

**NORTHSHORE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH
THE ADVANCE • OCTOBER 2012**

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From Frieda

We had a very interesting question and answer session for our service on Sept. 16th. The congregation asked some challenging and very interesting questions:

Q: What are the one or two issues you feel UUs should be most concerned with in the next year?

A: There are many issues that UUs get involved in and should be involved in. The two that stand out to me are the many issues related to the separation of church and state (or lack of separation). Included in this are abortion rights, marriage equality, birth control rights, and the rights of women everywhere. The second is our ecological challenge – global warming, preventing the destruction of important wilderness areas, solutions to food production that are healthy and support sustainable living.

Q: How are we as a congregation supporting current peace initiatives worldwide?

A: Through our contributions to the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee that supports impoverished families in building businesses and solving life-threatening problems. What I didn't say was that Paul Brailsford has been our resident peace advocate and now that he is gone, we would do well to honor his memory by supporting peace initiatives in whatever way we can. So, we welcome hearing about work that you are doing or want to support.

Q: How do we feel about the amendment we are voting on in November, making it possible to choose to die?

A: I don't know if UUs have taken any cohesive stand on this. I support the right to die, but find the problems related to the process troubling. On the other hand Oregon has had a law allowing "death with dignity" for many years now and they've worked out some very strict guidelines and protections. As a result, very few people have actually been given the means to end their life and even fewer have actually done it.

There were many more and I'll write about others in upcoming articles. As we make our transition from summer to fall, I hope you are enjoying the spectacular weather.

Blessings,
Frieda

OCTOBER 2012 SERVICES

OCTOBER 7

SUNDAY SERVICE

10:30 am

Immigration

Rev. Frieda Gillespie

Issues surrounding immigration and reform are complex and pervasive. Our General Assembly in Arizona last June focused on these issues engaging with the Arizona police to support the efforts of reformists. This service will offer stories from Justice GA and possible directions for us to get involved. The collection will be given to the UUA for Association Sunday.

OCTOBER 14

SUNDAY SERVICE

10:30 am

Blessing of the Animals

Rev. Frieda Gillespie

Let's celebrate our furry, feathery, and scaly family members by bringing them to the service! Bring your beloved pet and we will offer readings, songs and blessings for your life together.

OCTOBER 21

SUNDAY SERVICE

10:30 am

Gender, Identity and Sexual Orientation

Frieda Gillespie

The concept of heterosexuality is relatively new in human history. Surprisingly, it hasn't always existed. Has it outcasted those who don't fit into a heterosexual lifestyle? Has it limited our understanding of our own sexuality and gender identity?

OCTOBER 28

SUNDAY SERVICE

10:30 am

To be determined



The Music in the Woods series starts up this fall with a bang. On **October 19th Tom Palance** will bring his marvelous jazz musicians to accompany Sandy Bedrosian's vocals. Last year Tom's group was a hit. We had a full house that loved the high quality jazz music. We are lucky to have him and his group back.

Then on the **16th of November, we are bringing back Bonnie Anderson and Donna Gross Javel** to play another series of four hand piano music. They always fill our house so get your tickets early. Our audience is left to wonder how two people and four hands can grace us with such melodic music.

Tickets are \$20, \$15 for seniors and students, and 12 and under free.

DRE Dabbles

I believe the children are the future; teach them well and let them lead the way. –Whitney Houston

Cool crisp air, changing leaves, and pumpkin flavored...everything! Fall is here!

The last few months have been a bit of a blur in the Murphy household. Amidst diaper changes, feedings, and LOADS of laundry, taking time for personal reflection has fallen a bit by the wayside. But as our little team of two has grown into a family of three, I feel an even deeper commitment than ever before to the importance of religious experience, exploration, and education.

This year brings a number of changes to the RE Department – changes that I hope will find us coming together in new ways as a congregation, Re-committing ourselves to religious exploration. From welcoming each and every one of you into our classrooms to sharing in monthly multigenerational worship services, I hope that, like the changing leaves of the fall, this new season allows us each to be open to change and transformation. Our UU faith presents us with the unique opportunity to explore and question, challenge and change. I look forward to experiencing those unique moments together.

Ashley Murphy
Director of Religious Education

Where in the World is Multigenerational RE?

Haven't heard much about multigenerational RE this year? Not to worry – there are wonderful experiences coming your way very soon. As we work together with the choir, Social Action Committee, and other church entities to redefine how we explore at NSUU, we are constructing a more streamlined way for everyone to participate in this vital component of our faith practice. Be on the lookout for our revamped offerings in the coming weeks!

Youth Group

This year is a true “life-changer” for our youth. Beginning this fall, the youth will test the waters of the traditionally adult Small Group Ministry. In both Sunday morning sessions and bi-weekly youth group meetings, the youth will gain a better understanding of democracy and teamwork as they use the circle process to explore pressing topics.

Following the holidays, the youth will transition to the *Coming of Age* curriculum. We are currently in search of six (6) mentors to participate in this wonderful exploration of personal beliefs and life choices.

I hope you will ALL take the time to ask the youth about the work they have been doing. This is an incredible group of young adults with so much to share. Feeling inspired? Join us for youth group here at the church Sunday evenings from 4-6pm (dates below)!

Contacting the DRE

Ashley is available to meet at the church by appointment. Please feel free to contact her any time at:

northshoredre@gmail.com or 772-359-1750

Coming Events

Sunday, October 14 Youth Group

Sunday, October 28 Youth Group

Religious Exploration – Our Ticket to the Future



“I believe the children are the future; teach them well and let them lead the way.” Whitney Houston left behind quite the legacy, but no words are truer than these. And nowhere are these words more pertinent than within our own faith family.

