

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

December 16, 2009

# Plumb Line



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

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*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](http://www.uuandover.org)

### Office Hours:

**September - June  
Monday, Wednesday  
9-3 pm  
Thursday 4-8pm**



### **Sunday Service, December 20, 10:30 a.m.**

#### **"Pageant" with Thea Sapiro**

The pageant is coming and it's something we've never done before so don't miss it. It's going to be interactive: there will be gift giving; tree decorating; making cards and singing. To find out exactly what we will be doing, you need to be there.

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### **Sunday, December 20, 7:00 pm**

#### **Yule Celebration**

Come sing, dance, and make merry at our annual Yule celebration, we will mark the winter solstice with a ritual around an outdoor bonfire followed by a wassail party indoors.

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### **Thursday, December 24, 7:00 p.m.**

#### **"Christmas Eve Service"**

Plan now to join us for our traditional candlelight Christmas Eve service. We will have beautiful music, traditional readings, and lots of singing of the favorite carols.

There will be refreshments following the service, a special time to greet new and old friends. Please bring a finger food such as cookies, cheese and crackers, or snack to share.



## **Plumb Excited: Jazzed about December!**

I just love this time of year. I truly do. Naturally there are some wonderful holidays for bringing light into the darkest time of the year (Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, Solstice, Yule... and for those who follow my blog, there's also Chalice – *go to [revhoke.blogspot.com](http://revhoke.blogspot.com) to learn more*).

But on top of all that, we just had one of the most enjoyable nights I've experienced in quite a while – namely, the Jazz Party on December 12 featuring "Day for Night", an incredibly talented band. Day for Night played in our sanctuary at the UUCiA, and along with the tables, snacks, drinks, special lighting, and even a little bit of dancing, completely transformed the space into a (smoke free!) jazz club. The band features UUCiA member Patty Brayden on vocals; as much as I'd heard in advance what a wonderful singer Patty was, I still found myself utterly amazed at her talent. Other band members include Patty's husband, John Finbury, on keyboard; Dave Hickernell on bass; George Hicks on guitar; Kevin Mara on drums; and Mike Patrishin on woodwinds (tenor and alto sax, clarinet, and flute). All of these musicians were pretty incredible, whether playing together or taking some tasty solos. *Read more about the band at [dayfornightjazz.com](http://dayfornightjazz.com).*

In addition to hearing some great jazz and enjoying each other's company, the Jazz Party was a gift to the UUCiA in the literal sense. The performance was an auction item from last year's UUCiA auction. Luckily for us, the auction winners decided to have the performance in our sanctuary and open it up for others to come and enjoy. And because of that, the UUCiA raised about \$800! So thank you to Day for Night for donating the performance, and thank you to the auction winners for sharing the wealth literally and figuratively.

While I'm at it, thank you to the Congregational Family for all you did to set up and clean up for the evening, and for providing and selling snacks and drinks. Thank you to everyone else who pitched in to help that night, and to all of you who came to be a part of it. What a wonderful congregation you are!

To quote from Psalm 133 (found in our own hymnal at 433), "How rare it is, how lovely, this fellowship of those who meet together." I'm plumb excited to be a part of it.

In faith,

Lara





### **President's Report**

Locke Street was witness to a spectacular evening of music with Patty Brayden and John Finbury's jazz ensemble, Day for Night last Saturday. To paraphrase one of Patty's tunes 'If that wasn't great music, it will have to do until the real thing comes along!' We have more coming along including our Christmas Pageant on December 20th and our Christmas Eve service on the 24th. They should be wonderful events for us and worth your attendance.

The Women's Spirituality Group will begin part two of their program in January. Rev. Lara Hoke is planning an adult discussion/education series for after the New Year. Our Small Group Ministry Program will also be a focus when the New Year starts.

In January, we have our semi-annual Congregational Meeting toward the end of the month and it is a time for pulse taking - yes, we do have a pulse! and a chance to get your input on what direction we should be taking now. We will have the usual important reports but more importantly, we need to have a discussion on our current situation and how we move forward. Date and time will be available shortly.

So, there is a lot going on and I hope you will get involved. There are people to meet, stuff to learn and things worth doing so join with your community as we enter the heart of our congregational year.

Thank you,

Bob Rougvie, President



### **From the RE Corner**

Happy Holidays!

As Unitarian Universalists we are fortunate enough to understand and appreciate all the stories that make up the holiday celebrations of the winter season from Hanukkah and the miracle of lights, to Christmas and the joy of birth, to yule and welcoming the beginning days of longer sunlight. A couple of things all these celebrations have in common are being with family and friends and sometimes sharing gifts.

Come to church this Sunday and be part of sharing your gifts with each other, the gifts we are all are born with.

Also: Want to bring a gift? Please do. We are collecting white socks and undershirts, mittens, hats and scarves for Bread and Roses. And board games and cards for Lazarus House.

Peace, Thea

### **A Month of Sundays**

**Thursday, December 24, 7 p.m. "Christmas Eve Service"** Plan now to join us for our traditional candlelight Christmas Eve service. We will have beautiful music, traditional readings, and lots of singing of the favorite carols. There will be refreshments following the service, a special time to greet new and old friends. Please bring a finger food such as cookies, cheese and crackers, or snack to share.

**Sunday, December 27, 10:30 a.m. "Clean Your Slate", with Rev. Lara Hoke.** This Sunday, we will be on the cusp of a new year. At the cusp, each of us is a bit like the Roman god Janus, with part of us looking back and part of us looking forward. Let us begin 2010 hopefully, and together.

