

**NORTHSHORE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH
THE ADVANCE • FEBRUARY 2011**

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From Frieda....

One of the most helpful and profound questions a therapist once asked me was, “What atmosphere do you want to create in your home?” It was challenging because I hadn’t thought at the time about the fact that I create an atmosphere in my home. But, in fact we all do in the way we respond to problems or anything really. It is a question that gives one pause. To answer it requires a sense of self – of “I” that can influence that makes a difference. And then there is that word “create,” which scares some of us who may not feel that creative. People spend a lot of time and money decorating a home, but what really makes a home inviting is the emotional atmosphere. How is a good atmosphere created? If the intention is for everyone to be loved and respected, where everyone’s voice is heard and matters, then that is what people feel when they live or visit there. If we give that to others, we tend to get it back from them.

The UUA has an initiative called “Standing on the Side of Love.” It was created as a way of encompassing many social justice efforts under one banner. But it is a great motto, much like the Golden Rule, to guide our actions and words. In Framingham, we have a lot of immigrants, Russian, Asian, and Hispanic from many countries, especially Brazil. It’s one of the things we particularly like about living there. Framingham has its own hate group that targets immigrants and calls for their expulsion from the country. They are regularly kicked out of community gatherings for their hateful rhetoric. They’ve been banned from the local cable station for not following the rules of conduct. But they make their views known in many other ways.

Last October, the high school put on a play called “The Laramie Project,” which is a true story about the killing of a 21-year-old gay man, Matthew Shepard, in Laramie, Wyoming, in 1998. A group of young journalism students did interviews with many in the town in the aftermath of the killing and their stories make up the bulk of the play. It’s an excellent play complete with a UU minister in it (played by the minister of the Framingham UU church). A hate group called the Westboro Baptist Church from Topeka, Kansas, sent picketers with signs expressing hate toward gay people and declaring that “God hates America” because we tolerate GLBT people. We stood across the street from them with a huge “Standing on the Side of Love” banner. There were a number of churches who participated. The Gay/Straight Alliance at Framingham State University came dressed as angels. The Westboro Baptist Church is mentioned in the play because they picketed Matthew Shepard’s funeral and they continue to picket the funerals of soldiers saying that God punished them because there are gays in the military. The saddest thing about this group is that they bring their children and have them carry some of the worst messages.

I recently read that American evangelicals have influenced Ugandans to become violent toward GLBT persons. Names have been published in local papers there with the encouragement to kill these people.

These experiences make it clear that our voices are needed. Even though the hateful voices are small groups, they create a lot of fear wherever they go. We have a wonderful atmosphere within our church. Perhaps we can share that more with our communities.

FEBRUARY 2011 SERVICES

FEBRUARY 6	SUNDAY SERVICE	10:30 am
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The Mystery of Prayer
Rev. Frieda Gillespie

Prayers are a universal expression of hope, gratitude or lament. From the Psalms of the Hebrew Bible to our own prayers, we view prayer in different ways. Is there a place for prayer in UU theology?

FEBRUARY 13	SUNDAY SERVICE	10:30 am
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The Broken Family
Rev. Frieda Gillespie

When a marriage ends every one's heart is broken. When there are children they are deeply impacted too. Divorce often leads to one or more family members leaving their spiritual community. How can we as a community respond? Bonnie Anderson will be our guest pianist this Sunday.

FEBRUARY 20	SUNDAY SERVICE	10:30 am
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Strangers in Our Midst
Rev. Frieda Gillespie

Last summer dozens of UU ministers went to Phoenix, Arizona, to protest the new immigration law there. Several were jailed during the protest. Immigration is an incredibly complex social issue especially in the states on the Mexican border. Let's explore some of the issues together.

FEBRUARY 27	SUNDAY SERVICE	10:30 am
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Sacred Democracy
Rev. Charles Wilson

Belief in the democratic process is inscribed in the UUA covenant with principle number five: "The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and society at large." We will take a look at some American sources of that belief (including Whitman and Emerson), and raise a few cautionary points. Peter VanDeBogert will help me conduct the service that morning.



