

# NEWS FROM THE HILL

NEWSLETTER OF THE U.U.

MEETING HOUSE OF CHATHAM

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**MARCH 2011 VOLUME XV NUMBER 3**



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### "NEWS FROM THE HILL"

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**SUNDAY SERVICES** are held at 10:30 AM each week.

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### NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

next month is **THURSDAY**

March 24, 2011. Send items to

Sue Bauer: [Ralphb1234@cs.com](mailto:Ralphb1234@cs.com)



**MAKE  
THE  
DREAM  
COME  
TRUE**



**THE KICKOFF FOR THIS YEAR'S  
STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN WILL BE**

**SUNDAY, MARCH 20.**



**ENJOY VERY SPECIAL REFRESHMENTS  
DURING COFFEE HOUR THAT MORNING**

**AND**

**PICK UP YOUR PLEDGE CARD**



**[READ MORE ABOUT THIS IMPORTANT EVENT ON PAGE 4](#)**

**STAFF MEMBERS****MINISTER:**

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**Board of Trustees**

Walter Diggs, President  
Elsa Bastone, Vice President  
Jack Parsons, Treasurer  
Sybille Colby, Secretary

**At large members:**

Jon Goward  
Ruth Treen  
Dave Hubbard

**Program Council**

Sue Bauer, Chair  
Robin Hubbard, Vice Chair

**VISION STATEMENT**

We, the members and friends of the UUMH, strive:

To apply UU principles in our daily living, social actions, and community service;

To nurture a safe community that encourages intellectual, spiritual, and religious freedom and celebrates all the passages of life;

To welcome diversity and pluralism as essential for our connection with all humanity;

To provide fellowship, friendship, and fun, and to support a creative artistic and musical environment;

To sustain and promote a vital religious and spiritual lifespan education program.

**A MONTH OF SUNDAYS**

March 6                      Roots                                      Rev. Jane Thickestun

Let's take a look at the value of tradition in religion, and the healthy tension involved in keeping it balanced with seeking new forms, creative expressions, and original experience. Our tradition grounds us, gives us roots, so we can fly.

March 13                      You Gotta Have Heart                      Beacon Youth Outreach

The Beacon Youth Outreach will be singing and dancing, and I will offer a bit of reflection on heart, what closes it and how to open it. This will be an unusual service, so you might INVITE A FRIEND!

March 20                      Balancing Acts                                      Rev. Edmund Robinson

Spring kicks off with the Vernal Equinox, when the day and the night are in balance. Our pledge drive kicks off the same day, looking for a budget that is in balance. And in the way we run our church, we are balancing innovation and tradition, the tastes of the present members against those of people who might be attracted by a different presentation. All these balancing acts are related, and mother nature may have some lessons for us.

March 27                      Sisyphus Is Not for Sissies                      Rev. Edmund Robinson

The hardest times in our lives are when meaning breaks down, when it seems that all our labors have been in vain. But we are actually making meaning all the time, and inventing ourselves in the process. Retirement can be one occasion for reinventing yourself.

**Who's preaching this month**

Rev. Jane Thickestun has served UU congregations in Midland, Michigan, and Keene, NH. She is currently serving as chaplain for the HCS Hospice in Keene and at Maplewood Nursing Home in Westmoreland, NH. Jane has degrees in Linguistics and Philosophy and has done just about everything from waitressing to mainframe programming. She lives with her cat, Oliver, in Keene and is an avid contra dancer.

## Sightings

**the Rev. Edmund Robinson**

Now is the winter of our discontent turned to merry sunshine... Spring is just around the corner, folks! It officially arrives at 7:21 PM on Sunday March 20. Not only will spring arrive by then, but our pledge drive will be launched that day! I don't know whether or not the groundhog saw his shadow on February 2, because I was on vacation, but I predict that around the Meeting House, a new spirit will spring forth from the earth along with the crocuses!

There is a lot happening around the place, and you may have missed some of it, so I'll give you a little run-down. Here is the springtime smorgasbord:

First, we have four new members in the last two weeks! I hope this will inspire some of the rest of you who may be sitting on the fence to join us. I'll conduct a new UU class on March 27 and well celebrate our new members on April 17. C'mon in, the water's fine!

