

Newsletter of the Gloucester Unitarian Universalist Church
The First Universalist Church in America
Organized in 1779 as *The Independent Christian Church*

THE REVEREND JENNY RANKIN, INTERIM MINISTER
Worship Service: 10:00 am

**10 Church Street [corner Middle & Church Streets]
 Gloucester MA 01930 (978) 283-3410 www.gloucesteruu.org**



Interim Musings

“Beginners Mind”

The sky is deeper blue. The nights are cooler. My garden is a late-summer jungle of tomatoes and zinnias, cucumber and basil. The wheel of the year turns. The calendar page turns. It is September, and we begin again. Another year at school, at church. Another year.

This September, much is new for me. I am packing two off for college, not one. We are welcoming a puppy — yes, I said it! — into our home. After my father’s death last spring, I am integrating furniture, china, beloved belongings from my childhood, into my house and trying to adjust, inside, to this new chapter in my life, the one without my parents.

And, I am beginning as your Interim Minister. There is so much for me to learn. About who you are as a community, what you hope to do, to be, in the world, in Gloucester and

beyond. So much to learn about you are as individuals, your hopes, struggles, joy and sorrow. How your life has unfolded, bringing you to this place, this particular point in time.

I realize that you are beginning, too. On Sundays, you gather for worship without Wendy, your long-settled minister. That is a big change, and I imagine it brings a whole range of emotions, grief, relief, anticipation, anxiety, the desire to hold on to how things were, the desire to move on.

I remember the Buddhist notion of “beginner’s mind.” That we try to bring to each day, each person we encounter, every thing we do, the attitude of a beginner. What would that be? Well, trying to see things fresh. With curiosity. Openness. A kind of delight or wonder. Paying attention to what is in front of us instead of just passing it by.

Continued on Page 3

3rd Annual Tragabigzanda Festival



Folklore and more on the North Shore.

with a matinee on Sunday September 20th (time TBD). There

We’re excited about hosting the **Third Annual TRAGABIGZANDA Political Theatre Festival** —

beginning on Thursday, September 19th and running Friday and Saturday evenings,

will be two other plays in the weeks that follow. These short plays are written by locals about hot topics in our community.

Each 15-30 minute piece will be followed by a brief town hall-style “talk-back” session, in which the audience can engage with the actors, directors and playwrights involved. The suggested donation is \$15-\$20.

Continued on Page 5



www.gloucesteruu.org



**Accessible Entrance at
 Corner of
 Pine/Proctor & Church
 Streets**



[www.facebook.com/
 pages/Gloucester-
 Unitarian-Universalist-](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Gloucester-Unitarian-Universalist-)

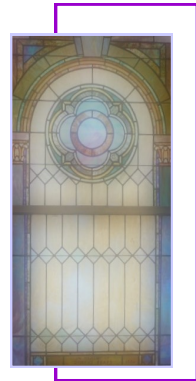
Music & Meditation in the Meetinghouse

The third in our series, Music & Meditation in the Meetinghouse (MMM), was held on Sunday evening, August 25th in the Sanctuary. It was a magical experience led by Dr. Neil Williams as the meditation leader and Moira Kelly as the musician, playing the harp and singing. Dr. Williams brought us through various types of mindfulness mediation based upon awareness of our senses...sight, sound, aroma, breathing... in the present moment. The event included a

tea ceremony in which everyone was personally served a cup of aromatic tea. The room was entirely lit by votive candles as the sun went down, illuminating the golden tones in the West-facing stained glass windows and making the Sanctuary feel like the inside of a glowing lantern. Moira Kelly enchanted us with delightful music on the harp that seemed to dance with the flickering candles and later with her singing. A collation, featuring Italian sodas, scrumptious cookies and

delicious grapes, was held afterwards in our Entrance House in which everyone could greet the leaders and discuss the event experience.

The fourth in our series of MMM events will be held on **Sunday September 29th** in the Sanctuary at **7:30PM**. Keep an eye on the church web site for more details. If you would like to be meditation leader or provide music for a future MMM event please contact the church office. (Karen: 978/283-3410)



"Off-Season" Farmers' Markets Coming Soon!

CAPE ANN
FARMERS'
MARKET



"BUY LOCAL -
EAT LOCAL"

Due to the popularity of the indoor markets held before Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter in 2012/13, the Cape Ann Farmer's Market will add two more off-season markets in 2014. All indoor markets will be held at the Unitarian Universalist Church at the corner of Middle and Church Streets in downtown Gloucester. Except for Thanksgiving, they are the third Saturdays of the month.

