

NORTHSHORE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH
THE ADVANCE • OCTOBER 2013
323 Locust Street
Danvers, MA 01923 • 978-774-7582
nsuu@verizon.net www.nsuu.org

From Frieda ...

Last month's sermon about mass incarceration of people of color, based on Michelle Alexander's book *The New Jim Crow*, stirred a lot of hearts. We had a well-attended discussion group led by Lois Markham and with an excellent lunch provided by the Social Action Committee along with a few others. What can we do about this issue of racial discrimination in our judicial system? It seems that there are a lot of people making efforts to that end. First, I recommend reading the book or at least parts of it. The introduction covers all the main points and each chapter focuses on the details. There are a few websites to look at: newjimcrow.com under the "Take Action" page has a blog with many organizations and what they are doing. You can connect with any of them through the links there. On Twitter you can follow @thenewjimcrow for breaking news and videos. On Facebook, there is an open group called: "UUs Resisting New Jim Crow & Mass Incarceration." UUs are posting their activities and articles they find there. I'm sure there is a lot more to discover about this.

On another note, Jennifer and I went to Copley Square in Boston to meditate with Thich Nhat Hanh. We were a little late and we read the next day that the crowd that filled the square, sitting on the cobblestones, waited patiently while the priest from Trinity Church introduced him. He came onto the steps of the church with about twenty-five Zen Buddhist monks and nuns behind him, sat down, and did and said nothing for twenty-five minutes. We arrived just as he started leading a breathing meditation. It was such a wonderful experience to be with hundreds of people quietly meditating. After the meditation, Han gave a short talk about relationships. He said, "The best gift you can give to someone you love is your presence." So true. We were both glad to have been there and been there together.

It's going to be a lovely fall at Northshore Church! See you in church!

Frieda

OCTOBER 2013 SERVICES

OCTOBER 6	SUNDAY SERVICE	10:30 am
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I'm Strong and I'm Not Afraid: The Life of Clara Barton
Rev. Frieda Gillespie

Clara Barton was a Universalist known as the founder of the American Red Cross. Her life exemplifies courage and strength in an age when women were considered fragile and unfit for being out in the world much less for leadership. We'll reflect on her life and legacy.

OCTOBER 13

SUNDAY SERVICE

10:30 am

Women and Power
Rev. Frieda Gillespie

Do women want power in this country? We'll look at the trends of women in business, academia, and politics. Where are women moving forward; where are women creating new paradigms? How are men's lives changing?

OCTOBER 20

SUNDAY SERVICE

10:30 am

Transgender Acceptance
Rev. Frieda Gillespie

A panel of speakers will share their experiences of being transgender or the parent of a transgender child. Bring your questions. Has society made progress in accepting transgender people? A lot has changed and yet problems remain.

OCTOBER 27

SUNDAY SERVICE

10:30 am

Day of the Dead
Rev. Frieda Gillespie

At this time of year we celebrate death in the midst of life. Ghouls and goblins will be coming to our doors on Halloween night. Our fears are made accessible and even humorous through costumes and whimsical decorations. We will take this time to remember and honor those who've died in the past year and to reflect on the shadow of death that is part of living.

News from the Social Action Committee

Danvers Food Pantry: Sunday, October 6, 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 it is convenient for you.

Sunday-Night Suppers at Lifebridge: Thanks to a dedicated crew of team leaders, who plan and organize, 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 27, November 24, and December 22 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. **We are in need of a few more team leaders. If you would be willing lead a team in the preparation of a meal at Lifebridge a few times a year, please contact Marcia Lassar. Training will be provided.**

October 13 Share-the-Plate: The collection taken up on October 13 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. The share-the-plate collection will be in addition to the budgeted fair-share contribution the church will make to the UUA. 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.

Common Read: This year the Social Action Committee will be focusing on the issue of economic justice. We are instituting a new program called Common Read. We encourage everyone in the congregation to read the same book. In January we will hold a discussion of the book. The Common Read for this year is *Nickel and Dimed*, by Barbara Ehrenreich. Millions of Americans work for poverty-level wages, and one day Ehrenreich decided to join them. She was inspired in part by the rhetoric surrounding welfare reform, which promised that any job equals a better life. But how can anyone survive, let alone prosper, on \$6 to \$7 an hour? To find out, Ehrenreich moved from Florida to Maine to Minnesota, taking the cheapest lodgings available and accepting work as a waitress, hotel maid, house cleaner, nursing-home aide, and Wal-Mart salesperson. She soon discovered that even the “lowliest” occupations require exhausting mental and physical efforts. And one job is not enough; you need at least two if you intend to live indoors. *Nickel and Dimed* reveals low-wage America in all its tenacity, anxiety, and surprising generosity.

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 within two weeks so that others may borrow it. We hope to keep adding to our collection. The titles now available are: *The 800 Mile Wall* (DVD), *Papers* (DVD); *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. Each month there is a special focus. 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.