Second, we'd like to introduce new people to the Meeting House and the best way to do that is to invite them. So the Membership Committee has declared March 13 as another BRING A FRIEND TO CHURCH SUNDAY.

March 13 will be a special Sunday in another respect because it will be another performance by our Beacon Youth Outreach. They will sing and dance their way into our hearts again, and at coffee hour they will sell the hearts that they made this week to you in order to support homeless shelters. They are Standing On the Side of Love. Our Youth Outreach is a mission program of the church; we impose no obligation on the part of the children or their parents to join the church, but of course we welcome them to participate as they feel the spirit.

Third, Mary Hannah Henderson's story project is moving forward. Mark your calendars for May 21, for that will be an all-day workshop devoted to the project. What is it about? It is about the stories of all of us, and we hope when we finish it we will have a much better idea of what this church is doing, how it got here, and where it needs to go. Stories shape our lives, and our lives shape our stories. There will be a planning meeting on March 19 in the Fleck Room, and we hope to have a committed core of at least a dozen people to help move the project forward. In the next few weeks, you will hear some of our members get up in church to tell their stories. Many thanks to our Board of Trustees, which on February 17th, voted unanimously to support the story project.

Fourth, **our contra dances continue with a dance Feb. 26, this month at the VFW Hall on George Ryder Road**, featuring our town shellfish warden, Stuart Moore, on the fiddle!

Fifth, I am ramping up now for the Summer Concert series, and I could use a little help in organizing it and running it. If you would like to be part of putting it on, please see me. We got a small grant from the Cultural Council, but we will need to solicit sponsorships from local businesses again.

Sixth, I want to start a conversation on retirement, what it means, and how it may require us to reinvent ourselves. I will be starting this conversation on March 10 at 3 PM in the Fleck Room, and whether it continues for more than one session is up to the participants. I invite you to share your thoughts whether you are already retired or are contemplating it.

So as you see, things will be poppin' in the next few months. Let a thousand flowers bloom. But don't put away the parka just yet....

Blessings, Edmund

**NOTE THE CHANGE OF LOCALE FOR THE CONTRA DANCE THIS MONTH**



**No winter lasts forever, no spring skips its turn. (H.Borland)**

## TO ALL MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

“**Make the Dream Come True**” is the theme of this year's Stewardship Campaign (a.k.a. Pledge Drive). Our Stewardship Campaign is the time for members and friends of the Meeting House to pledge their financial contribution for next year's operating expenses. This year's campaign begins on Sunday, March 20 and ends on April 24.

The focus for this year's campaign is to celebrate all of the many contributions you each make to the Meeting House. There are many ways to contribute. Supporting other members during times of crisis or loss is a contribution. Attending services or social events are contributions. Sharing our own knowledge with others is a contribution. Working with a church committee is a contribution. In the same way, answering the church's annual request for a pledge is a contribution.

“**Make the Dream Come True**” is, first of all, a request for participation - with contributions of both time and money. It is a request that we each give of our time as we are able. Without volunteers there would be no activities to attract new members and keep present members coming. Our contributions of time are valuable to the church, but also valuable to us. Whether we feel satisfied that we have been able to help, have enjoyed spending time with others on a group project, or have learned new skills that increase our self-confidence, our gifts of time come back to us. It is our hope that contributions of money to the church, usually in the form of a pledge for the coming year, act the same way. As you are able, you are also asked to make a financial contribution. A pledge results in a feeling of satisfaction that we are contributing our share toward maintaining an institution that is so important to us, that we are helping make the church we enjoy available to others, both now and in the future, and that we are increasing our sense of investment and ownership in all church activities. Without money to pay salaries and maintain our beautiful place of worship, there would not be a UUMH.

Renew your commitment to a strong vibrant and healthy Meeting House in both financial and volunteer efforts. Remember this is your church and you can make the difference between success and just muddling along. Each of us must renew our commitment for this to happen. By answering this call, you will be a part of guaranteeing the future of the UUMH and be proud of the level of financial and volunteer commitment.