Religious Education



At

Northshore Unitarian Universalist Church

Sundays from 11:45-12:30

Spirit of Life – A Multigenerational Program Exploring UU Spirituality

Spirit of Life workshops offer participants space, time, and community to explore their Unitarian Universalist spirituality. Each focuses on a different aspect of the spiritual life, framed by the lyrics of Carolyn McDade’s song “Spirit of Life.” Like the song, the workshops are designed to be welcoming to Unitarian Universalists of many spiritual and theological persuasions. Participants are invited to claim an inclusive definition of spirituality and recognize the spiritual aspects of their lives. Reflecting, speaking, and listening are core activities in each workshop. This offering will be accessible and meaningful to learners of all ages, and we look forward to the richness of a wide array of voices and backgrounds seasoning our education and understanding of our own guiding ideals.

Reflections – A Multigenerational Discussion Group

Reflections is not a course, but rather a weekly discussion group centered on the topic of the day (generally what has been discussed and preached in service). With the help of a few guiding questions, this group will use the Small Group Ministry format of reading, sharing, and discussion to look deeper into the topics we discuss as a congregation. Intrigued by the lyrics of a particular hymn? Confused by something heard in a reading? In need of debate over the sermon or children’s story? This is a place to share and grow together on an ad-hoc basis each week. While perhaps more accessible to adults, this session is also open to all ages and begs for the input of a broad spectrum of thinkers.

Little Learners – An Educational Opportunity for Children in PreK–Grade 1

Recognizing that the multigenerational format may be challenging for our smallest voices, an additional offering will be available to children in preschool through Grade 1. Through story, song, and creative activity the children as well will explore the seven UU Principles and their role in the daily lives of a youngster.

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Ashley M. Benner
Director of Religious Education

772-359-1750

DRE Dabbles

Education is not preparation for life; education is life itself. –John Dewey

It's here! The long-awaited Multigenerational RE program began on Sunday, January 23. Each of the three classes was well attended, and it has been wonderful to hear your feedback on the experience. The RE Task Force, Facilitator Team, and I continue to work diligently to bring the most enriching and meaningful programming possible to NSUU, and are excited to be on this journey together.

On an unrelated note, I wanted to take a final opportunity to thank you all for your support of the Leukemia and Lymphoma society and my first half-marathon. With 13.1 magical miles under my belt, I have pledged to undertake each of Disney's six running events on both coasts this year in honor of Frieda and my father. I look forward to sharing the experience, and more importantly the inspiration, with you all, every step of the way.

Ashley Benner
Interim Director of Religious Education

Youth Group

As part of our ongoing commitment to multigenerational Religious Education, the NSUU Youth Group is off to a thrilling start. This spring, youth in grades 6-12 will be focusing on "Connecting with Community" as we explore our places in our congregation, community, and larger world. Through discussion, film, service projects, and field trips, the youth group is place for teenagers to develop meaningful relationships and find support and encouragement on their spiritual and personal journeys. The youth group meets every other Sunday evening from 5-7pm at the church.

Contacting the Interim DRE

Ashley is available at the church on Mondays from 10am-1pm. She can also be reached 7-days a week at:

northshoredre@gmail.com
617-987-0607 (Home Office) 772-359-1750 (Cell)

Learn, Love, Lend a Hand

The Little Learners, Children's Chapel, and Chill Church groups continue to seek facilitator's for their weekly programs. Children's Chapel and Chill Church meet during weekly service, following the Story for All Ages, while Little Learners is held during RE time. Detailed lesson plans and sample projects are provided for each group, and facilitators work in teams of two. Please consider making a single 45-minute commitment to the spiritual education of the youngest members of our congregational family. If you are available to assist in any capacity, please contact Ashley or sign-up in the fellowship hall.