Market Schedule
*(All markets 9 am to noon
on Saturdays)*

Thanksgiving Harvest Market: November 23, 2013,

Winter Solstice Market: December 21, 2013,

NEW *March Madness Market: March 15, 2014,

Spring Fare: April 19, 2014

NEW *Merry May Market: May 17 2014,

Filling Our Pulpit In September

- September 1** Loretta Peres
- September 8** Shep Abbott
- September 15** Rev. Jenny Rankin
- September 22** Rev. Jenny Rankin
- September 29** Guest

Please check the official calendar on our website for updates. As soon as we have titles for the homilies, they will be posted on the calendar.



Pictures of Wendy's Party can be found on our website (click on LINKS, then look under the heading Unitarian Universalist.

Some Sermons can be found on the WELCOME VISITORS tab . Click on Music & Liturgy ... and then "Selected Sermons." Janet Ruth Young's talk is now posted.

... And the Work Goes On!

Our ADA access project (Phase II) is now officially underway thanks to the award of a Block Grant of \$45,000 to complete the work begun last year with the installation of our wheelchair lifts and the one accessible lavatory.

The new contract has been awarded to our member **Geoff Richon** and his company and will following the volunteered design work of our member Charles Nazarian.

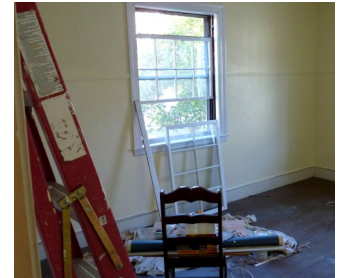
The work will begin soon and will include installation of two new wheelchair accessible lavatories in the "storage" room to the right of the stage, the completion of the "roughed in" accessible lavatory at the top of the stairs in the annex (including expansion of the landing area at the top of the stairs), conversion of the current women's facility to an accessible lavatory, and the installation of automated door openers at the Church St. side door and at the Gould Ct. parking lot door. When these are completed, people in wheelchairs and those needing special parking and elevators and accessible lavatories we will finally find our historic building a friendly place.

Our building and grounds committee members will do all the painting and participate wherever appropriate. We have already done some related work this summer - to include refinishing the stage floor and moving all the furnishings from the minister's office. We have nearly completed rehabilitation of the Darlington Room, including refinishing that floor, and are now cleaning and painting the minister's office and the library. Our new interim minister will be working out of the Historic Room until that work is completed.

Other projects will also be soon underway. This fall we will change our oil burner to gas - reducing our carbon footprint and also saving us money in heating costs. We will also be installing a gutter on the West side of the building and gutters along the short side of the entry house. These will make the Gould Ct. entry more accessible in foul weather, and the diversion of the water will reduce moisture infiltration in the backstage area and degradation of the sills and doorways caused by splash.

Building and Grounds always appreciates extra help. Many thanks to **Genevieve Dionne** who has been painting with us all summer - taking on difficult jobs like window sash and trim, and to **Alex Floyd** who painted the ceiling.

Minister's Office ... getting ready for a brand new beginning.



If you are good at painting or cleanup — if you get satisfaction from cleaning windows ... or perhaps you enjoy polishing old door and window hardware (or any of the construction and finishing crafts) — we would love to have your help. Volunteer for one morning or as much as you like. To volunteer, please see me at church or call me at 978-283-3484.

Thanks, *Newt Fink*

"Beginner's Mind"

Continued from Page 1

Remember what it feels like to travel to a new place? It can be as if your 5 senses have just woken up. "Oh, the smell of bread from the bakery on the corner!" "Look! The Eiffel Tower! There's Notre Dame cathedral!" "Close your eyes. Can you smell the Gaulloise cigarette smoke from that café? Can you hear the rush and roar of traffic on the boulevards?" When we travel, beginner's mind can come more easily to us. Back home, we walk down the sidewalk and miss the smell from the corner café. We pass things as if we are sleepwalking, because all is familiar, well known. We can lose that freshness, that curiosity, that openness to see and learn in a new way.

It is September, and we begin again. Cultivate "beginner's mind," the Buddhists whisper to us. Here, at the edge of the fall, as the sky turns a deeper blue, as tomatoes appear from

the garden, red and ripe, as tall schooner masts appear over the harbor, here at the edge of fall, we look, we listen. Beginner's mind.

