

The Gleam

January 2009 Newsletter

Unitarian Universalist Church of Wakefield



From our Minister

So it is that we begin. Here we are at the threshold of another year, each of us. May each of us have a calmer and more hopeful 2009. And here we are on the threshold of another year at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Wakefield, you and I. As you have likely heard or read in the Christmas letter from Wendy Dennis, I was offered and have accepted with gratefulness and enthusiasm to be your part-time consulting minister, starting now! In fact, by the time you read this, I will have done the Memorial Service for one of your long-time “church mice”, Fran Ciccirella. After a twenty year ministry focusing on elders through the non-profit I founded in 1988, the Golden Tones, it seems fitting that my first role with you is being with a family and friends who have lost a beloved older person.

But just as the Golden Tones are going on without their founder and under new leadership, the church is moving on into its next year of a lengthy ministry in Wakefield, and I am looking forward to serving you, finding out how you do things around the place, your hopes and dreams, your role in the larger community, and bringing some of my own ideas.

New Year’s seems a propitious time to start something new. It is all about in our culture—New Year’s resolutions about losing weight, getting more exercise, planning time for a new spiritual practice, yoga or just reading books that you haven’t gotten to and taking time for self-care. I know that each year I have a personal resolution to do a better job with my personal financial reporting so that I am not going crazy come April and tax time (don’t ask me how I do with that one). Of course we all know that picking a day to be the “new year” is pretty artificial, but the folks who have come before us have numbered the days and created the rituals of the year. Personally, I think having rituals to celebrate and to grieve are pretty important to give shape to our lives.

And so it is that this year, I begin with you at New Year’s. I will look forward to meeting each of you in the next months and hearing about your lives. I will be working out a schedule of Office Hours when you can schedule time with me or just drop in to say hello if my office door is open. And perhaps I will come up with a catchy title for my newsletter column (ideas welcome). My first service with you will be Sunday, January 4: “We Begin in Love.” Let us begin.

Sincerely,

Maddie

Table of Contents

Pages 1-2	Worship, Ministry
Page 3	Fundraising News
Pages 4-6	Committees News, Happenings,
Page 7:	Volunteers, Church Officers
Page 8:	Church Calendar
Page 9	ADDENDUM!!!!!!

Worship at the Wakefield UU Church

Upcoming Worship Schedule

January 4: Rev. Maddie Sifantus—"We Being in Love" We are delighted to have our new minister in the pulpit to start off the New Year!

January 11: Guest Minister, TBD

January 18: Rev. Maddie Sifantus

January 25: Guest Minister, TBD

Worship Committee Meeting in January

The Worship Committee will hold its next meeting on Thursday, January 22 at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Serena Murley. The committee and our new minister, Rev. Maddie Sifantus, will discuss our styles and traditions of worship and begin to fill in the Sunday service schedule for the next several months. Anyone interested in the details our Sunday service worship is welcome to attend. Contact Serena Murley for directions (781-481-9177) or Janine Fabiano to carpool (parking is limited at Serena's)

Janine Fabiano: 781-245-0631;
j9fabiano@yahoo.com

With Mugs, Red Means Go....

...and introduce yourself!

The Membership Committee purchased RED mugs and asks that guests and visitors use them at coffee hour so we will know who is new to our church.

Please look out for the RED mugs and take a minute to say "Hi" to our guests and visitors during coffee hour. If you are a guest or visitor, or have been away for a while, please use one of our RED mugs for your tea or coffee.



GUEST AT YOUR TABLE BOXES

Don't forget to return your Guest at your table boxes (or checks or cash donations) to the church by January 4th. We'd like to get the money to the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee as soon as possible. There will be a box in the sanctuary for your contributions. Please call or e-mail Susan Kilkelly if you have any questions.

Caring Circle: *How it Works*

If you need help (rides to the doctor, a death in the family, etc.) contact Wendy, 781-246-9751, wendy.dennis@verizon.net. Wendy will email from the church address asking for volunteers, including one person willing to be the point person for the church member or friend in need. She will then hook up the point person with the others who offer to help. If you do not have email but want to be alerted when help is needed, ask Wendy to put you on the phone call list. **If you would like to take on the coordination of Caring Circle needs, please also contact Wendy!**

Around the Block

Long-time member and "church mouse" Fran Ciccirella died on December 19. Our hearts go out to her family and circle of loving friends.