Remember, without you all of this cannot happen. In the past you have always answered the call, and this is your opportunity to become part of an even more closely knit family, so that we will be able to continue the work so vital to all of us. The Stewardship Committee understands that the hard realities of the past three years of economic uncertainty have raised our fears of our own economic future. We would like you to take as large a leap of faith as you can to help us in this time of need. During this past year the economy appears more stable, and financial markets have improved. We hope that you will consider this when making your pledge.

Last but not least, this year we will reach out and meet with all of our members to inform you personally of our **Dream** and how you can be a part of it.

for the Stewardship Committee,  
Ralph Bauer, Chair



## MORE MARCH HAPPENINGS

**March 8 Religion and Science** 5PM, Fleck Room. Judy Reed will lead us in a discussion of Julian Jaynes' theory about the origin of consciousness from his book *The Origin of Consciousness in the Breakdown of the Bicameral Mind*.

**March 9 Ash Wednesday observance** with Edmund. 5 PM, Sanctuary. Ash Wednesday is the beginning of Lent in the Christian calendar. As I have done for the past two years, I will observe with a reading of T.S. Eliot's poem "Ash Wednesday" in the sanctuary, with musical interludes. We will have a discussion before the reading to introduce the poem. Eliot is the closest thing we have to a UU apostate, having left the Unitarianism in which he was raised for a conservative form of Anglicanism. This poem, his most religious, is a lament for the decline of the Christian worldview which many of us may not share, but it also touches on universal themes and contains unforgettable images. Any musicians are welcome to contribute contemplative instrumental pieces for the interludes. No actual ashes will be used in this observance.

**March 10 Reinventing ourselves in Retirement: a conversation.** I, whom am not retired, will facilitate a conversation about what retirement means in the lives of those who have gone through it. It is intended both for retirees and for those contemplating retirement. In a culture where people are defined by their work, what does it do to your sense of self to stop working? We will meet in the Fleck room from 3:00 to 4:30 PM on Thursday, March 10. This could be a one-shot discussion group or an ongoing one at the option of the participants.

## PASTORAL CARE REMINDER

The Meeting House is currently updating emergency information for our members. Quite some time ago yellow contact cards were distributed and many of you filled them out and turned them in. If you have not yet filled out a form or need to update your information, please see a member of the Pastoral Care committee or call the office and speak to Melissa to obtain a yellow form.



**New Orleans work party** : Received this from Bob Murphy, Minister of the Falmouth UU. Is there anyone at the Meeting House interested in joining with Falmouth UUs in a New Orleans work party in May?

The Unitarian Universalist congregations in New Orleans have asked, repeatedly, for assistance from sister congregations. Some congregations, in other districts, have been very helpful. Example: The Winchester congregation has sent sixteen groups of volunteers! (Sixteen different expeditions.) However only one congregation in the BCD has responded by sending a team of volunteers. And that was several years ago.

What's happening in New Orleans is important, for a variety of reasons. People in my congregation (Falmouth) are trying to develop a volunteer project for May 21-28 in New Orleans. We're working with the Unitarian Universalist congregations that are in the city. Would you like to join this work party?

## WINTER STORM CLOSINGS

We are coming into winter and the possibility of snow or ice which might make getting to the Meeting House difficult. The Program Council and the minister have developed a procedure for such times. Whatever the Meeting House does, please decide on your own whether or not to venture out!

**Sunday Services: If a Sunday service needs to be canceled, the following will occur as soon after 8AM as possible:**

**An all-wide church email will go out to the congregation**

**The church phone message will announce the change (945-2075)**

**WQRC (99.9 FM) will be notified – we will be part of their closings list**

**Other church events on Sundays or during the week.**

**The email and phone message information will remain the same as for Sunday closings. However, WQRC probably will not be called.**

**PLEASE!!!** Make your own decisions based on your situation. Sunday services will not be canceled unless absolutely necessary, but consider your street, your neighborhood, your love – or not! – of driving in the snow.

**The most important thing is not the sermon, but your safety!!!**



**UUMH CLASSIFIEDS** (Please email Sue Bauer with your “ad” at [ralphb1234@cs.com](mailto:ralphb1234@cs.com))

\*\*\* *Lost & Found box now conveniently located on coat rack shelf in upstairs foyer. Lots of treasures make their way there. Maybe one of them is yours.*

\*\*\* I have a friend with whom I play music who is in dire financial straits because his car and job died at the same time. He is in a catch-22 because he can't get a job without a car to get there, and he can't pay for a car without a job, and he is facing eviction. If there is anyone who has a basic car they are not using or want to get rid of and who might be willing to wait to get paid for it, please see Edmund or call him at the Meeting House.