Thank you for welcoming me. I look forward to seeing you in church on September 15th. Or before!

Minister's Schedule
978/283-3410
revjenny@comcast.net

I'll be in the office Wednesday and Thursday, preaching on some Sundays, and working at home either Monday or Friday (and probably answering lots of emails most days!)

Religious Education is Changing!

Dear Members and Friends,

I wanted to write to all of you and tell you what a pleasure it was to serve as your Director Of Religious Education. You have a wonderful vibrant community in the heart of Gloucester, that is on its way to big and wonderful changes. I encourage you to embrace them. I will miss each and every one of you as I move on to my new ventures at the Wakefield Unitarian Universalist Church. If I can leave you with a final piece of wisdom it is to encourage and embrace all of the wonderful personalities of the children you have. All of the children are so talented and they are sure to move on to wonderful things in their lives.

In warm faith and friendship, *Tabitha Carty-Mercier*



Hello, I am the new Director of Religious Education and am excited about our plans for the upcoming year, which will begin on September 22nd.

We have made some changes to the program, namely:

- Weekly Children's Chapel service with the week's Sunday School lesson incorporated into it.
- Weekly activities, related to the week's lesson, and including all ages.
- More music for and made by the children.

We would like to have as much of the congregation involved in what we do as possible and the new Chapel service is designed to make that easier. The children will begin as usual upstairs and then will go downstairs for Chapel. One of the goals of Chapel is to include the children, from the youngest tots to our high school students, in it, so the children will have the opportunity to give readings, learn and sing hymns, collect an offering for a charity they choose, offer their own prayer concerns, and even help give the lesson and lead the related activity following Chapel. In all of these ways the children will make our own little sanctuary downstairs meaningful and better connect them to the services upstairs.

It would also help make meaningful connections if various members of the congregation visited us once and a while. The Chapel format allows us to present a great variety of content but still maintain a consistent experience from week to week. We anticipate that the Chapel service itself will be led by a regular group of adults but the lessons and activities could be led by anyone who has a particular interest or talent and would be willing to spend a Sunday sharing that with us. If you have any ideas for a lesson or activity, please let me know!

I am really happy to be able to volunteer my own time, particularly since this will free up funds to hire someone to lead the music in the Chapel services. We hope to bring much more music into the lives of our young - and perhaps even come upstairs once in a while and bring some of that music into lives of the those of us who are less-young upstairs!

Finally, if you have a Sunday School-age child, please fill out one of the registration forms that will be given to you once the church year begins so that we can make sure we have accurate records of our children and their needs and interests. If you have any questions or ideas to share, please email or call me at lucyboyntonmelvin@gmail.com or (978) 927-1657.

Thanks! *Lucy Melvin*

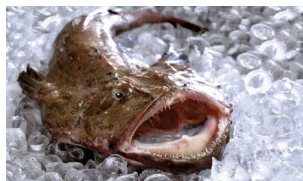


As the Board member responsible for Religious Education, I wanted to update everyone about a few developments in our Religious Education Program:

- ⇒ Tabitha Mercier-Carty, who has led our program for the past year and a half, has accepted a position leading the R.E. program at our sister church in Wakefield. We are thankful for the good work she has done for us and wish her the best in her new role!
- ⇒ Lucy Melvin has volunteered to lead our R.E. program this year. She is looking forward to the coming year and outlines some of the new plans for our program in her article elsewhere in this edition of the newsletter.
- ⇒ We are collaborating with the Rockport and Essex churches to offer an Our Whole Lives class for students in grades 7 through 9. The class, beginning in early October, will meet at our church and our own Janet Young will be one of the leaders. It is open to friends of the congregation, so if you know of someone who might be interested (or if you have any questions), have them contact Lucy or Janet.

As always, let me know if you have any questions or ideas regarding the R.E. program!

Jeremy Melvin Chair, R.E. Committee



from *GoodMorningGloucester*

"Hi Joey,

I hope you're well and enjoying your summer. I wanted to reach out to you regarding a new video series we just

launch entitled **Batali Cooks 4**, where we asked fans to send us their top 4 favorite ingredients using the hash #batalicooks4. Mario picked a list and created a custom recipe and video based on those picks.

In this inaugural video, Mario chose a list from **Ann Straccia of Gloucester** which includes monkfish, artichokes, lemon and kale. Mario then created a custom recipe and video – where he walked viewers through all the steps of the recipe in his signature style – teaching us along the way."

