Morristown Unitarian Fellowship

July 2007

Volume 52, No. 7

News

Reaching In . . .
Reaching Out

From the Minister . . .

WHAT WILL YOU CELEBRATE THIS FOURTH OF JULY? There is an image that comes to my mind when focusing on this question. It was July 3rd, and I was crossing the Boston Commons on my way to work at the Unitarian Universalist Association. I was finishing up my copy of the Boston Metro, and I came across our President's words about celebrating the Fourth: "People ought to be joyous in their celebration and cele-brate the fact that we're fortunate enough to be Americans."

I mulled over these words and thought "I am very fortunate for many reasons, but I'm not sure how I feel about the implication in Bush's words of celebrating my fortune over others, the implication that the other is inferior." Just then, I turned the page, glanced upward and noticed that all of the benches along my path were lined with homeless men and women, half-asleep and half-awake, unable to rest or move in the sweltering heat.

The day before I had gone to lunch with a fellow divinity student who felt antagonized by the fact that the post office had only American flag stamps. He exclaimed, "It is as if I am forced to put my endorsement of our current administration on every letter."

As I looked across the Commons that morning I could certainly understand my friend's rejection of such a patriotic symbol as the flag, when so many people to this day have their basic rights denied. I looked around and wondered what these homeless men and women would be doing on the Fourth of July, if they were even aware that the next day was a holiday, or how it mattered. Fireworks don't substitute for meals, shelter and healthcare.

Yet, Independence Day does provide citizens of the United States an opportunity to honor all those who have fought to enlarge liberty in the past and to take seriously our role to continue this work in the present and the future. We can remember what our beloved Declaration of Independence pronounced, as well as what is left out:

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all MEN are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

The signers of the Declaration of Independence felt the time had come to put an end to a system of government that did not represent the colonists' interests and basic human rights. These men were primarily concerned with issues affecting white, male landowners, but the form of experimental government they fought for called them and continues to call us to something greater.

I respect others' decision not to salute the flag. However, if all the liberals of this country were to leave the flag and holidays like Independence Day to right-wing conservatives, we would risk forgetting the struggles of patriotic agitators who push us to live up to a true representative government.

This is precisely why I feel it is patriotic to both celebrate and be critical of how we are living up to our nation's creed, and why I wear the colors of our country and its flag on Independence Day. In the words of Senator Carl Schurz of Missouri in 1899, "My country right or wrong: if right, to be kept right, if wrong to be set right."

In faith and fellowship,

Alison

Alison's office hours are Tuesday through Friday by appointment.

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Mission and Covenant Statement

WE, the members of the **Morristown Unitarian Fellowship**, mindful of the rich diversity and essential oneness of human experience, covenant to weave the fabric of community from the strands of our separate lives. This is our pledge:

- To create for ourselves and our children a spiritual home which will nurture, challenge and offer us renewal.
- To seek what is true even as we celebrate the mystery of existence.
- To reach out to all who share our liberal religious values and participate in the broader Unitarian-Universalist movement.
- To work for social justice and the well-being of our planet Earth.

Please E-Mail All NEWSLETTER Articles
—both print and online versions—
to editor ***PAT BAXTER*** at
melodylingers@verizon.net
by the *15th* of the month
preceding the one in which they will appear.
Thank you!

From the Board of Trustees

Deeds Well Done

The Board wishes to recognize the following persons for their contributions to the Fellowship:

Shari Loe for the Beginnings celebration with the 5th and 6th grade.

Rita Morris for her service as head of Denominational Affairs.

Michelle Kunz for organizing the Mad Agnes concert.

The Gathering of Men: Al Chu, George Hays, Steve Kreha, Gary Kunz, Tom McGuinness, Paul Mitchell, John Oehler, Steve Parker, Ken Pogash, Matt Rath, Tony Rutigliano and Allen Wells, for their assistance in clearing out the attic.

