

The Light of Truth, The Warmth of Love and The Energy of Action.

June 2, 2010

Plumb Line



Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Andover (978) 475-4454

Contents

From the Minister	2
From the RE	3
Wheel of Life	3
Summer services.....	4
Women's Federation Grants.....	4
Calendar.....	5

*I will set a plumb line
in the midst of my
people-*

Amos.

Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Andover

*Six Locke Street
Andover, MA 01810*

978 475-4454

www.uuandover.org

Office Hours:

September - June

Monday, Wednesday

9-3 pm

Thursday 4-8pm



Sunday, June 6. Worship at the UUCiA's Cape Cod Retreat.

This will be an informal, participatory worship led by Rev. Lara Hoke.
(There will be no service at 6 Locke Street on this Sunday.)

*If you are a musician and would like to play something at this service,
please let Lara know!*

Wednesday, June 9, 6:00 p.m.

Annual Meeting

Sunday Service, June 13, 10:30 a.m.

"Why I'm Still a UU" with Rev. Lara Hoke.

Lara was raised a Unitarian Universalist, and after 41 years she still is a UU. But really, *why?* This is an important matter to consider on this particular Sunday, which will be New Member Sunday. We will welcome at least three new members to the UUCiA, an exciting time! *If you would like to join the UUCiA, please contact either Rev. Lara Hoke or Lauren Miller, chair of the Congregational Family Committee.*



Plumb Excited about Traveling

This summer, if all goes as planned, I will have three major travels. The first will be at the end of June, when I go to Minneapolis, MN for the annual UU General Assembly. Jumping ahead, the third will be in August, when I go to Wilmington, OH to attend training at the National Peace Academy. The middle trip is the most exotic, when my partner Emily and I will take our first trip abroad in a decade. In July, we'll spend ten days in Costa Rica. This will be the most traveling I've done in years. And my "warm up" will be our wonderful UUCiA retreat in Cape Cod this coming weekend. I can't wait!

The good news is, you don't have to go far to have an authentic travel experience. Since the economy took its downturn, you've probably heard talk about "stay-cations". The idea is, you travel close to home, maybe take day trips. Actually, that's a great idea. In addition to saving money, it's environmentally sound to stay closer to home. And also, there's nothing inherently better about going to Costa Rica for the first time than going to, say, Cape Cod for the first time. It's true; there's a romance about traveling overseas. But the truth is, there are plenty of wonderful things you've never experienced before in a modest radius around your own home.

Now and then, I like to drive somewhere close to home (for instance, my commute from Worcester to Andover) and pretend that I am a traveler from far away, seeing the area for the first time ever. It reminds me of chapter 47 of the *Tao Te Ching* (the great scripture of Taoism): "Without going outside, you may know the whole world. Without looking through the window, you may see the ways of heaven. The farther you go, the less you know. Thus the sage knows without traveling; he sees without looking; she works without doing."

Those words from the *Tao Te Ching* might sound like an argument against traveling. But like most scriptures from the world's great religions, I don't take it quite that literally. For me, it means that you don't have to go far to see much; it's your mind and mindset that helps you arrive at your true destination, which is wisdom and deep knowing.

Sometimes I look around as I'm driving, and I remember that the Native Americans didn't really understand the European settlers and their ideas about property. Famously, the Native Americans thought it very odd that anyone would think they owned the land. I remember this, and for just a few minutes it feels like the land I'm seeing belongs to me, to you, to everyone, to no one. All the boundaries between towns and states and nation states are fictions created by governments local and international. All the private property? Another fiction. When I'm traveling near or far and achieve this mindset, I experience the transcendent reality that I was *so lucky* to be born on this beautiful planet, with all its diversity. What a place!

This summer, to the extent that your health and finances and schedule allow, I hope you'll "catch the trade winds in your sails", to quote Mark Twain. May you (in the words of Walt Whitman) "look up and down no road but it stretches and waits for you – [may you] know the universe itself as a road – as many roads – as roads for traveling souls."

In faith,

Lara



From the RE Corner

Thank you to everyone who celebrated the Flower Communion and our children and youth last Sunday.

I hope all of you got to see their art work that was hanging up.

This has been an exciting year for our young people; they have created a community that is important to them.

I hope next year they will have the chance to meet more of you. They are a great group of children and we are blessed to have them.

I look forward to spending the weekend with some of you at Cape Cod this weekend.

Keep the bids coming for the Auction.

Congratulations to all our graduates.

- David Field is graduating from Philiips Academy and will be attending MIT in the fall.
- Dylan Epstein and Eddie Powers are graduating from West Middle School and will be attending Andover High School.
- Robbie Powers will be graduating from West Elementary and will be attending West Middle School.