Click on this link to see the entire article and to watch the video. [Note: "we" need to teach people how to pronounce Glosta!]

<http://goodmorninggloucester.wordpress.com/2013/08/15/ann-straccia-from-gloucester-ingredient-list-makes-mario-batalis-first-video-in-his-batali-cooks-4-series/>

Congratulations, Ann! It seems that we have so many creative people in our congregation ... and to think ... YOUR ingredients attracted the attention of such a famous chef. We're so proud of you.

People Are Meant to be Loved

People are meant to be loved. Things are meant to be used. Many of our problems stem from a disturbance of this reality. People are used and things are loved.

Author Unknown

3rd Annual Tragabigzanda Festival

In the past, these "political theatre" plays have dealt with heartfelt and hard-hitting subjects, such as rights for our disabled population (*Shadow Living*), the challenges faced by the fishing industry and arts community (*An Hour at Sea*), how a family copes with drug overdose (*Unexpected*), and more. Last year we partnered with the Postpartum Task Force of the North Shore to create a powerful piece called *You Are My Sunshine*.

The actors and playwrights are all locals, and every play produced is inter-generational. (*None of the plays this year contain profanity or nudity, if that is a concern.*)

This year's three new plays are:

- **In a Birds Eye**, a 30 minute musical about the rezoning of the marine industrial area for a luxury hotel, and how it has divided our community. When a community is divided, a family is divided, and this original story depicts one such (fictional) family.
- **34 Beds**, (*in collaboration with The Grace Center*) puts a human face to our homeless population.
- **(Untitled work in progress a collaboration with local youth and the Rose Baker Senior Center &**

Gloucester's Council on Aging) We are currently developing a piece for this festival that bridges youth ages 13-18 who are dealing with bullying, with senior citizens who are experiencing bullying in their golden years. Like our other offerings, this promises to be an important piece.

The plan is that "TRAGA" will open Thursday, September 19th, and run three weekends through Sunday, October 6th, Thursday through Sunday at 7pm — and a matinee on Saturdays.

More information will be posted on the church website as plans are finalized.

Birthdays

4 Diane Stephan	21 Eleanor Melvin
7 Sherry Borge	22 Sally Willard
17 Bob Tuffley	22 Susan White
17 George Smith	24 Bill Holton
18 Alanna Peres	25 Manny Peres
19 Newt Fink	29 Ron Richards
20 Tracy Wood	30 Carol Ann Maciel

Flowers

8/3 Given by Deborah Way, from her garden, wanting to share with her friends.

8/11 Given by Isabel Sloane in memory of her mother, Dorothy Rouse Jones & her father, Lewis Rouse Jones.

8/18 Given from the garden of a church member who wishes to share their beauty with us.

8/25 Given by Dr. Richard E. Brown in loving memory of his wife, June B. Brown.

Shopping Spree Raffle to Benefit the Food Pantry



The Open Door Food Pantry is holding their annual Shopping spree Raffle this fall. The **Prizes: ONE 3-minute shopping spree** at the Gloucester Crossing Market Basket Crossing Store, on December 14th at 6:30 a.m. **and TEN \$10** Market Basket gift cards.

Tickets: SIX tickets for \$5; ONE ticket for \$1. Tickets are available at the Second Glance Thrift Store (2 Pond Road, Gloucester). The Thrift Store is open from 9:00 am - 7:00 pm Monday through Saturday. **Drawing:** at the Open Door Autumn Breakfast on Thursday, October 24th at Cruiseport Gloucester, 6 Rowe Square. **Rules can be found at : www.foodpantry.org**