\*\*\* Chatham Fixit. Need a handyman? For small odd jobs, call Ralph B. Reasonable rates.

\*\*\* Handyman service for odd jobs, heavy lifting, removals, yard work, etc. Available after 4 PM weekdays, or anytime on the weekend. Reasonable rates. Call Andrew D.

\*\*\* CECH (Chatham Ecumenical Council for the Homeless) certificates available from Mary Parsons at church or from Melissa in the church office. Buy your groceries at Stop & Shop or Shaw's/Star using these cards. In denominations of \$25, \$50, or \$100. CECH will receive 5% of the cost of each card.

**Spring is when you feel like whistling even with a shoe full of slush.**

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

We are pleased to report that Ralph Bauer has agreed to serve as the Facilitator of our 2011 Stewardship Pledge Campaign! Our stewardship program should help define our unique culture and ownership of the Meeting House fellowship.

We are members of the Ballou-Channing UU District. District meetings include a Music Conference March 5<sup>th</sup> in Attleboro and the Annual Providence RI Conference April 30<sup>th</sup>. The UUA General Assembly is June 22-25 in Charlotte, NC.

The Board held two retreats this winter, ably facilitated by Jon Goward. We focused on the need to attract newcomers to the meeting house. This effort should continue as we update our stories and vision to be the meeting house of choice for outer Cape Cod.

Questions continue to arise about gift and donation policies. Unrestricted funds are allocated at the discretion of the Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees oversees the Loomis and Rogers Funds. Article VII, Section 2 of the Bylaws states "The Board of Trustees shall be responsible for all business and financial affairs.....including raising and expending funds, recommendation of an annual budget, salaries, and compensation...."

Spring is coming!  
Walter Diggs

## NEWSLETTER DELIVERY!!!!

Many of you have opted to receive your UUMH Newsletter by email. This saves both paper and postage costs, and for this we are grateful. If you wish to continue receiving a paper copy—other than printing out your own! - and **you are a regular Sunday morning attendee**, please consider picking up a paper copy. There are copies on the wall outside the Fleck Room and also upstairs in the foyer. Call Sue B or Melissa at the church (945-2075) with questions. And let Melissa know if you are willing to remove your name from the list of those mailed out each month.

## THE IMPORTANCE OF COFFEE!



Each Sunday morning after the service, most of us gather in the Fleck Room for coffee and conversation. It's just part of being a UU. The Meeting House Hospitality budget provides goodies, as do our volunteer hosts, but liquid refreshment is provided from the Hospitality budget alone. For many years the coffee served has been Fair Trade coffee. This coffee, one of the ways our community supports social justice concerns, is quite expensive – about twice the cost of coffee purchased at the local grocery store. In these tough times, we need to look at all expenses including this one.

Because the Program Council feels that supporting the purchase of Fair Trade coffee is important, they propose the following: Take good note of the Donation Basket on the refreshment table. Think about the cost of a cup of coffee at your local restaurant. Add to that a cookie or two. And then put a little something in that Donation Basket which will allow us to support the Hospitality budget and continue to provide you with good coffee and support a good cause as well. That's just part of being a UU too!

**SOCIAL JUSTICE**

**FILM DISCUSSION SERIES 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of March, and April in the Fleck Room at 1PM**  
**NOTE CHANGE IN TIME**

*March 13 - Life in Occupied Palestine* by Anna Baltzer. This is the most effective and current description of the life issues of which the U.S. is a part in the Middle East.

*April 10 – Inside Job* – A documentary describing how the recent economic breakdown occurred and the people and actions behind it.

**CONGREGATE HOUSE**

A ham dinner was prepared and served at the Captain Bearse House on February 6 by Jackie B, Connie P, and Julie P from First Parish. A fun time was had by all. Some of the men are pretty flirty. 😊

The next supper will be on March 20. Let me know if you are anxious to help. Thanks.