Supplies for the Spirit

The joyful noise that echoes through our building each Sunday morning during our Religious Education programs is music to my ears – and hopefully yours. What a joy it is to share together in learning, exploration, questioning, and growth. With the entire congregation engaged in RE programming, however, we are forced to be more creative than ever before: creative with curricula, creative with space, and creative with our resources. No longer are there 15 children sharing our markers and scissors, but the entirety of our NSUU family. In order to provide the richest possible experience, we must have the proper tools! During the month of February, we

will be holding a “Supplies for the Spirit” drive. Washable markers, crayons, pens, paper (ruled or white drawing), glue, scissors, stickers, or any other supplies can be left in the basket in the fellowship hall. Any and all contributions are welcome and appreciated! Together, we are making meaning for ourselves and our community.

Coming Events

Sunday, February 13 Youth Group

Sunday, February 27 Youth Group

News from The Social Action Committee

Afghanistan on Film: On February 13, after the service, filmmaker Michael Sheridan will speak and show parts of short documentary films made by students in Afghanistan. Sheridan’s organization, Community Supported Film, “works to strengthen the documentary storytelling capacity in countries where the dissemination of objective and accurate information is essential to stabilization and development.” According to Sheridan, the films “bring to life Afghans’ efforts to address their challenging social and economic conditions.” For a preview:

<http://sheridanworks.com/blog/>

February Share-the-Plate: The offering collected on February 27 will be donated to Beverly Bootstraps. In addition to a food pantry and thrift shop, Beverly Bootstraps Community Services provides critical resources to families and individuals so they may achieve self-sufficiency. It offers emergency and long-term assistance including: access to food, housing stability, adult and youth education, counseling and advocacy. For more information:

<http://www.beverlybootstraps.org/index.html>

Share-the-Plate Applications: The Social Action Committee welcomes proposals for the share-the-plate program. If you support a charitable organization whose goals are consistent with UU principles, please consider submitting an application for that organization to share the plate. Contact Lois Markham for an application.

Racism Discussion Series: On Sunday, February 27, after the service, the Social Action Committee will sponsor the second of three discussion/listening groups on racism. We will watch part of the PBS series, “Race: The Power of an Illusion” and then break into smaller groups for discussion.

Sunday-Night Suppers at Lifebridge: Thanks to everyone who has volunteered at the church’s monthly Sunday night supper at Lifebridge and/or donated money for buying food. We are now signing up volunteers for the February 27 and March 27 dinners. The time commitment is 5:00 to 7:00 PM. Please check your schedule and see if you can volunteer. And then, please sign up on the white board in Fellowship Hall. If you would like to donate money for the purchase of food, you can make out a check to NSUU, write “Lifebridge” in the memo line, and put your check in the offering any Sunday.

Danvers Food Pantry: NSUU is still collecting nonperishable food items for the Danvers Food Pantry. Donations can be left in the box in Fellowship Hall. They will be taken to the Danvers Food Pantry.



In January two singing groups, Luminescence and Grizzly Freakin Man Singers, rocked the house at the Northshore Church Meeting Room *Music in the Woods*.

In February we are continuing our *Music in the Woods* series with a second a cappella night performed by two groups from Marblehead High School, Jewel Tones and Serendipity. They will sing their a cappella repertoire and promise to bring other surprises. A cappella is the fastest growing form of music at high school and college campuses. Come and see why. (The answer is that it is plain old fashioned FUN!!!!)

We will be selling tickets on Sundays after service as well as at the door. Please plan on joining the fun on February 11th at 7:30 pm. Yes, 7:30!

February 2011 Member Profile

Ray and Barbara Haight

by Martha Ardoff

Ray and Barbara Haight of Salem have each been awarded Northshore Church's Anne Milender Award and the Frank Farnum Award due to their amazingly consistent efforts on behalf of our church and the community during their 35 years at Northshore Church. They each grew up in Scouts and say that began their life of charity work. Ray was a Sea Scout, sailing and rowing in the Charles River in nautical uniform, and says, "Boy Scouts saved my life." He was also into

sports and band. Barbara was in Girl Scouts for 12 years, and then was a leader for her daughter's troop for about 10 years, earning a 20-year badge. She and another leader designed the program and the badge for the Daisy Scouts for girls age 5-7.