Carolyn Grammer is doing well except for catching "The Bug" after her sister Eleanor's memorial service. I am sure she would love a phone call. You can reach her at 781-935-4230.

As always, a hello and good wishes to **Louise Gannon**.

And, to **Eric Reid**—we are glad you are healing well and able to take care of the sign board out front again! Thank you, Eric!

LOOKING FOR MONEY?



We will know the specifics after our pledge drive that is coming up, but the church will have some funds to distribute in its 2009-2010 budget. The Finance Committee in its role as Budget Preparation Committee has distributed forms to all committees seeking requests for operating and capital budgets. Those are due back by January 11.

If you would like to participate in the budget process there are two meetings scheduled. The Finance Budget committee will meet at the church on **Monday January 12** and **Wednesday, January 28**. All are welcome to come help shape a preliminary budget to be presented with our request for pledges. Many hands make light work and many brains will do a better job of coming up with a budget that uses our limited resources most successfully.

We will be actively seeking pledges in February and early March. During the second half of March a final budget will be developed based on the amount of pledges. The final budget will be shared with the church at an All Church budget meeting in early April and then voted on at Annual Meeting.

Lots of help is needed with the Budget and Pledge process. Most of our operating budget comes from the pledges of our members and friends. Unless there is a lot of commitment to the process from church members, there is no incentive for people to pledge generously in difficult times. So, if you have any time to spare, we would appreciate it. Please contact Susan Kilkelly, Finance Chair, if you have any questions. skkilkelly@aol.com or 245-7245

SOS II—Coming February 28, 2009

Don't miss this! Featuring a super lineup of your favorite folk musicians, SOS II (Save Our Structure) will benefit the building fund of our Wakefield Unitarian Universalist Church, the venue of Linden Tree Coffeehouse.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!!!

Artists will play upstairs in the sanctuary on the hour, with start times of 2:00 –5:00 p.m. and 6:30-9:30 p.m..

A delicious homemade Spaghetti Dinner will be served in the downstairs social hall from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. There will also be raffles and more.

The concert will feature Danielle Miraglia, David Surette and Susie Burke, Fishken and Groves, Pine Hill Ramblers, Judd Caswell, Harvey Reid, Paul Rishell and Annie Raines, and Jason Spooner Trio.

Tickets:

2:00-6:30 p.m.—\$15

6:00-11:00 p.m.—\$20

All Day—\$25 and

Reserved PATRON Seating All Day—\$50

Pasta Dinner 5:00-7:00 pm—\$6

Check www.lindentreecoffeehouse.org for updates as the date gets closer!

To VOLUNTEER, send an email to: admin@wakefielduu.org

Pledge Update for 2008-2009

Pledge update letters will be sent in January to all whom have made 2008-2009 pledges to the church. Keep a look out for your letter and please try to pay your annual pledge timely and in full by March 31, 2008. Thank you. Also, pledge donation letters for 2008 tax purposes can be made for your contributions if you wish. **Please contact Collector - Kelli Parece at 781-245-396 or kparece@verizon.net if you need a tax letter or have any questions about pledging.**

Safe Congregations Committee

The Safe Congregation Committee (SCC) looks into safety issues for the church, ranging from building safety to child abuse, with the aim of developing practical or policy solutions to problems as they arise or are discovered. The SCC has recently re-formed and begun to meet monthly. If you wish to know more about or be a part of the committee, please come to our next meeting on Monday, January 12th at 9am at Kelli's home and/or contact Kelli Parece, SCC Chair, at 781-245-3965.

First Aid and CPR Certified?

The Safe Congregation Committee (SCC) wishes to update the list of congregants and friends that are currently CPR and/or First Aid certified and Healthcare Professionals to list your name in our First Aid Kit. Having this list in the kit can make serving a medical need within the church happen more efficiently should an incident occur and a listed person is in the building. If you have a current CPR and/or First Aid certification and are willing to be included on the list, please contact Kelli Parece, SCC Chair, at 781-245-3965.

Snow Shovelers Wanted

We could use some volunteers for shoveling snow at the church this winter. We have arranged to have the snow plowed after big storms, but we still need to shovel the smaller storms, and the places the plow can't reach. Snow tends to fall at inconvenient times, so if we have a number of people on our list, it makes it easier to get the job done. **Contact Greg Moulton** at 781-246-0738 or gmoulton@partners.org if you'd be willing to help.