Upcoming Board and Network Meetings

Meetings are open to all Fellowship members. The meeting time is 7 p.m. *It is especially important for committee chairs and members who participate in Fellowship administration and programming to attend and participate in the Network meetings.*

This month's meetings are scheduled on:

Board of Trustees	July 11
Administrative Network	July 18
Program Network	July 25

Meeting Minutes

Minutes from the May meetings have been approved and are now posted on the bulletin board in Room 100 and on the website in the Members Only section.

Be a knowledgeable member of your Fellowship!

Faith Developments

WELL, THE RE YEAR IS AT A CLOSE and we have officially moved to our summer schedule. Now is the time when I get to work on my summer projects! A lot is going to be happening in RE over the summer. My to-do list: Continue organizing RE storage, organize DRE office, attend RE trainings (OWL, Renaissance Modules, General Assembly, etc), and select and read curricula for next fall. And that doesn't include the pile of RE and church-related books that have been sitting in my office these past few months!

The RE volunteers will also be working hard. You may have noticed some changes in the RE library already as volunteers are working to organize and refine the collection. And the RE Council subcommittee, REmodeling, has big plans involving paint and furniture! You'll be hearing more about that as we ask for volunteers.

As you are planning your summer – and your reading list – don't forget to take some time to nurture your spiritual lives. I have a few recommendations to add to your reading list:

For those interested in RE:
The Gift of Faith: Tending the Spiritual Lives of Children This UU book celebrates the importance of religious community, as a support for parents and as an environment in which the spiritual lives of children can grow. It includes activities for the home, like rituals that mark the events in children's lives as religious occasions and prayers, meditations and readings. By Jeanne Harrison Niewejaar.

For those currently parenting:
Everyday Blessings: The Inner Work of Mindful Parenting This book approaches parenting from the Zen Buddhist position of moment-to-moment awareness. It's a beautiful and thoughtful process that explores both your own experiences of childhood and the authors' experiences of parenting to help you slow down, enrich your life as a parent, and nourish the internal lives of your children. By Myla and Jon Kabat-Zinn.

For those who have parented, are parenting, or have never parented:
At Work in Life's Garden: Writers on the Spiritual Adventure of Parenting This is a collection of well-known writers telling their personal stories about parenting. Some are funny, some are poignant but explore how the challenges and joy of raising children has led them to engage more deeply with the world, and express a deeper spirituality. Essays by Barbara Kingsolver, Barry Lopez, Anne Lamott, Alexandra Fuller, and our very own Rev. Rosemary Bray McNatt, among others, reveal the ways parenting transforms the parents as well as the children through as little as a change in perspective.

The writers come from a variety of religious backgrounds, but find a shared connection in parenting. Editors, Sarah Conover and Tracy Springberry. Springberry is a UU seminarian.

These books are available if you are interested in borrowing them from MUF.

I will be in this summer (except for the occasional vacation day!) and my office hours will be Monday through Friday. We will not have RE over the summer, but the nursery will remain open.

Have a wonderful summer!

Kim

Upcoming Events

First Monday Book Group
Monday, July 2, 7 p.m.

Our book group readings for the summer will be *The Long Road Home*, by Martha Raddatz, on July 2, and *The Glass Castle*, by Jeannette Wells, on August 6. All are welcome. Join us in Room 208 for our lively discussions. Please contact Nancy Lee McLure at nlmclure@msn.com for details.

Minstrel Coffeehouse
Fridays, 8:30 p.m.
July 6, 13, 20, 27 (32d birthday show)

More information from www.folkproject.org or 973-335-9489.

EVENSONG

Evensong held its final farewell service on June 6. Although this lay-led program has provided many memorable moments during its five-year lifetime, we've decided to conclude it due to erratic attendance in the past year.

Co-chairs Drew Hayes and Danelle Simonelli would like to thank all who have participated in making Evensong such a special small-group experience.

New Crafters Group Coming This Fall

This past spring many of us had a great time making crafts to sell to raise money for the Senior High's Habitat Build. In fact, it was so much fun being creative and spending time getting to know each other that it left some of us wanting more. So there will be a new crafters group starting up in the fall, open to anyone, which will give us the opportunity to be creative while enjoying the company of other MUFers.

