

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

January 27, 2010

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

Office Hours:

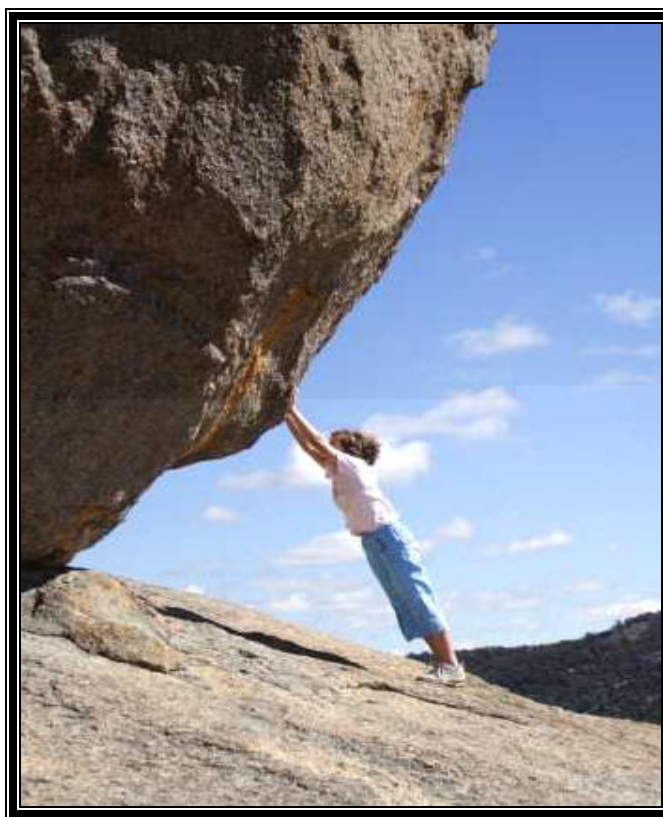
September - June

Monday, Wednesday

9-3 pm

Thursday 4-8pm

The Power of Positive Thinking



Sunday Service, January 31, 10:30 a.m.

"Positively 'Bright-Sided'?" with Rev. Lara Hoke

For many decades, we have heard about Dr. Norman Vincent Peale's *The Power of Positive Thinking*. In more recent times, we've heard about "The Secret" and the "Law of Attraction". But how far does positive thinking really get us? Lara will consider "the power of positive thinking" and the "Law of Attraction" in light of Barbara Ehrenreich's new book, *Bright-Sided*. A congregational meeting follows the service.



Plumb Excited: The Long Haul

During our Martin Luther King Sunday on January 17, 2010, we took up a special collection to help the people of Haiti after the devastating 7.0 earthquake of January 12. Together, we raised \$497 which is being sent to the joint UUSC/UUA Haiti Earthquake Relief Fund. Thank you to those of you present who made donations, and thank you to those of you who donated at other times and in other ways to help the earthquake victims. These donations add up quickly. As of January 22, the joint UUA/UUSC fund had received 4214 donations totaling \$425,512.

If you would like to make a contribution by check, please make it payable to "UUSC/UUA Haiti Earthquake Relief Fund" and mail it to:

UUSC
P.O. Box 844001
Boston, MA 02284-4001.

We at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Andover as well as fellow Unitarian Universalists elsewhere are responding admirably, so far, to this crisis. In fact, crises tend to bring out the best in us. But we cannot forget the importance of being there for the long haul. I hope that we will pay attention to the situation in Haiti as time goes on, just as so many Unitarian Universalists have done after Hurricane Katrina devastated New Orleans. We must continue to respond to the crisis over time, as a meaningful response to any crisis requires commitment.

Congregations are about commitment, in fact. According to the Merriam-Webster dictionary, "commitment" means "an agreement or pledge to do something in the future ... the state or an instance of being obligated or emotionally impelled". At our congregational meeting after the Sunday service on January 31, we have a chance to take stock. We have a valuable opportunity to think about what it is that we pledge to do together in the future. We have a chance to think about what we feel emotionally impelled to do for our community and the world beyond it.