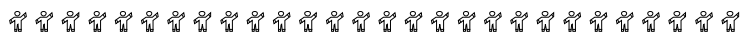


Church cancellations due to bad weather will be posted at www.wakefielduu.org and recorded on the church phone message— 781-245-4632.

Linden Tree Food Cooperative

Our church is home to the Linden Tree Food Coop which orders a variety of food, household products, personal care items, pets items, etc. for its members each month. The members select their choices from a catalog they receive in the mail monthly which includes sales items for that month. They submit their orders by the Sunday before the second Thursday of the month (see calendar) and pickup their orders at the church on the second Thursday between 7-8 pm.

Contact George Snow at 781-246-0365



Women's Retreat on January 24!

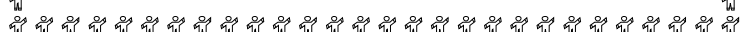
Our annual Women's Retreat will be held on Saturday January 24 starting at 6:00 p.m. While still in the planning, it will include a potluck dinner, a presentation or program of some kind, possibly of the arts and crafts sort, and plenty of time to just hang out and either catch up with or get to better know the women in our congregation. More details to follow!

Ideas for Evening and Weekend events?

Not everyone can attend church on Sunday mornings, so the Membership Committee is looking for ideas and help with planning alternate worship, educational, and social events.

The next Membership Committee meeting will be after church at 12 noon on **January 18**.

For more information or to help with the Woman's Retreat, contact Mary Adele Taylor: deletaylor@rcn.com



Wakefield UU Book Group— January 25

The Book Group will meet on January 25th in the Nursery/ Meeting area about noon to discuss books about animals, fiction or non-fiction. Marley and Me anyone?



We'll miss you, Fran

Fran Ciciarella was one of the original "Church Mice," the group who did all the sexton work and more for many years. She was also always at the church during the Flea Market set-up week until she was no longer able to help out. She was much-loved by her family, friends, and neighbors and will be missed very much by all.

Here is Fran's official obituary:

Frances S. Ciciarella, 88, of Woburn, formerly of Wakefield, died on Friday, December 19 at the Melrose-Wakefield Hospital. Born in Peabody on April 22, 1920, she was the daughter of the late Frederick and Charlotte (Tuttle) Moore.

Mrs. Ciciarella was a graduate of Wakefield High School, Class of 1937 and Lawrence Memorial School of Nursing. She was a retired Registered Nurse and was a supervisor of Central Sterilization at Melrose-Wakefield Hospital. Mrs. Ciciarella enjoyed art classes at the Senior Center.

She was the wife of the late Charles Ciciarella and mother of Elaine Leahy and husband Thomas of Wakefield and Charles Ciciarella of LA. She was the sister of the late Willis Moore, Alice Mahler and Charlotte Moore and grandmother of Robin and Caitlin Leahy.

A funeral service will be held at the McDonald Funeral Home, 19 Yale Ave., Wakefield on Saturday at 11 AM. Interment will be at Cedar Grove in Peabody.

What a Month! A Short BOM Note

Because of the snow and bad weather, we had to cancel Sunday service on 12/21 as well as our Winter Solstice Celebration. And, because of the holidays and just a lot going on, the update from the Board of Management will have to wait until the next Gleam. But, the biggest and BEST NEWS is that we have a new Minister! Welcome, Maddie! And, onward we go!

Wendy Dennis, Board President

UUA Connection



We've had a lot on our plate the past few years, and we still have a lot of challenges to face as to our building and congregation. However, it is worth our while to keep in tune with the happenings in the larger Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA).

If you are a member of the congregation, you should be getting The UU World magazine delivered to your home. And, anyone can access the online version at

<http://www.uuworld.org/>.

Yet another resource is the Monthly Mailing to Congregations, a collection of announcements and updates from the staff groups and committees of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) of Congregations, and from the Church of the Larger Fellowship (CLF). These packets are compiled by the UUA Office of Information & Public Witness. You can access these packets online by going to <http://www.uua.org/leaders/leaderslibrary/congregationalmonthly/>

Come Sing a Song with ...Us!

The Adult Choir meets for practice (and much laughter!) from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. each Tuesday evening.

All are welcome. No weekly (or even Sunday) commitments are necessary! Contact Jeff Workman 781-245-0549 or via gummiprism@yahoo.com, or just show up! Singers and instrumentalists of all ages, from within and beyond our congregation, are cordially invited to share their music with us during a Sunday service.