The future dates and activities are as follows;
September 14 - For learning about flower arranging from an experienced floral designer
October 19 - Learning to knit and crochet from experienced knitters and crocheters
November 16 - Creating holiday decorations

Future dates & activities to be determined

These Friday evening gatherings will be informal and relaxed. The first hour will be for instruction and practice in the craft of the evening; the following hour for more craft practice as well as fun and enjoying a selection of yummy potluck desserts.

We welcome those with experience in floral arrangements, knitting and/or crocheting to come and help teach those who are new to these crafts.

Please contact Donna Becker at writeme79@juno.com if you have experience in these crafts and would like to help.

Social Justice Council

July 2007 Update -- Helping Neighbors in Need

Social Justice Council Meeting – Peace Festival Planning – Wednesday, July 11 – 7:30 p.m. -- Dining Room We have such a wide array of social action groups, challenges and meaningful projects that there is room for *so* many more MUF members to make their mark in community and global service. Be a part of our work.

First project up, *MUF 2nd Annual Peace Picnic, Festival & Concert –on Welcome Back Sunday, September 9.* Need to create adult workshops, kids' activities, Sunday Service elements folk concert, food, logistics, etc. It's fun to plan it, we promise! Please join us.

MUF Peacemaking Study Action Commission- Inaugural meeting Tuesday, July 24 – Dining Room The UUA has asked that all congregations form a collaborative "Commission" across all program and leadership groups to aid in the very important work of the current UUA Study Action Issue on Peacemaking. Members of the congregation-at- large are invited to join with a core group who met in March, and representatives across several MUF committees to take up the challenge of creating activities – book groups, presentations, debates, films, to inform and engage all of us in evaluating *what peace means to us individually and as a fellowship.* Help us brainstorm a robust MUF plan for 2007-08 that builds on the great work we already have in motion through Seeds of Peace and amplifies it through all of us ...tuning in !

Morristown Habitat for Humanity Builds –Calling All Handy People! Sign up for MUF summer work parties. Contact Toby Tyler at wtyler3@optonline.net if you'd like more information, or want to sign on!

Morristown Community Soup Kitchen – Next Hosting Date: Tuesday, July 10! Thanks, MUF members, for helping cook great summer food for more than 100 neighbors. Cold casseroles, chili, etc., needed. Contact Sharon Glickman at foxwood2@optonline.net to let her know if you can help out...and what you could prepare that we really need.

Eric Johnson House MUF Monthly Dinner Teams – Next host dates are Thursdays, July 5 and July 26 (5:45-7 p.m.). A funny, lively and very warmly receptive group of 10 residents. Join other MUF members/friends in hosting responsibilities, by possibly cooking within our meal preparation rotation or by your attending the meals with MUF's party for the evening. Let Susan Spencer know at sespencer@optonline.net if you want to be a part of this very special outreach to formerly homeless people who are recuperating from the toll that AIDS/HIV takes on their bodies and spirits.

Morristown Homeless Solutions (shelter) monthly dinner commitment (next hosting, Saturday, July 14, 4:45-7 p.m.) continues under leadership of Judy O'Neil Goldberg (judyoneil@optonline.net). If you are an adult, or a family with Jr. High and older children that you can accompany, prepare an easy meal for the 100+ shelter residents, who really appreciate it.

Sharing Our Joys & Concerns

To assure the privacy of our members and friends, we have now removed all "Joys and Concerns" and personal telephone numbers from the online newsletter. A copy of the Newsletter in the Members Only section of our website includes the complete information.

Tell Us Your Joys & Concerns

Now that we have suspended our long-held custom of directly telling our joys and concerns during the Sunday morning services, you can still share your own thoughts with other members of the congregation by sending them to Newsletter editor Pat Baxter at melodylingers@verizon.net. This way you will reach a wider range of the membership.