The Religious Exploration Department is in need of volunteers. Thanks to the incredible commitment of Jenny Beauregard and Dana Doyle, we now have three wonderful Sunday morning classes that allow children of all ages to learn, explore, question, and grow. Despite their efforts, however, we are still in desperate need of assistance.

In addition to allowing for a more effective educational atmosphere, our safe church policies mandate that we *must* have two adults in each classroom at all times. In an effort to ensure that these needs are met, as well as to share the wonderful experience and enrichment that religious education has to offer with the entire congregation, we will be taking a new approach to staffing this year. Much like coffee hosting, all families will be asked to please help. (Not to worry – those families with children in our programs will be doing a bit more in order to make it “fair”). Over the course of the next several Sundays we will have “tickets” available with dates and classes that you can select from. Please be sure to let Ashley know what date and class you will be helping with so that she can cross your name off of the list, and she will be sure to give you a reminder call a week ahead of time. On your assigned day, simply follow the children out after the Story for All Ages. The teachers will be prepared with the curriculum, and will simply need help with bathroom breaks, handling supplies, etc.

Our children have so much to share, and you are each certain to gain more than you can imagine from your two hours of service this year.

Many Thanks!

The Religious Education Department and the Children of Northshore Church

From the Board

Greetings to all of you! Fall is my favorite season here in Massachusetts and I'm enjoying the beginnings of autumn color surrounding us at Northshore Church. We are so lucky in our church setting. When I look at the gardens and our surroundings, I always feel a sense of gratitude to the wonderful people from our Building and Grounds Committee who do such a great job keeping everything beautiful for us. Our sincere thanks go out to all of you.

By the time you read this, the Board will have held its annual retreat to plan for the coming year. We will have reviewed our objectives and goals for the past year and compared them to what was actually accomplished, to determine where we succeeded, where we could have done better and where we were pre-empted by fate while making other plans, as sometimes happens. We will also have met with many of you to get your input on priorities and where you think we should concentrate our efforts in the coming months. We will have a Board "Meet and Greet" session on October 1 to talk with many of you personally (and you are always welcome to bring your ideas to Board meetings). All of these are ways to help us arrive at a new vision and a set of goals, objectives and action plans that will help us as a Board to better serve the Northshore Unitarian Universalist Church and you, as individual members.

During the coming year we will be joining with you in making decisions about our common purpose, vision and identity as a community. We will also be deciding on new and better ways to enhance our outreach, to increase our membership and to develop new strategies to ensure our future financial viability, even as we continue to work to maintain and beautify our church home. We are also seeking new ways to learn and new things to celebrate! In all of these matters we need and welcome your ideas, positive energy and support. There is an incredible amount of creativity and strength here in this congregation and, as the events of the past year have shown, we are capable of accomplishing remarkable things. We have been so very fortunate to have members who have been willing to work hard with us on common projects and goals. We will be counting on you again as we move on to new and even more exciting projects in the coming months. Please, when you come to see us, bring your wish list. This is no time to dream small!

Please note that the Octoberfair will not be held this year. The board is seeking other ideas for another fundraiser. I'll be keeping you up to date on developments in the *From the Board* section of this newsletter and in the Sunday announcements, as needed. I would love to hear from you when you have something you want to communicate.

We're looking forward to hearing from all of you and to working with you.

Take care, Lisa Judd, Board Clerk

News from the Social Action Committee

Save the Date—Thursday, November 8, 7:00 pm: On this date, as part of our ongoing exploration of issues related to immigration, the Social Action Committee will sponsor a talk by Aviva Chomsky, professor at Salem State University and author of *They Take Our Jobs and 20 Other Myths About Immigration*. Among our co-sponsors are the UU churches of Malden,

Wakefield, Gloucester, and Essex. The talk is free and open to the public. Please plan to come and bring your friends and neighbors for a very informative evening.

Danvers Food Pantry: Sunday, October 7, is Food Sunday. Please bring a nonperishable food item for the Danvers Food Pantry. Donations can be left in the basket in Fellowship Hall. You are, of course, also welcome and encouraged to bring food donations at any other time.

Sunday-Night Suppers at Lifebridge: Thanks to a dedicated crew of team leaders and volunteers, who buy food, cook, and serve, we provide a hot meal for about one hundred clients of Lifebridge in Salem on the fourth Sunday of each month. We welcome new volunteers. We are now signing up volunteers for the October 28, November 25, and December 23 dinners. The time commitment is 5:00 to 7:00 PM. You can 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.

October 7 Share-the-Plate: The collection taken up on October 7 will be donated to the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations (UUA) in recognition of Association Sunday. Association Sundays are a time for all congregations to recognize and support, both in spirit and financially, the national work of the Association. If you would like to donate by check, please make out the check to UUA.

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. Blank application forms are posted on the Social Action Committee bulletin board near the front of Fellowship Hall.

Lending Library: The Social Action Committee has a small collection of DVDs and VHS tapes on social justice topics. They are located on a table in Fellowship Hall. If you would like to borrow one, we ask that you sign it out and return it in a timely fashion. We hope to keep adding to our collection. The titles now available are: Fresh (DVD); Heist: Who Stole the American Dream? (DVD); Made in L.A. (DVD); The Golden Door: Our Nation of Immigrants (VHS); Talk Box: Young Refugees: Adapting to a New Life (VHS).

Operation Troop Support: NSUU is a collection point for Operation Troop Support. A detailed list of desired items is posted on the Social Action Committee bulletin board near the front of Fellowship Hall. For October, the highlighted items are disposable cameras, writing materials, telephone calling cards. Donations may be left in a box in Fellowship Hall.

The Social Action Committee welcomes new members. Contact Lois Markham for more information.