Contact Worship committee Co-Chair Janine Fabiano 781-245-0631



The Goose Story *Author Unknown*

Next fall, when you see geese heading south for the winter, flying along in 'V' formation, think about what science has learned about why they fly that way.

As each bird flaps its wings, it creates uplift for the bird immediately following it.

By flying in a 'V' formation, the whole flock can fly at least 71% farther than if each bird flew on its own.

Perhaps people who share a common direction can get where they are going quicker and easier if they cooperate.

When a goose falls out of formation, it feels the resistance of trying to go it alone, and quickly gets back into formation to take advantage of flying with the flock.

If we have as much sense as a goose, we will work with others who are going the same way as we are.

When the lead goose gets tired, he rotates back in the wing and another goose flies on the point.

It pays to take turns doing hard jobs for our group.

The geese honk from behind to encourage those up front to keep up their speed.

Finally, (get this) when a goose weakens or is wounded and falls out of formation, two geese fall out and follow him down to help and protect him.

They stay with him until he is either able to fly or until he is dead, and they then set out on their own or with another formation until they catch up with the group.

If we had the sense of a goose, we would stand by each other like that.

Thank you to Kelli Parece for sharing this story at our Sunday Service held in the Social Hall on December 28. We brought back the tradition of having an informal service during which we share favorite readings, stories, and hymns, and a light brunch fare potluck on the Sunday between Christmas and New Years. Thanks to everyone who was able to attend!

Linden Tree Coffeehouse 24th Season!



(Apologies from the editor for the lateness of this January Gleam—January 3 is/was the LTC annual Bluegrass Bash, this year featuring Northern Lights.)

February 7, 2009 8:00 p.m.
Don White and Curt Bessette

If you laugh and cry within the same ten minutes, you either need a vacation or you are sitting in the audience at a Don White show. This working class family man from Lynn, Massachusetts has emerged as the thoughtful songwriter of the decade whose relevance to our lives is evidenced by the powerful reaction he evokes at every concert.

The benchmark of Curt Bessette's work has always been quality. His highly evolved fingerstyle guitar, his warm, effortless vocal approach, and his elegant songwriting are the product of years of development and personal discipline..." --The Portsmouth Herald Curt will be joined by Neal Zweig on lead guitar.

All shows \$15 and in our Social Hall unless otherwise noted.

See www.lindentreecoffeehouse.org for complete schedule and more information.

From the Editor

All submissions to the Gleam must be in writing -- email, paper copy, or disk. Please include the contact name, phone #, and/or email address for each article. **Please send e-mail submissions to admin@wakefielduu.org, and include the word "Gleam" in the subject line.**

The next Gleam deadline is January 26.

NOTE: If you receive a "paper copy" of the Gleam, and do have an email address through which you could receive an electronic copy of the Gleam, please email us at admin@wakefielduu.org and we will put you on the "online" Gleam email list. This reduces church postage, ink, and paper costs. Every bit helps!

Sunday Morning Volunteers

The following volunteer positions are available each week. Please consider helping out on a monthly or occasional basis.

Worship: Usher, Announcer, Greeter

Coffee hour: Set-up; Clean-up, Baked goods

And, since we don't have a dumpster or town trash pickup, we need to take turns bringing a bag or two of trash home with us.

Having one or two folks available to take a turn, here and there, opening the sanctuary radiators early Sunday mornings would be great!

Sunday Morning Volunteers

The Worship Committee is responsible for the usher, announcer, and greeter positions. Three of the worship committee members will be the point of contacts for volunteers for those positions:

Greeter: Serena Murley – 781-481-9177

Usher: Janet Schuchter – 781-245-0735

Announcer: Peter Stickel - 781-245-8029

You may contact them directly or sign up on the Yahoo group to volunteer.

The Membership committee is still seeking someone, or a few point people, to share coordinating coffee hour volunteers. Contact Chair Nancy Trimper: nptrim@rcn.com, 781-245-8562 if you can coordinate one or more of the weekly coffee hour volunteer tasks: Set-up, Bakers, Cleanup.

