a colorful and well-liked member of this church – the only one he ever joined and he treasured his relationship with this congregation. After his death his created remains went to relatives in North Carolina.”

Conducting various elements of Closing Sunday/ Flower Communion Sunday were the Rev. Holly Baylies, Rev. Jackie Clement, DRE Starbuck Hersey and Annette Dupon. The ushers counted 50 adults and 9 children on a sunny 88° day.

Still more music was performed during this service: The Jr. Choir & Ensemble sang a song whose text takes its cue from the long-standing tradition of plucking-off flower petals one-by-one to determine if your crush feels the same as you. The music director wrote the song expressly for this service called “Tell Me Now – Loves Me, Loves Me Not?” Jeff knew he was running a risk raising the ire of the Church Mice. After all, everybody was holding flowers in their hands and could have quickly covered the sanctuary floor with petals in their zeal to find the answer out for themselves. Fortunately for him folks discretely decided to wait until they got home...

A conspiracy amongst the Jr. Choir & Ensemble singers produced a surprise tribute to the music director. In her first-ever public guitar-playing debut, Annette Dupon ably accompanied herself and singers Marcia Calvin, Janet Schuchter, Cole

and Emma Kraus. They’d taken the Bob Dylan classic “Mr. Tambourine Man” and cleverly altered it into “Mr. Music Director”.

The music director is grateful to the ministers for allowing his singers multiple opportunities to perform – and a little stunned (but quite delighted) that Annette and the Jr. Choir & Ensemble would see fit to honor him so.

On the Road With the Choir

Traveling in one vehicle, the choir embarked on a road trip from the church with Kelly Parece driving on June 22. Wendy, Janine, Janet and Jeff were all passengers. We were headed for Hingham for the Ordination of Carol Allman-Morton at the Old Ship Church. There, one more singer awaited to swell our ranks: Bob Allman (Carol’s dad).

We were delighted to have been invited to sing, despite the fact that Old Ship has its own choir. Maybe it was because we were the “visiting” choir or just because we were pushy, but we managed to snag ourselves two anthem slots in the service.

Weeks before we spent considerable chunks of weeknight rehearsals figuring out which of the many songs in our repertoire would be both appropriate and also show off our voices to their best advantage. Eventually we hit upon just the right ones: a zippy contemporary choir song called “Eja, Eja!” by Mary Lynn Lightfoot; and a gentle song that Bob Allman and Carol too are especially fond of: “The Gift of Love” arranged by Hal Hopson. It was a treat for us having Bob sing with us again. He was a mainstay in our choir for years before he moved to Vermont.

The Old Ship’s choir sang an ambitious Randall Thompson piece with words by poet Robert Frost.

In addition to us, other members of our congregation motored down to be a part of the celebration. A good time was had by all. Thanks for driving, Kelli!

Adult Choir practice will move from Monday to Tuesday evening, 7:00 pm on September 9.

Wakefield UU Church August 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 (Joyful Hands – last day of two week session)	2
3 9:00 am Walk at Breakheart 10:30 am Breakfast at Brothers	4 Choir 7:00-8:30 pm	5 (Dog Training 6:30-7:30)	6 WHS Recent Alum Fundraiser Concert for our church 7:00 pm	7	8	9 BOM Retreat at Janine Fabiano's home 9:00 am
10 9:00 am Walk at Breakheart 10:30 am Breakfast at Brothers 4-8pm "Wakefieldstock" if raining.	11 no choir 7 Worship Committee 7:30 pm <i>Food Coop order due on Sunday 8/10!</i>	12 (Dog Training 6:30-7:30) Annual Church Auction meeting 7:00 pm	13 Tentative BOM 7:30 pm. To be determined.	14 Food Coop Pickup (Riverside party 3:30 pm)	15	16 Tentative WHS Recent Alum Fundraiser Concert for food pantry 7:00 pm
17 9:00 am Walk at Breakheart 10:30 am Breakfast at Brothers	18 Choir 7:00-8:30 pm Group A 7:00 pm	19 (Dog Training 6:30-7:30)	20	21	22	23
24 9:00 am Walk at Breakheart 10:30 am Breakfast at Brothers BACHA meeting 1:00 pm (LTC)	25 Choir 7:00-8:30 pm	26 (Dog Training 6:30-7:30)	27	28	29	30
31 9:00 am Walk at Breakheart 10:30 am Breakfast at Brothers		September 7 is: Opening Sunday!			All meetings & events are at the church unless otherwise noted	() parenthesis represents rentals <i>italics</i> for dates of general interest

Unitarian Universalist Church of Wakefield
 PO Box 529
 Wakefield MA 01880

Stamp