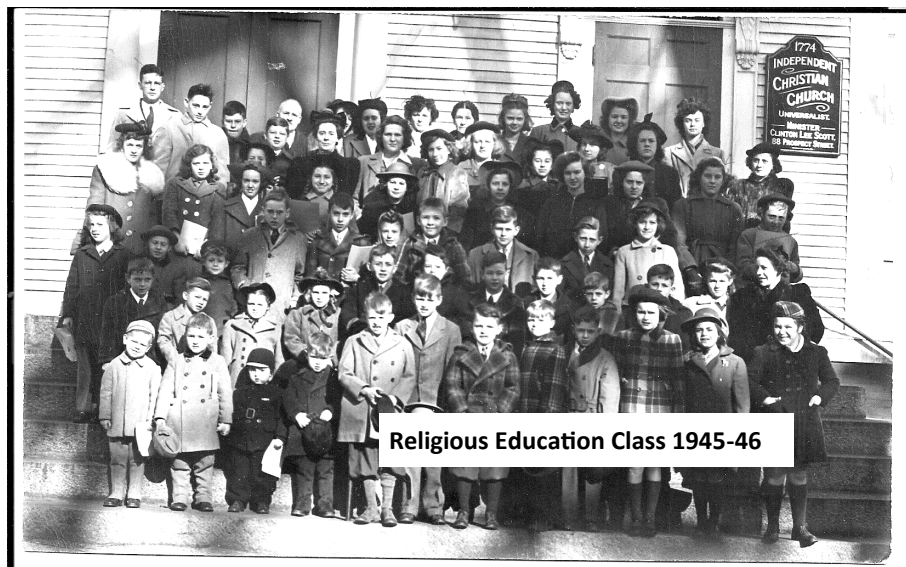


Back-to-School Items Needed at the Pantry

Tuna - Chicken - and Turkey
SunButter (nut-free) -- Breakfast Cereal
Snack-sized fruit cups -- Juice boxes
Pretzels, Crackers, Raisins

This is certainly an impressive Religious Education Class!

We know two of those pictured are: Judy Williams, and Marjorie Melanson; we think Col. Dale Corliss might be in the picture too. Can you find others ?





OWL – Our Whole Lives Sexuality Education for Grades 7-9

Sunday Evenings (7– 8:30 pm, 12 Sessions)

Planned Start Date: October 20, 2013

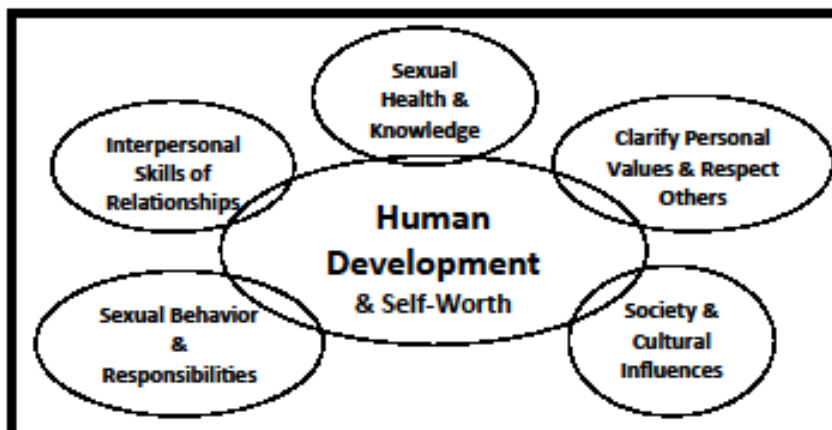
Held at the

***Gloucester Unitarian Universalist Church
10 Church Street—Gloucester MA 01930***

Starting this fall the Gloucester, Essex, and Rockport Unitarian Universalist Churches will co-sponsor an Our Whole Lives sexuality education class for students in grades 7 to 9. The curriculum is secular and open to interested members of the Cape Ann Community.

Interested families should contact Terri Desmarais (978) 546-6511, Director of Religious Education of the Rockport UU Church.

Parents are children's primary teachers, but what is society teaching our children about sexuality? Our Whole Lives is an antidote to sexualized media messages, peer pressure, misinformation, and prejudice. It provides accurate, age-appropriate information; puts sexuality in the context of values and personal responsibility; supports healthful decision making; and strengthens social skills. These skills and values help prepare youth to make healthy choices for life.



Our Whole Lives Values:

- Self Worth
- Sexual Health
- Responsibility
- Justice and Inclusivity

OWL models and teaches caring, compassion, respect, and justice. It helps adolescents address their attitudes, values, and feelings about themselves, their sexuality, and others' sexuality. Participants are guided by trained facilitators through an engaging curriculum that addresses topics most important to young adolescents, including those typically excluded from sexuality education and health classes. Each workshop is 90 minutes.

Our Whole Lives Offers

- Up-to-date information and honest, age-appropriate answers to all participants' questions
- Activities to help participants clarify values and improve decision-making skills
- Effective group-building to create a safe and supportive peer group
- Education about sexual abuse, exploitation, and harassment
- Opportunities to critique media messages about gender and sexuality
- Acceptance of diversity
- Encouragement to act for justice
- Parent orientation that affirms parents as the primary sexuality educators of their children.