

***First Church in Jamaica Plain, Unitarian Universalist***

**April Newsletter, 2008**

**P.O. Box 186, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130 – (617) 524-1634**

*email:* Firstchjp@aol.com

*web site:* [www.firstchurchjp.org](http://www.firstchurchjp.org)

Rev. Terry Burke, Minister  
Rev. Marshall Hawkins, Affiliate Minister  
Rev. Patricia Brennan, Affiliate Minister  
George Wardle, Trustees Chair  
Andrée Záleská, RE Director  
Jean O'Leary, Church Administrator

Ellen McGuire, Music Director  
Janna Frelich, Soloist  
Giulia Norton, Standing Committee Chair  
Philomena O'Donnell, Head Usher  
Monroe Heyman, Building Use

***Thoughts From Rev. Terry Burke***

"April is the cruelest month" wrote poet T.S. Eliot. This April 4th is the 40th anniversary of Martin Luther King's assassination. I remember going to bed that night and lying in the dark stunned and afraid. Was our country coming apart? I'm stunned now at what King accomplished in a very short lifetime; had he lived, Dr. King would be 79 years old, and likely still an active and impassioned voice on the American scene.

I remember in the months following his assassination watching on Walter Chronkite's TV news as King's vision of Resurrection city played out on the streets of Washington D.C. Poor people descended upon the city from across the country seeking justice, living in an encampment. The Civil Rights Movement was not one person, but without King's leadership, Resurrection City was doomed. Eventually, the camp was broken up, and the poor were sent home empty handed.

The poor are still with us. Because he fought for civil rights, economic justice, and opposed militarism, Dr. King was probably the most hated person in America when he died. Yet if anyone embodied the Spirit of God in this country in my lifetime, it had to be Martin Luther King.

Try to remember Dr. King now by leaving your comfort zone a little; try to live in that Spirit of love and justice. April may be the cruelest month, but it can also see a flowering of new life.

Yours, Terry

***Greetings from Andrée, Director of Religious Education***

Welcome to the Spring RE Team: Marie Power and Susan Cascino will share the preschool class, Libba Ingram takes over the 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> graders, and Chuck Collins and Suzanne Demarco continue with the Middlers. Larry Zaborski is going to take over Children's Chapel this term as well. Thanks to all our volunteers.

The Spirit Play Committee has been meeting monthly, and we are ready to try out this new method of teaching RE. Watch for demonstration lessons at coffee hour on April 13, May 11 and June 1.

(RE cont.)

We have another 5-Senses Sunday coming up on April 20, to celebrate Earth Day in a multigenerational format. Don't miss it!

The RE Committee is considering making the Wake Up the Earth Parade our big RE-event this year. If you would like to volunteer to help the kids make puppets or masks to wear, or decorate signs, please get in touch with me. We hope to have the whole congregation out to celebrate our faith and our church in a public venue.

Best wishes, Andree Zaleska

## **Coming Up at First Church**

**~Special Night of Gender-Role-Free Contra, English, and Two-Step Dancing:** The three social-dance groups that meet at the church will collaborate in a special night of dancing on **Saturday, March 29** from 7 to 11 pm. Beginners are welcome; all dances are taught, offering a gentle introduction to New England contra, English country, and country-and-western two-stepping. We dance without traditional man-woman/leader-follower gender roles, and LGBT folks and friends attend the event. Music is live and DJ'd, with callers, lessons, hors d'oeuvres, and sweets. We are especially hoping to see church members come! You don't need to bring a partner, but please wear light, comfortable clothing. Admission is \$12 or pay what you can. Some proceeds from the event will go towards the costs of the church's Summer 2007 floor refinishing.

**~NOTE: Blue Jeans' Saturday has been cancelled until the weather warms up!!**

**~The next Membership book signing is scheduled for March 30th.** Please email Cherisse Haakonsen at [cherprieve@yahoo.com](mailto:cherprieve@yahoo.com) if you have any questions or would like to add your name to the list of our prospective new members. Coffee hour that day will be held to celebrate our new members!

