



First Universalist Society of Salem

211 BRIDGE STREET, SALEM, MASSACHUSETTS • FEBRUARY 2009

Worship and Religious Education Begins at 10:45 AM • Nursery is available for babies and toddlers

Rev. Marjorie Matty, Minister

Love...

I had driven two and a half hours to see them... I had been waiting months and months, what seemed like a lifetime to get to this place where all would be revealed. As I drove that last bit of road and into the driveway I wondered how I would know which one. She met me at the front door. It was the first time I had met her although we had talked on the phone several times. I was chosen from a list to be here, I was interviewed and selected to have this experience and I had my pick of four male Portuguese water dog puppies... They were five weeks old and I was nervous; it had been several years since my dog Oattie, a golden retriever, had died of cancer. Her death was a devastating blow, it was hard to lose someone who had been such a constant companion... she had seen it all.

My mind snapped back into the present as I was welcomed, invited into her modest home and led into a room that had a pen in which eight puppies slept. Small black fur balls, I tiptoed and silently "awwww'd" as I made my way closer. The breeder, on the other hand, announced our entrance with a boisterous, "Puppies!" They

roused quickly and I was enraptured as I watched each one stretch and climb over their siblings... I sat on the floor and played with them through the cage. It was love at first sight of course I wanted them all... The breeder brought in the mother. I had met the father months before; he lived in Leominster, MA with four other Porties and a Bijan. "This dog was imported from Portugal," the breeder explained to me. She was smaller and you could see that she was calculating, a bit shy and very protective... She looked me up and down, deciding if I was a threat and realizing I wasn't, walked away disinterested.

The pen door was opened and all of the puppies stumbled and bumped their way over one another out... I touched a couple as they made their way by me, again they were totally disinterested in me as they started to play and chase their mother around. The breeder and I talked about what kind of temperament I was looking for in a dog and I described the companion that I had years before in Oattie. She confirmed that I wanted a male dog, which I did, then she started handing me each one of the four male puppies, one of which was destined to be mine. They

were cute and mushy and all nose, each was black and had some white marking, a paw, or bit of tail or a blaze of white on their chest. I had a hard time picking as each one squiggled out of my hands looking for its siblings. We continued to talk about dogs, we laughed and we were serious as we talked about the love of such a companion. I am not sure how long it had taken but I know that I had not noticed as we talked and as the puppies had begun to wear themselves out that a little one had fallen asleep with its head on my foot. The breeder smiled, pointed and said, "no need to pick, you have been chosen" and I was... That puppy that had chosen me was a male with a blaze of white on his chest. I named him Hudson and he has become a part of my family over the last ten years.

If you aren't an animal person or a dog person this kind of love may seem strange, but love comes in all sorts of

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ways that may seem inexplicable. Love can be mysterious and elusive; it can be compelling and repelling all at once. Love can open us up even when fear has locked us down and penned us in. Love is the theme this month at First Universalist, and we will engage in conversations about what Love is, how it eludes us and how it can fuel us.

We will think about how Love can ground us in our spiritual lives and how it can feel so strong and yet be so fragile. During the worship service on February 10th, which is entitled, "All Kinds of Love," we will be sharing the various ways we love. If you have a story about love that you would like to share with the congregation during this service please contact me.

As we endeavor to build the beloved community and continue

to plan strategically for our future let us be compelled by love for one another, this historic building and our Unitarian Universalist faith.

In faithful and loving service,



Rev. Marjorie J. Matty

UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES

Worship and Religious Education Begins at 10:45 AM - Nursery is available for babies and toddlers.

February 1st

Music Sunday

Hosted by the Music Committee Strategic Thoughts about Membership and Building will be shared during the service.

choose to express them.

Strategic Thoughts about Worship and Music will be shared during the service.

Religious Education will be shared during the service.

February 8th

All Kinds of Love Sunday

How do we love, who do we love... Members are invited to share their thoughts and stories of love, which will be grounded in a discussion of the different kinds of love we have in life and how we

February 15th

Amore

We will be talking and sharing about amore, specifically how it is the basis of many of the world's religions and how one can embrace a theology centered on Love in our daily lives.