You can always volunteer for any of the worship or coffee hour weekly tasks, as well as Trash and Heat, by entering your name in the "Sunday Morning Volunteers" database at:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/WakefieldUU/database>

Church Officers and Staff

Minister - Rev. Maddie Sifantus
7 Holiday Rd., Wakefield, MA 01778
(508) 358-7091 msifantus@aol.com

President - Wendy Dennis
12 Armory St., Wakefield, MA 01880
(781) 246-9751 wendy.dennis@verizon.net

Treasurer - Kay Lewis
114 Main St., Wakefield, MA 01880
(781) 246-227 ksletl@juno.com

Collector - Kelli Parece
16 Rossmore Rd., Wakefield, MA 01880
(781) 245-3965 kparece@verizon.net

Board of Directors -
Janine Fabiano: 781-245-0631
j9fabiano@yahoo.com
Dennis Fardy: 781-279-1445;
dfardy@massamontinsurance.com
Michael McLean: 781-224-0133
mmclane2002@yahoo.com
Matthew Jewett: 781-224-0135
md_jewett@hotmail.com
Janet Schuchter: 781-245-0735
jschuchter@verizon.net

Religious Education Dir. - Starbuck Hersey
26 Otis St, Wakefield, MA 01880
(443) 745-8338 SarahStarbuck529@gmail.com

Music Director - Jeff Workman
30 Cordis St., Wakefield, MA 01880
(781) 245-0549 gummiprism@yahoo.com

Pianist - Alla Vishnevetsky
88 Wheatland St. # 3 Somerville, MA 02145
(617) 776-5362 markalla@hotmail.com

Church Rentals - Wendy Dennis
12 Armory St., Wakefield, MA 01880
(781) 246-9751 wendy.dennis@verizon.net

How to Reach Us:

Address: - 326 Main St, PO Box 529,
Wakefield, MA 01880

Telephone: 781-245-4632

Web site: www.wakefielduu.org

Email: admin@wakefielduu.org

Yahoo Group:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/WakefieldUU/>

To email the Yahoo Group:

WakefieldUU@yahoogroups.com

Wakefield UU Calendar for January 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
All meetings & events are at the church unless otherwise noted	() parenthesis represents rentals <i>Italics</i> for dates of general interest	<i>Check the Yahoo Calendar for updates</i>		1	2	3 LTC setup 3:30- Linden Tree Coffee House 8pm
4 Services and RE 10:30 am (Laugh Club 3-4) Food Coop order due	5 (KCC 1:30 – 8:00)	6 Irish Dance 2:30 - 6:00 pm) (Dog Training 6:30-7:30) Choir 7:00 pm	7 <i>cleaning</i>	8 Food Coop pickup 7:00 pm	9	10
11 Services and RE 10:30 am	12 (KCC 1:30 – 8:00) Finance Committee 7:30 pm	13 Irish Dance 2:30 - 6:00 pm) (Dog Training 6:30-7:30) Choir 7:00 pm	14 <i>cleaning</i> Board of Management 7:30 pm	15	16	17 (Riverside Teen Club 12 noon)
18 21 Services and RE 10:30 am Membership Committee 12 noon (Laugh Club 3-4)	19 (KCC 1:30 – 8:00)	20 Irish Dance 2:30 - 6:00 pm) (Dog Training 6:30-7:30) Choir 7:00 pm	21 <i>cleaning</i>	22	23	24 My Brother's Table in Lynn 1:45 pm Women's Retreat 6:00 pm
25 Services and RE 10:30 am Book Group 12:00 noon	26 (KCC 1:30 – 8:00)	27 Irish Dance 2:30 - 6:00 pm) (Dog Training 6:30-7:30) Choir 7:00 pm	28 <i>cleaning</i> Finance Committee 7:30 pm	29	30	31 (Riverside Teen Club 12 noon) (Party 4:00 pm)

Unitarian Universalist Church of Wakefield
 PO Box 529
 Wakefield MA 01880

January 2009 Gleam Addendum Page—Important information that the editor missed the first time around...

What Does This Church Mean to You?

For this year's annual pledge Sunday service, to be held on Sunday February 1, the worship committee would like to give church members and friends an opportunity to share "What does this church mean to you?" synopsis.

Would you appreciate the opportunity to share your thoughts and feeling about what the Wakefield UU church means to you? I

have often found it to be powerful and inspiring to hear such thoughts from individual congregants. Your words can be a couple of minutes long or a few short lines. Please consider sharing what this church means to you and contact Janine Fabiano by January 25 at j9fabiano@yahoo.com or 781-245-0631.

Meet the New Minister Potluck Luncheon

After service on Sunday, Feb 8, all church members and friends are welcome to a potluck lunch with our new minister, Rev. Maddie Sifantus. Please bring along a luncheon dish or dessert to share, and come meet and introduce yourself to our new church minister whom we are very excited about joining us.

Contact: Board of Management