I continue to be so impressed by this congregation. And it's your commitment to this congregation and to your community, both locally and globally, that drives it all. Thank you for your willingness to give of yourselves to our important ministries. The work of building a beloved community is a long haul commitment, as is helping the people of Haiti. I thank you for your many commitments, and for making the UUCiA what it is. I remain plumb excited to be a part of it.

In faith,

Lara



President's Report

As I mentioned in the last Plumb Line, our Mid Year Congregational Meeting is next Sunday after coffee hour. I expect it to last no more than an hour, perhaps less. At the moment, we are in a decent position. Our financials are doing well as you will see from our Treasurer's Report. Our ministerial position could not be better with the addition of the Rev. Lara Hokes as our part time minister. She has been just wonderful in many ways from the pulpit (such as ours is!) to the committee meetings and to contacts with individual members.

In late fall, our service attendance numbers reached what we hope was our low point. Since then, we have seen a gradual, slow increase in both member and visitor attendance. Some of those visitors have indicated a willingness to continue coming. The questions we will be discussing are where and how do we go from here. The Board and the Congregational Family Committee have some ideas but, as always, your guidance is critical.

We will also be discussing committee structures and any changes, if any, we wish to implement. Last but not least, the UUA wishes us to vote on some statements of conscience which are listed elsewhere in this Plumb Line.

Thank you all for your support this year and I look forward to seeing you this Sunday.

Bob Rougvie, President.



From the RE Corner

Last week we painted a bird house, blew bubbles and talked about the chalice.

We had a lot of fun.

This Sunday we will make puppets and learn the UU song.
Look for us at coffee hour.

Peace, Thea:

UUA Polls

All members:

The UUA is asking us to conduct two polls within our Congregation on two Statements of Conscience. Please review both and we will have a short discussion, if needed and a vote at our Mid-Year Meeting this coming Sunday. Thank you

Bob Rougvie
President

What are you voting on?

Poll #1: Congregational Poll on Draft Statement of Conscience (SOC): For a Draft Statement of Conscience (SOC) to appear on the 2010 General Assembly Final Agenda, our UUA bylaws require a minimum of 25% of certified congregations to participate in the ballot vote on whether the Draft SOC should be placed on the Final Agenda.

The complete text of the Draft SOC on Peacemaking appears at www.uua.org/socialjustice/issuesprocess/currentissues/peacemaking/121606.shtml.

Poll #2: Congregational Poll on Proposed Congregational Study/Action Issues: The text of the six CSAIs is at www.uua.org/socialjustice/issuesprocess/currentissues/152637.shtml

Vote for no more than five:

- Ending Slavery
- Energy, Peace, and Justice
- Immigration as a Moral Issue
- National Economic Reform: A Moral Imperative
- Nuclear Disarmament
- Revitalizing American Democracy

For more information on Statements of Conscience, see www.uua.org/csw.

A Month of Sundays

Sunday, February 7, 10:30 a.m. "Getting Through the Winter" Gail Forsyth-Vail, guest speaker There is an Anishinabe tale of how Shingebiss, the duck, relies on creativity, courage and perseverance to confront and outlast the Winter-maker who blows his icy breath across the land and waters of the Great Lakes. What do we rely on to help us through the winters of our lives? What does the wintertime still have to teach us?

Gail Forsyth-Vail is the Adult Programs Director at the Unitarian Universalist Association, and author of *Stories in Faith: Exploring our Unitarian Universalist Principles and Sources through Wisdom Tales*, and co-author of *Harvest the Power: Developing Lay Leadership*. She lives in Georgetown with husband Steve, whom she married thirty-one years ago when they were both members of the

Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Andover. Gail preached on Easter last year, and we welcome her back to our pulpit!