Strategic Thoughts about Reli-

February 22nd

The Beloved Community

What do we need to build a community that values one another and engages deeply in an understanding of our interconnectedness and valuing a community ethic of loving our neighbor as our self?

Strategic Thoughts about our Financial Future will be shared during the service.

The First Universalist Society in Salem is a Welcoming Congregation which celebrates and supports the lives, the relationships and contributions of its lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and heterosexual members and friends. We affirm and promote full participation of all in the life of the congregation and community. We pledge our congregation's commitment to continue to enlighten and educate our members, friends, children and community regarding sexual orientation and gender identification.

We welcome people with disabilities. We are partially accessible and striving to become more so. Please call the church office for specific information.

Staff

Minister: Rev. Marjorie Matty

Chair of the Board of Trustees: Christine DiSaia

Director of Religious Education: Mandy Neff

Choir Director: Donna Murphy

Accompanist: Michael Mazurkiewicz

Nursery Attendant: Mary Radziewicz

Sexton: Jane Camarda

Church Administrator: Rosa Palomino

DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

A word from Beth Walker, RN who traveled to the Dominican Republic to work in a once-a-year medical clinic.

It was a great experience!...I was able to bring over 100 pounds of supplies and we purchased additional vitamins, nutritional supplies and antibiotics with donations; I raised over \$750.00 dollars towards supplies which surpassed my goal of the 100 pounds of supplies which was met easily through your church and my work colleagues....We saw over 2000 clients and set up 17 different one day clinics sites during the 2 week period.

Thanks to Joyce Prior who made this connection possible, and to all the kids and donors who helped make it such a success!

And a special thanks to our Intersession teachers for January – Kathryn Baptista and Beth Toolan for their bright creations, from airplanes to necklaces, in the Artist Funshop; Denise Regan for her flexibility and direction as the kids learned to act; and Liz Duff for her hardiness on a wildlife tracking trip into a winter wonderland.

I spent the first two Saturdays in January at an Involve conference. Sally Patton's intensive training on *Welcoming Special Needs Children into our Congregations* was powerful. As a UU, Patton's spiritual teaching was that kindness and acceptance will take us farther than we imagine. Her automatic assumption of making space for everyone to participate fit in so well with our own diversity and warmth here at FUSS. She reminds us that as a congregation, we can be a sanctuary for families that are used to battling in every other facet of their lives. We can provide a healing space and a resting place for them to fill their wells and be able to go back out into the world again. We can be a place where everyone is encouraged to share their gifts and competencies. My thanks to the

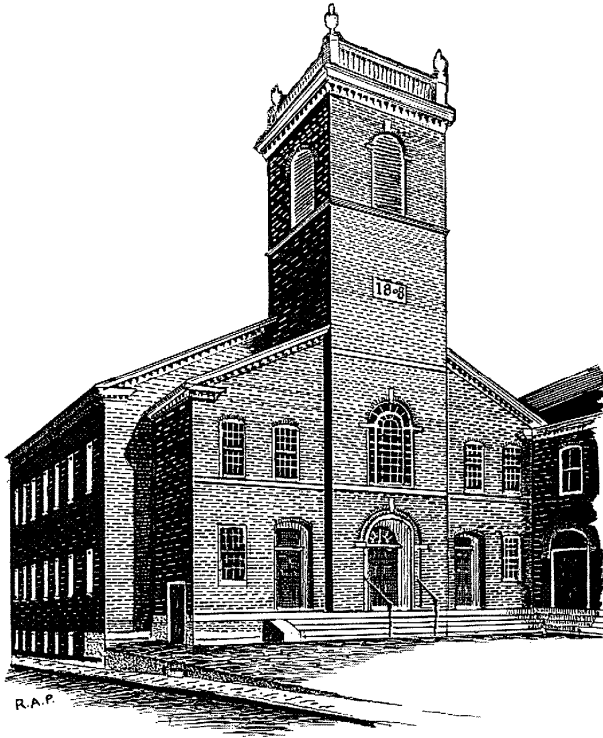
Board for sending me to this training, so that we can continue to live out our first principle – promoting the inherent worth and dignity of every person.