Congratulations to all of you!

In Peace, Thea

A Month of Sundays

Sunday, June 20, 10:30 a.m. Father's Day Service.

Sunday, June 27, 9:30 a.m. Summer services begin

Wheel of Life

It was such a joy to witness the dedication of Ella Grace Genier on May 23, especially for those of us who remember her mom, Samantha, as a tiny tot! Sam and her spouse Sue Alley were joined by Ella's grandparents, Bob and Cyndy Genier and Cynthia and Jim Alley, as well as Ella's great grandparents, Ella (her namesake) and Victor Phelps for the wonderful service.

We received word last week that Laura Donner has moved from her Lowell St. home to Atria Marland Place, 15 Stevens St. in Andover. Laura is in Apt. 338.

Summer Services

Opportunity awaits! Have you been impressed with our congregation's volunteer speakers on Sunday mornings? Wondered if maybe you have a sermon or two in you? Now you can take the plunge with minimal risk. Offer a summer service.

The venue is informal, the audience generally small, and there are outlines and suggested topics ready to help you out.

If this appeals to you, pick a Sunday and sign your name. The services start at 9:30 in the summer and commence on June 27, running through August 29, with no service on July 4. If you have any questions, please contact Betsy Black, betsyb01@yahoo.com or 978-475-6343, or any other member of the Worship Committee.

The Worship Committee.

Women's Federation Grants

Over the last 35 years, the Women's Federation of our congregation has provided \$60,000 from funds it maintains for extra-budgetary needs that support the work, activities, property and programs of UUCiA. We are now soliciting grants which may be submitted by staff or laypersons and the applications are available in the office. Applications should be returned to the office by Wednesday, June 9.

On Sunday, June 13th following the worship service all the women of the congregation are invited to attend a meeting to discuss and vote on the grant requests. The dues to participate are \$1 and will be accepted at the meeting!

For questions or more information, contact Nancy Mulvey or Gail Ens Dorf.

UU Stitchers

The UU Stitchers will meet at the home of Gail Ens Dorf on Tuesday, June 8 from 7-9 p.m. Join us for stitching and conversation. For more information contact Gail Ens Dorf.

Book Discussion Group

Our next book for discussion on June 15 is Tinkers, the Pulitzer Prize winning novel by Paul Harding. All are welcome to attend.

Summer Pot Lucks

We will begin our summer potlucks on Wednesday nights starting on June 30. Summer potlucks are a family-friendly opportunity to stay connected.

The host provides paper goods, plastic ware, coffee, and some beverages. The guests provide food (appetizer, main course, salad, or dessert) and lawn chairs. We gather at 6:00 PM. And have dinner at 6:30. If you can host an evening, please contact Gail Ens Dorf.

June 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 9:30a Choir Rehearsal 10:30a Sunday Service	31 3p Keys for Kids 3 - 8 pm	1 3p Keys for Kids 3 - 8 pm 7p Circle of Friends	2 7:30p Worship Committee	3 3p Keys for Kids 3 - 8 pm	4 12p Busy	5 9a Keys for Kids 9 - 2 pm
6 UUCiA Annual Retreat 10:30a No service at UUCiA	7 3p Keys for Kids 3 - 8 pm	8 3p Keys for Kids 3 - 8 pm	9 6p Annual Meeting	10 3p Keys for Kids 3 - 8 pm 7:15p Board Meeting	11 12p Busy 6p Busy	12 9a Keys for Kids 9 - 2 pm 10a Isha Yoga
13 9:30a Choir Rehearsal 10:30a Sunday Service	14 3p Keys for Kids 3 - 8 pm	15 3p Keys for Kids 3 - 8 pm 7:30p Book Discussion	16 7:15p Building Your Own Theology (BYOT)	17 3p Keys for Kids 3 - 8 pm	18 12p Busy	19 9a Earth Circle 9a Keys for Kids 9 - 2 pm
20 9:30a Choir Rehearsal 10:30a Sunday Service:	21 3p Keys for Kids 3 - 8 pm	22 3p Keys for Kids 3 - 8 pm 7p Circle of Friends 7:30p Amnesty International	23	24 3p Keys for Kids 3 - 8 pm	25 12p Busy 6p Private Event	26 9a Keys for Kids 9 - 2 pm
27 9:30a Summer Service	28 3p Keys for Kids 3 - 8 pm	29 3p Keys for Kids 3 - 8 pm	30	1 3p Keys for Kids 3 - 8 pm	2 12p Busy	3 9a Keys for Kids 9 - 2 pm