Contributions to the Celebration of Life

To the Endowment Fund from Pat Stover and Bob Flanagan

Contributions to the Endowment Fund, the Memorial Garden Fund, or the Celebration of Life Fund are special ways of honoring family and friends. Your gifts will be acknowledged and appreciated.

Rev. Allen Wells, who is presenting the July 8 service, is a UU minister, a member of MUF and former MUF Director of Religious Education. He is Director of the Allen Wells Center for Psychotherapy and Healing in Morristown and has been a practicing Buddhist and meditation teacher for 15 years.

Latest Songbooks Dedicated to Lee Hauck

More new *Singing the Journey* songbooks have been dedicated "To honor Lee Hauck whose service to us has filled us with joy and song." The latest donors are the following:

Jean Blumgold
Mary & Darrell Courtley
Arlyne Dalman
Zella Geltman
Homer Hansen
Kathleen Jefferies
Laurie MacGeorge
Eleanor Mason
Vince Peszynski & Dena Brandon
Ann Renz
Carolyn Schwartz & Tony Fisher
Carol Titus
Genie & Dudley Woodbridge
Andrea & David Zugale

There are still a few copies of the songbook remaining to be inscribed in Lee's honor. If you'd like to purchase a copy in your name, please send your contribution of $15 to Sunny Reilly at 15 Chateau Thierry Ave., #209, Madison, NJ 07940. Lesser amounts can also be applied toward purchase of a book.

Lee can be reached at Arbor Terrace #207, 3199 Sweeten Creek Road, Asheville, NC 28803.

Call for Summer Service Participants

If you have an idea for a lay-led summer service, or would like to help plan or participate in one, please contact Jane (Baldwin) Shivas at Jnmibaldwin@aol.com or Kathi Caccavale at kathi@sumcom.org, co-chairs of the Sunday Services Committee. We'd love to hear from you, and be assured you won't have to "do it alone." We are particularly looking for folks who can help out with services in late July and August.

October Celebration Set for 50th Anniversary of MUF Purchase

Betsy Burr is hoping to stage a play on Saturday, October 27, to celebrate the 50th anniversary of our purchase of the building and grounds.

She is looking for actors and directors, and generally for anyone interested in taking part.

You may contact Betsy at burrs@att.net if you think you'd like to be involved.

Meanwhile, *SAVE THAT DATE!*

Saturday, October 27, 2007

Morristown
Unitarian Fellowship
21 Normandy Heights Road
Morristown, New Jersey 07960-4611

TO ASSURE PRIVACY of our members and friends, all "Joys and Concerns," personal telephone numbers and home addresses are removed from the *public* online newsletter. The Members Only copy includes the full information.

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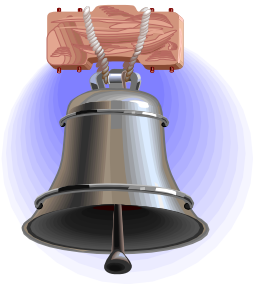

Dated Material – Mailed: June 29, 2007
Deadline for the AUGUST issue is
JULY 15

Sunday Services

One service at 10:00 a.m.

July 1 — Liberals and Liberty

Many of us feel uncomfortable with traditional displays of patriotic fervor, such as those on Independence Day. What does our liberal religion have to say about patriotism?

Coordinated by Danelle Simonelli

July 8 — Why I Am a Buddhist UU

Music and visuals by George Aronson. See p. 6 for Allen's bio. *Presented by Rev. Allen Wells*

July 15 — The Virgin and the Dynamo *Coordinated by IDRE Kim Mason*

July 22 — With a Song in My Heart

Music director Jim Blanton and members of the Adult Choir will use a variety of songs to help relate stories of their personal spiritual journeys. Gain new insights into the spiritual makeup of some of our congregation's leaders of music and be prepared to do a lot of singing!

Coordinated by Jim Blanton

July 29 — Stories of Our Lives

Our life experiences are our stories. However, there are other stories that have come into our lives and become our own. Each type of story will be told in the oral tradition by several tellers. Story songs will be woven among the tales. *Coordinated by Carol Titus*