**~Boston Pride Update:** For over 38 years Boston Pride has organized a week of Pride events, including the week-topping Parade and Festival, and the Boston community has plenty to be proud of! Not only does Boston host the largest Pride celebration in New England (over 1 million participants), but our community celebrates in the only state that allows same-sex couples the legal right to marry!

If you think First Church should be represented at this event, and want to be counted, please contact Cherisse at [cherprieve@yahoo.com](mailto:cherprieve@yahoo.com) by March 31st. So far we have two people signed up to be part of the parade - we need at least three more eager, energized individuals to be considered a "marching group" and we will only be charged \$175 - that works out to be \$35 per person! *Late fees kick in on April 1st and registration will close on June 1st. Hurry!! :-)*

**~Book Group:** On Tuesday, April 1 and May 6 (at 7:30 in the Morse Room), the book group will discuss Howard Zinn's The People's History of the United States:1492-Present, a fascinating perspective on history and what we learn as history. There's no set amount to read, we discuss whatever part of the book moves us.

***New Class: Making a Memory Box, Spirit House, or Shrine***

5 Wednesday evenings at 7:30, starting April 2.

**Taught by Rev. Terry Burke and Ellen McGuire**

**Memory box:** remembering a person, place, event, etc.

**Spirit house:** creating a focus for meditation.



*My Uncle Bub, memory box by Ellen McGuire*

As part of our current church focus on various kinds of prayer, we invite you to learn about the ways that “houses” or shrines are used in various religions traditions, both to remember and to pray. Each class member will also make a memory box or spirit house to take home. There is an estimated cost of \$10 for materials.

For more information, contact [ellenmcguire9@gmail.com](mailto:ellenmcguire9@gmail.com)

**~Join the Jamaica Plain Historical Society for a talk on the legacy of Mayor James**

**Michael Curley**, a viewing of Curley campaign memorabilia, and a showing of a 1957 interview of the Mayor conducted live from his Jamaica Plain home. This will be the first time in over 50 years that this rare footage will be shown to the public. Our speaker will be Clint Richmond, author of "Political Places of Boston" and a noted Curley historian. Sunday, April 6th from 3-5 p.m. at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Hall, 45 Brookside Ave., Jamaica Plain.

## Lights! Cables! Action! New Orleans 2008

I thought you might be interested in knowing that I will be returning with a dedicated team of seven local contractors to donate a week of service, April 12-20, 2008, to rebuild flood-damaged homes in New Orleans. This will be under the auspices of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee. We are committed to fixing homes in marginalized neighborhoods helping displaced families to reestablish their daily lives. We hope that our efforts will contribute to the rebuilding of a strong New Orleans that is as rich in racial and enomic diversity as the old one.

Although it has been two and a half years since that terrible storm, little has been done in restoring or replacing these homes. The federal agencies and the insurance companies you would expect to supply the necessary resources have quietly slipped away, leaving much to be rebuilt. Forty percent of New Orleans ' residents are still without homes.

Protecting New Orleans from future storms is possible. The details of what needs to be done are known, but what is missing is strong national leadership. Once again, narrow corporate interest, stupidity, and political corruption from the local to the federal level is standing in the way. Keeping our attention on New Orleans will help get it rebuilt and help push Congress and the Army Corp of Engineers to do the right thing.

"How can I help?" We hope you are asking yourself. Well, if you're a klutz with a drill or wire stripper, or can't take a week off, please consider making a small contribution to offset the cost of building materials, transportation, and lodging of Team Tool Belt.

Feel free to forward this email to anyone you think might be interested. Also, attached is a flyer with this information. Thanks, Rick Yoder

### **Jamaica Plain Forums**

**JP Forum Seeks Tech-Savvy Friend:** The Jamaica Plain Forum is busting at the seams - we are looking to upgrade the size of our screen and our audio and projection capabilities for films. We have some possible grant sources, but want to develop a good plan to upgrade, in conjunction with our Building Committee. Seeking someone with audio/video skills to help us to research the best available options. Please email Sarah at [jamaicaplainforumsarah@gmail.com](mailto:jamaicaplainforumsarah@gmail.com) or call 617-541-0500x302.