Connie

**PROGRAM COUNCIL CHANGE OF MEETING DAY**

**Please note that the Program Council is now meeting the 1st Tuesday of each month. Still 4-6 PM. Still in the Fleck Room.**

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE STARTING THE PROCESS**

At the June Annual Meeting of the Meeting House, the Nominating Committee will present a slate of officers for the 2011-2012 year. Any Member who might be interested in volunteering, suggesting a name, or simply finding out more about what is involved should call a member of the Committee, listed below. The Nominating Committee is charged with nominating people for the following: Board of Trustees, Program Council Chair, Endowment Board, Nominating Committee.

Current Nominating Committee:

Ralph B, Chair

Sybille C

Ellen C

Harmon D

Gene P



### Humanists of the First Parish & Cape Cod

**WHAT?** Talk by Ellen Davey-Fleming: “*Immigration Policy in a Nation of Immigrants*”

**WHEN?** Sunday, March 27, at 2:00

**WHERE?** The Parish Hall of the First Parish Brewster church. The church is at 1969 Rte. 6A in Brewster, which is slightly east of the intersection of Rte. 6A with Rte. 124. Parking is in the lot behind the Parish Hall, or in the lot across Rte. 6A.

Ellen Davey-Fleming has been an advocate for immigrants for 25 years as a teacher of ‘English and Literacy’ for refugees and migrant workers in rural Florida, as a legal intern with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and as a private immigration attorney in Washington D.C. and Boston. Her talk will focus on past and present U.S. immigration policy, the effect of this policy on immigrants’ attitudes, and related issues of national security and changing demographics. She will also discuss restrictionist laws currently being proposed by individual states and a broader movement to change the U.S. constitution to take away birthright citizenship.

Refreshments will be served.

### UUre Home

Do you dream of inexpensive vacation travel to interesting destinations where you can stay in the homes of friendly people who share your ideals and are happy to provide directions and advice for their area? The UU bed and breakfast directory, *UU're Home*, can fulfill your dream. For thirty years, we've provided a network of hosts in the United States (and a few abroad).

You can also become a host and be listed in the directory. Contact us at [info@uurehome.com](mailto:info@uurehome.com), and we will gladly send you information about listing your accommodations.

Host listings on the *UU're Home* website at [www.UUreHome.com](http://www.UUreHome.com) are updated whenever changes are made or new hosts are added. The last paper edition will be published in April 2011, since most members now use the website exclusively, at a cost of only \$10 for a year's access to the current listings. For a copy of the 2011 paper directory plus a year's access to the website listings, please click on “become a member” to pay by credit card or send a check for \$25 and your e-mail address to UU're Home, 43 Vermont Court, Asheville, NC 28806.

### A THANK YOU FROM FIRST PARISH BREWSTER

Dear fellow UUs,

The Board of the Brewster Meeting House Preservation Project thanks you for joining our Community Challenge fund. Your donation of \$110.15 (collected at the UUMH Solstice Service) will help us take another step toward our goal of preserving our historic building.

We are grateful for your support.

**JOYS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS****PEOPLE TO CELEBRATE****A Note from Ellen B:**

I am so sorry to be leaving UUMH. I regret not being able to become more involved as originally intended. I want to particularly thank Ellen C for the many times she spent listening to my moaning and groaning over the phone. Also, to Edmund who has been so supportive through this rather lengthy ordeal of rather difficult decision making. However, moving closer to family seems the sensible thing for me to do.

I will turn over the Go Away mat to the Welcome side if and when any of you would like to visit me; after all, Worcester is not that far away and I'd love to see you.

Ciao, Ellen

**DIRECTORY CHANGES****FROM THE FOOD PANTRY**

Received after the recent Valentine Pot Luck

Dear Members of the UU Meeting House,

On behalf of the Chatham Food Pantry, thank you for the donation of food on Valentine's Day. It was a blessing to see Mary P waiting at the pantry when I drove up. We are thankful for your thoughtfulness. Bless you all.

Mrs. B.T. Storer/Acting Assistant Manager of the Chatham Food Pantry

**THIRD MONDAY BOOK CLUB**

We will meet Monday, March 21, 2011 in the Fleck Room to discuss *Major Pettigrew's last stand* by Helen Simonson.

All are welcome to join us.