Sunday, February 14, 10:30 a.m. "Our Funny Valentines" with Rev. Lara Hoke.

Valentine's Day is about love and romance, but our *real* Valentines are not necessarily lovers in the romantic sense. Lara will consider the different types of Valentines in our lives, as well as what it might mean to "Stand on the Side of Love".

Sunday, February 21, 10:30 a.m. "The Lost Symbol - Science and Spirituality" The veil between science and mysticism is thin. Join Sandy Hitchins and Joe Zahka as they explore the power of the mind from scientific and spiritual perspectives. The service is inspired by the Dan Brown novel, "The Lost Symbol."

Woman's Spirituality

Full Moon Drum Circle

Friday January 29, 7 to 9 p.m. celebrate the full moon with drums and rhythm instruments. All are welcome, no experience necessary. Jane Gossard will teach some African rhythms and lead the drumming. \$15 or sliding scale.

Earth Circle CUUPS

The Earth Circle CUUPS group will celebrate Imbolc this Sunday, January 31, at 5 p.m. Otherwise known as Candlemas, this holiday celebrates the growing daylight and new beginnings in ourselves. There will be a potluck feast following the ritual. For information or directions, please contact Susan Foster at 978-470-1134.

UU Stitchers

The UU Stitchers will meet at the home of Vicki Sutton on Tuesday, February 9th from 7-9 p.m. Please join us for stitching and conversation.

For more information contact Gail Ens Dorf (978-685-5992)

Pasta Pot Luck

Join us on Friday, February 5 for Pasta Pot luck, Lorraine and Vinny Luisi will provide one of their pasta dishes, bring salad, bread, beverage or dessert. It is a great way to start the weekend.

Mass Bay Choir Festival

Sunday February 28, 2010, 2:15-4pm

First Unitarian Society in Newton www.fusn.org

1326 Washington Street

West Newton, MA 02465

Contact: Anne Watson Born, music@fusn.org

Several Mass Bay choirs will be meeting at the First Unitarian Society in Newton to sing for each other and to join in song together. The event will begin at 2:15pm with singers sharing warm-ups. The participating choirs will sing some of their repertoire and we'll close with everyone singing "Choose Something Like a Star," "We Are One," and possibly a couple of other pieces.

Please contact Anne Watson Born for more information (awborn@gmail.com or music@fusn.org)

January 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
10 9:30a Choir Rehearsal 10:30a Sunday Service: 6p Women's Spirituality Series	11 3p Keys for Kids 3 - 8 pm	12 3p Keys for Kids 3 - 8 pm	13 7:30p Congregational Family Committee	14 3p Keys for Kids 3 - 8 pm 7:15p Board Meeting	15 12p Busy	16 9a Keys for Kids 9 - 2 pm
17 9:30a Choir Rehearsal 10:30a Sunday Service: 6p Women's Spirituality Series	18 3p Keys for Kids 3 - 8 pm	19 3p Keys for Kids 3 - 8 pm 7:30p Book Discussion	20	21 3p Keys for Kids 3 - 8 pm	22 12p Busy	23 9a Keys for Kids 9 - 2 pm
24 9:30a Choir Rehearsal 10:30a Sunday Service: 6p Women's Spirituality Series	25 3p Keys for Kids 3 - 8 pm	26 3p Keys for Kids 3 - 8 pm 7p Circle of Friends 7:30p Amnesty International	27	28 3p Keys for Kids 3 - 8 pm	29 12p Busy 6:30p Women's Spirituality	30 9a Keys for Kids 9 - 2 pm
31 9:30a Choir Rehearsal 10:30a Sunday Service: 5p Earth Circle	1 3p Keys for Kids 3 - 8 pm	2 3p Keys for Kids 3 - 8 pm	3 7:30p Worship Committee	4 3p Keys for Kids 3 - 8 pm	5 12p Busy 6:30p Pasta Pot Luck	6 9a Keys for Kids 9 - 2 pm