At our Teacher Ingathering on Jan. 25th, the previous teachers shared their wisdom from their experiences with our children. We then did an exercise from the Involve training that let them practice teaching from their strengths. Each teacher selected a strength of theirs to use as a teaching perspective – for example, teachers interested in logic and nature created a lesson around seeds. Using our own strengths to teach reminds us to honor our children's strengths as well.

This month we move into studying our church's history. We will learn about some famous Universalists and how one of them founded our own church. The older children will each receive a copy of *The UU Kids Book*, an activity book that will help them to deepen their learning. If your child brings it home during the week, please make sure they bring it with them each Sunday to class. I encourage you to take a peek at it with them – there are plenty of activities we will not have the time to cover, and you can enjoy bringing Unitarian Universalism further into your home by doing some of them together.

I also recommend <http://clf.uua.org/re/> as a home resource. The Church of the Larger Fellowship's website has sections for adults, kids, and parents. The topics range from life's big questions to games and puzzles, and the appropriate ages are clearly marked. When you're feeling cooped up by the snow, enjoy a few minutes exploring the website together!

In faith,
Mandy Neff
Director of Religious Education
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(781) 481-9232



You are invited to
 a
**CELEBRATORY
 CONCERT**
 In honor of
 the 200th Birthday
 of
 the First Universalist
 Society of Salem
 4:00 PM,
 February 28, 2009

First Universalist Celebrates its 200th Year!

Two hundred years ago a determined group of thoughtful Salemites founded the First Universalist Society of Salem. In 1808, the great Universalist leader, Hosea Ballou was inspired to write a special Hymn to celebrate the laying of the cornerstone of the church, still there in the northeast corner of our beautiful Federal-style building. The congregation began worship in the finished building one year later, under the leadership of their first minister, Reverend Edward Turner. The total cost was a staggering sixteen thousand dollars!

We plan to celebrate again, 200 years later. On Saturday, February 28 at 4 o'clock an enthusiastic group of current church members will present a Bi-Centennial Concert at the church. We will definitely sing Hosea Ballou's hymn, and we will present many other treasures as well. We have looked through the many old hymnals in the church basement and chosen hymns to represent various stages of our rich history. Thanks to our current minister, Rev. Marjorie Matty, and her colleague, the Universalist music historian, Gene Navius, we will sing some hymns that come out of Universalists' strong stances on issues such as slavery and worker's rights. And, finally, we will sing hymns from our current hymnals that reflect where we have journeyed in the recent past. Be sure not to miss the four-part a capella singing of Dr. Webster's favorite hymn - "Nearer My God to Thee!"

Past ministers and long-time members of our church will all receive special invitations to attend this concert. Local congregations will be invited. And, of course, current active members - the backbone of our present church - should be sure not to miss what promises to be a fabulous 200th Anniversary Concert celebration!

Thank you,
 Sarah Smith

UPCOMING JANUARY ACTIVITIES:

Salem Mission Dinner Volunteer Signup

Next Dates: See Chris Weis

Prepare and serve dinner at the Salem Mission on Margin Street. No cleanup involved! Just show up at the Mission -- they'll tell you what to do. Any questions, contact Chris Weis (617) 407-6767, tizweis@yahoo.com

Potluck Supper and Movie Night February 7

We had a great time and good food at our last potluck supper. Twenty-one people played games and enjoyed each other's company. Join us Saturday February 7 for our next gathering. Please sign up in the Anna Hill Room.