Barbara and Ray met in band at Salem High School as Barbara played the accordion and snare drum and Ray the bass drum. As a Middleton resident, Barbara was assigned to Danvers High School for one year, bused to Salem for 2 years, then graduated from Masconomet in 1960 in their first graduating class. She consequently has friends from all over the North Shore.

Ray wanted to be a cook and a machinist, and he made that happen. He went to Fanny Farmer cooking school and then worked for Simmons College and was the baker at Milton Academy for 12 years total. He then went to school to become a machinist and spent 27 years at that. And now he does home adjustments for handicapped living. Before they had children, he and Barbara both cooked in exclusive summer camps in Troy, N.H., and on Cape Cod. Barbara got her nurse's aide certification and has worked for 33 years in access services at various hospitals, including Hunt, Beverly, J.B. Thomas, and Addison Gilbert. She deals with "front-end" work such as insurance and emergency admitting. In addition she's done transcriptions for a doctor, provided home care and nursing assistance in rest homes on weekends, sold Avon and Fuller Brush and worked for David's Bridal Shop.

The Hights were married in 1963 and have three children. Heidi is now 43, John is turning 40, and Malcolm is 38. Barbara and Ray have also had several long-term foster children and many short-term emergency foster placements, and have provided respite care for foster children. The last of their foster "children" is Gary Nicholaides. Gary is 54 years old and has been with them for 27 years, and usually attends Northshore Church with them. Ray was on the board of Salem Youth Soccer, and put up the nets on all the fields each week for many years. He took children to various activities, was a soccer and basketball coach and drove the drum corps all over much of the country.

Ray was raised Catholic and Barbara Congregational. First they compromised with St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Salem and were quite active there, with Ray on the vestry and Barbara reinventing the church fair and raising enough to replace the old horsehair pew cushions. When they had children, Paul and Merry Brooks invited them to attend Northshore Church.

During their many years at Northshore Church Barbara has chaired the Octoberfair for almost 35 years. For 20 years Ray made 150 apple pies each year to sell at the fair, with others helping to cut apples. Barbara has served on the NSUU Board of Directors in the past, and is currently completing another five-year term on our Board. She is on the Membership Committee, Building and Grounds Committee, and has helped with the Christmas workshop. Both Barbara and Ray have been active with the children at Ferry Beach and have enjoyed Northshore Church's sunrise services at Crane Beach and Lynch Park. Ray has been on the Buildings and Ground Committee the whole 35 years they've been here, but he also does all sorts of things regardless of committees. "It's like a second home – if something needs doing, you just do it," he says.

In addition, Barbara is the treasurer of a strong neighborhood association in Salem, on the board of the Welcoming Table at Maple Street Church in Danvers as the Northshore Church's representative, and is the coordinator for 1,600 social members of the Polish Club in Danvers.

Barbara and Ray made sure their children were introduced to the world, first by hosting exchange students from Sweden, Germany, England, and Japan, then by visiting the families they became close to. They joined the International Friendship Force begun by Rosalynn Carter. The Hights are still in close touch with their first Swedish exchange student. They did belt-tightening, took conversational Swedish at North Shore Community College, and gave gifts (birthdays and Christmas) that supported their travels. Barbara's brother lived in Hawaii, so they went for two weeks and walked on hot lava. Now they take their grandchildren on travels. For instance, they've taken the older three to Amish areas in Pennsylvania, to Washington, D.C., and to London with Leonard Swanson, and have taken the younger ones to places closer to home. As their grandchildren live nearby, they see all of them often for local jaunts and activities. The Hights also travel as a whole family, including the new infant, who makes grandchild number seven. All 14 family members most recently went on a cruise to Alaska.

Barbara and Ray often ask, "Where would our lives be without this church?" They add, "We've met different people from different walks of life, and they've enriched our lives enormously.