**Sunday, January 3, 10:30 a.m. "The veil between mysticism and science is thin.** Sandy Hitchins and Joe Zahka will explore the mystic and scientific using Dan Brown's "The Lost Symbol" as a guide."

**Sunday, January 10, 10:30 a.m. "Doting on Voting: the 5th Principle", with Rev. Lara Hoke.** We UUs "dote" on the 1st principle (inherent worth and dignity of every person) and the 7th principle (interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part). What about the 5th UU principle, "the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large"? Lara will help us think together about what this might mean for us before we vote on January 19.

### **Gifts and more gifts**

Want to bring a gift? Please do. We are collecting white socks and undershirts, mittens, hats and scarves for Bread and Roses. And board games and cards for Lazarus House.

### **Yule Celebration**

Come sing, dance, and make merry at our annual Yule celebration on Sunday, December 20 at 7:00 pm at the home of Susan Foster and Ron Scruggs, 14 High Vale Lane, Andover. We will mark the winter solstice with a ritual around an outdoor bonfire followed by a wassail party indoors. Let me know if you would be willing to call a quarter or help out in some other way (set-up, fire building and tending, logistics during the ritual, etc.). Please dress warmly and bring finger food to share. In case of inclement weather, the celebration will be held at 6 Locke St. In the event that roads are impassable because of a major snowstorm, the snow date will be Sunday, December 27. For information or directions, call 978-470-1134 or email Susan at [mirrormaid@verizon.net](mailto:mirrormaid@verizon.net).

### **Choir rehearsal**

The choir will not be singing an anthem this Sunday, but there will be a rehearsal at 9:30 to prepare for the Christmas Eve service and a second rehearsal at 5:45 on Christmas Eve prior to the service.

### **Guest at Your Table**

Don't forget to keep filling your Guest at Your Table box with contributions for the UU Service Committee that supports human rights and social justice projects around the world. There are still boxes at the rear of the sanctuary as well as envelopes for those who just want to write a check. Our contributions will be forwarded in early January.

### **Book Discussion Group**

The book discussion group will meet on Tuesday, January 26, at 7:30 p.m. to discuss *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* by Stieg Larsson. We will meet at the home of Betsy Black, 16 Rock O'Dundee Rd. February's book is *The Way We Live Now* by Anthony Trollope, for discussion on Feb. 16. All are welcome to attend.

### **UU Stitchers**

The UU Stitchers will meet at the home of Sharon Magnuson on Tuesday, January 12th from 7-9 p.m. Please join us for stitching and conversation. For more information contact Gail Ens Dorf (978-685-5992).

### **Red Cross Blood Drive at Temple Emanuel in Andover.**

Tuesday, January 12, from 1:30 to 7:00 p.m. Although walk-ins will be welcomed, it is strongly recommended that participants make appointments by calling 1-800-GIVE LIFE. Pizza and homemade baked items will be available for donors. Thank you very much for your support!

# Happy Holidays!!



**December 2009**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 <b>9:30a</b> <b>Choir</b> <b>Rehearsal</b> <b>10:30a</b> <b>Sunday</b> <b>Service:</b>	30 3p Keys for Kids 3 - 8 pm	1 3p Keys for Kids 3 - 8 pm <b>7:30p</b> <b>Worship</b> <b>Committee</b>	2 <b>6:30p Women's</b> <b>Spirituality</b>	3 3p Keys for Kids 3 - 8 pm	4 12p Busy <b>6:30p</b> <b>Pasta Pot</b> <b>Luck</b>	5 9a Keys for Kids 9 - 2 pm 1p Private event
6 <b>9:30a</b> <b>Choir</b> <b>Rehearsal</b> <b>10:30a</b> <b>Sunday</b> <b>Service:</b> <b>6p</b> <b>Woman's</b> <b>Spirituality</b> <b>Series</b>	7 3p Keys for Kids 3 - 8 pm	8 3p Keys for Kids 3 - 8 pm	9 <b>7:30p</b> <b>Congregational</b> <b>Family</b> <b>Committee</b>	10 3p Keys for Kids 3 - 8 pm 7p Circle of Friends <b>7:15p</b> <b>Board</b> <b>Meeting</b>	11 12p Busy 6p Busy	12 9a Keys for Kids 9 - 2 pm 10a Isha Yoga <b>5p UUCiA</b> <b>Concert/party</b>
13 <b>9:30a</b> <b>Choir</b> <b>Rehearsal</b> <b>10:30a</b> <b>Sunday</b> <b>Service:</b>	14 3p Keys for Kids 3 - 8 pm	15 3p Keys for Kids 3 - 8 pm <b>7:30p Book</b> <b>Discussion</b>	16	17 3p Keys for Kids 3 - 8 pm	18 12p Busy	19 9a Keys for Kids 9 - 2 pm
20 <b>9:30a</b> <b>Choir</b> <b>Rehearsal</b> <b>10:30a</b> <b>Sunday</b> <b>Service:</b> <b>7p Earth</b> <b>Circle</b>	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	26 9a Keys for Kids 9 - 2 pm
27 <b>9:30a</b> <b>Choir</b> <b>Rehearsal</b> <b>10:30a</b> <b>Sunday</b> <b>Service:</b>	28 3p Keys for Kids 3 - 8 pm	29 3p Keys for Kids 3 - 8 pm	30	31 3p Keys for Kids 3 - 8 pm	1 12p Busy	2 9a Keys for Kids 9 - 2 pm