**"A Dream In Doubt", Friday, April 18. 7- 9PM:** Film screening It was the first hate-based murder in the wake of September 11, 2001—one of thousands of reported and unreported hate crimes in the years that followed. The victim: a turbaned Sikh man in Mesa, Arizona, where his family had sought religious freedom, searching for the American Dream. Meet a family still determined to believe in that dream, even as the nightmare continues for many religious and ethnic minorities in a climate of xenophobia and fear. After the film we will participate in a facilitated discussion.

## Global Warming Café, March 29, 1-5PM

The Global Warming Cafe is a powerful, new social change technology that enables us to experience the power of community. Rather than passively listening to experts, the Global Warming Cafe is an opportunity to:

- draw on your experience,
- actively reflect with others in your community, and
- find ways with others to take practical steps forward



We will share, listen actively, draw ideas out on paper, laugh and learn. You will leave with knowledge about programs to help us lower our carbon footprint and transfer this knowledge to our homes, communities, workplaces, and beyond. Please RSVP for this event! Email Sarah at: [globalwarmingcafejp@gmail.com](mailto:globalwarmingcafejp@gmail.com)

**Take the leap from climate change-induced despair to informed empowerment!**



**Save the date: The Big Show is coming back! An afternoon of poetry, humor and music, performed by your First Church friends, followed by George's famous lasagna and potluck. Sunday, April 13 at 4.**

**Alice Kociemba** will be a featured poet, along with Fred Marchant and Martha Collins, at Chapter & Verse on **Wednesday, April 2nd, at 7:30 p.m. at the Loring-Greenough House**, 12 South Street, Jamaica Plain (at the Monument).

### Membership Corner

*"What happens when we grow?"*  
April 13th, join what will be part one of a three-part discussion re the recent workshop I attended hosted by the Mass Bay District. Time: 9:00 am in the Parish Hall. A light breakfast will be provided. Cherisse Haakonsen

## Trust Notice Re: Planned Giving for First Church

Drafting your Will? Doing your estate planning? Make a gift to assure the future of First Church. For specific information speak to any of the Trustees or directly contact Vauntina Franklin, 617-434-4627, the Trust Administrator at Bank of America. The Trustees are George Wardle; Penny Wells; Theo Colburn; Gerry Culver; and Judith Garfunkel.

## April 2008 Calendar

1	Tuesday	Book Group 7:30pm
2	Wednesday	Adult RE: Make a memory box or shrine 7:30PM
3	Thursday	Membership Book Signing
5	Saturday	Suzy Saul's Memorial: Prelude 2PM/Service 3PM
6	Sunday	Service: Rev. Marshall Hawkins 11:00PM Communion
7	Monday	Building Committee Mtg. 7:30PM
9	Wednesday	Adult RE Group 7:30PM
10	Thursday	Choir Rehearsal 8:00PM
11	Friday	Youth Night
13	Sunday	RE Committee Mtg. 9:00AM Sermon: 40 Years Later – MLK 11:00PM Social Justice Mtg. 12:30PM Finance Committee Mtg. 12:30PM BIG SHOW!! 4:00PM
15	Tuesday	Standing Committee Mtg. 7:00PM
16	Wednesday	Adult RE Group 7:30PM
18	Friday	JP Forum Film: <i>Dream in Doubt</i> 7:00PM
20	Sunday	Newcomers Breakfast 9:30PM Sermon: Earth Day – 5 Senses Sunday 11:00AM
21	Monday	Patriot's Day and Boston Marathon/
23	Wednesday	Adult RE Group 7:30PM
24	Thursday	Choir Rehearsal 8:00PM
27	Sunday	Sermon: Les Justes 11:00AM
30	Wednesday	Last Adult RE Class 7:30PM

### Happy Birthdays!

**William Shimada-Brand 1**

**Luke Mathew 14**

**Pierre Payette 1**

**Nora Collins 20**

**Emily Eldridge-Ingram 2**

**Sarah Schwartz Sax 21**

**Tim Williamson 4**

**Alejandro Lopez-Wheeler 23**

**Edward Hawley 13**

**Stephanie Shimada-Brand 27**

**Cherisse Haakonsen 28**