Path to Membership Classes

If you are interested in learning more about Unitarian Universalism and/or want to know more about church membership, please plan to attend the three membership classes held after church on February 8, 15 and 22nd. Lunch will be served and child care will be provided. Rev. Matty will lead discussions of UU history, church polity and responsibilities and benefits of membership. All are welcome to attend. Participation in classes is a prerequisite for membership in First Universalist. Please sign up in the Anna Hill Room. Questions may be directed to Sally Millice (978) 745-1632.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Welcome New Member: Christine Weis
Profile by Sally Millice

Chris Weis is a sales engineer for a telecommunications software company. She travels extensively to Europe, India and China as well as major U.S. cities for client Nokia Seimans. She lived in southern France for five years for her career and maintains a house there. Travel is a passion and she recently visited Portugal after a business trip.

Chris is close to her family- a daughter, son-in-law and three grandchildren in Salem and a son in Peabody. The Springfield, MA native was raised Catholic. She has lived in Salem for four years and discovered our church by driving by. Her first service was our annual year-end "tea party and readings" which she found fun and very unusual. Chris has attended our church for two years and joined in October.

Chris spearheads our church's involvement with the Salem Mission. "I was looking for a way to serve the community and wanted to help," she said. She schedules volunteers to cook and serve dinner at the Mission on UU night the second Wednesday of the month. These duties are shared with volunteers from other area UU churches. On the fourth Wednesday, the crew is made up of volunteers from First Universalist only. Chris would like to find more ways to help in the community and enjoys connecting with others who feel the same.

Her other interests are reading, crafts (crocheting, needle pointing and quilting are favorites), hiking and cooking.

We are grateful for Chris' involvement in our congregation and welcome her to membership.

THE CLOTHES ON THEIR BACKS

A Fashion Show Fundraiser

Thursday, February 5th, 2009 – Hawthorne Hotel, 18 Washington Square West, Salem, MA

The Salem Mission is joining forces with the area's most fashion-forward retailers for an evening to raise funds and awareness for our transformational work with the homeless. Featuring a fashion show directed by Modern Millie owner Christine Robidoux as well as auction items from top salons and spas, a one week stay in a delightful two-bedroom condo in Grand Cayman, and much more! Tickets are now available for purchase at: www.salemmission.org or (978) 744-0500 ext. 202. Mention this ad and a table of 10 can be purchased at the discounted price of \$450.

-Jennifer Pieroni

Development Director, The Salem Mission

The First Universalist Society

A Unitarian Universalist Congregation

Established in 1805

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February 2009

Newsletter

FEBRUARY 2009

AH= Anna Hill Room, ARE= Adult RE Room
 DK(k)= Dickson Room (kitchen), SN= Sanctuary
 MO=Minister's Office, BH=Bolles Hall
 LB=Library, TR= Treasurer's Office

Symphony by the Sea will return March 10, 11, 13 and 14..
 NAGLY will meet in Bolles Hall on March 10th
 MassEquality will be using the Dickson Room on Monday, February 9th at 6 PM

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

1 Worship 10:45 A SN Membership Class 12P	2	3 NAGLY 7P DK	4 Choir Rehrsl 7:30P SN	5 Board 7P LB Scot Danc 7:30P BH	6	7 Potluck Supper & Movie Night 5P
8 Worship 10:45 A SN Membership Class 12P Pagan Class ARE 12P	9 MassEquality 6P DK	10 NAGLY 7P DK	11 Salem Mission 4:30P Choir Rehrsl 7:30P SN	12 Deacons 7P AH Scot Danc 7:30P BH	13	14 Craft Circle 10A AH
15 Worship 10:45 A SN Membership Class 12P	16	17 NAGLY 7P DK	18 Choir Rehrsl 7:30P SN	19 Scot Danc 7:30P BH	20	21 Member Use 11A AH and Nursery Pagans 11A DK
22 Worship 10:45 A SN Pagan Class ARE 12P	23	24 NAGLY 7P DK	25 Salem Mission 4:30P Choir Rehrsl 7:30P SN Pantry Bagging 6P DK	26 Scot Danc 7:30P BH	27	28 Craft Circle 10A AH Pantry 9:30A DK 200th Anniv. Concert 4P SN