



**ARLINGTON
STREET CHURCH**
Unitarian Universalist

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window

AUTUMN 2003 - VOLUME III, NUMBER 1

Song of the Open Road

Kim K. Crawford Harvie
Senior Minister

Dear Friends,

Warmest greetings from the heart of summer! I'm thinking of you.

Ten years ago, a small handful of us dreamed of completing our sanctuary renovation in time for General Assembly, the annual gathering of Unitarian Universalists that was held in Boston this June. After years of anticipation, I'm finding it hard to believe that G.A. has indeed come to Boston ... and gone. And I was *so proud* of Arlington Street! Yes, our sanctuary is truly the jewel in the crown. And that was only the beginning ... Our Visitors' Center was magnificent – how about that newly-refurbished model of the Federal Street Church?! Our new banner, leading the opening celebration's banner parade, was spectacular! The re-enactment of scenes from Channing's life was really wonderful. Our booth in the exhibit hall was a hotbed of enthusiastic activity. Indeed, throughout the assembly, the ASC presence was high profile, high energy, and high quality. There isn't room here to begin to name all of you who made it possible; for now, let me just say *thank you*. A colleague told me, "I would give anything for your congregation!" Amen!

You'll hear more stories from G.A. in the coming months, but the opening night deserves one brief story: That day, June 26th, the U.S. Supreme Court had struck down state sodomy laws, a huge victory for people of all sexual orientations, everywhere, and of special significance to lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people in its implication that all consensual sex between adults should be just that – between the adults. As Bill Sinkford, President of the Unitarian Universalist Association, triumphantly announced the court's decision, a great wave of applause rolled through the thousands of UUs seated in the Hynes Auditorium. Kem and I stood to clap and embraced one another ... and then, from behind us, we felt others embracing us. It was no one we knew ... just an elderly heterosexual couple from Orange County, California, sharing our joy! Have I told you lately how much I love being a Unitarian Universalist?!

Staff update: By now, many of you will have met our new administrator, Peter Johnston, and our new administrative assistant, Lauren Kadi. If you haven't had a chance, please stop in to the church office and say hello! And I'm thrilled to welcome my beloved friend and colleague, Rabbi Howard Berman, who will be joining our ministerial staff this year! You'll be hearing more about – and from! – Howard and his work with us on September 7th, Homecoming Sunday (please don't forget to bring a little water from your summer wanderings for the water service!). Also – late-breaking news! – at General Assembly, our Intern Committee was able to interview and hire a ministerial intern! Norma Burton and her 13-year-old daughter, Nisha, will be moving to Boston from Santa Fe to spend the year with us. Norma, who has completed divinity school and is now finishing her preparations for ordination in the UU ministry, has worked extensively as a shamanic healer. We're sure there's a story in here somewhere: So there was a minister, a rabbi, and a shaman...! Stay tuned!

For now, the kids are off to camp, and Kem and I are headed west to backpack in California's Sierras. I'm taking a little Walt Whitman with me, and I'll leave a little of him with you (from *Song of the Open Road*, 1856):

Afoot and light-hearted, I take to the open road,
Healthy, free, the world before me,
The long brown path before me, leading wherever I choose....

(Still here I carry my old delicious burdens;
I carry them, men and women – I carry them with me wherever I go;
I swear it is impossible for me to get rid of them:
I am fill'd with them, and I will fill them in return.)

the open road

Inaugurating a New Vision at ASC

The Arlington Street Center for Liberal Religious Inquiry and Spiritual Practice

This year we are inaugurating an exciting new concept for Adult Religious Education (ARE) at Arlington Street Church! We offer a broad variety of courses, study groups, lectures and workshops on many challenging subjects and themes. While each of these stands independently, with their own focus and perspective, together all of these opportunities are meant to provide a rich resource for the spiritual growth of the ASC community. We want to offer a new way of thinking about these ARE opportunities – not as a disjointed menu of unrelated programs, but rather as a "Mini UU University", whose diverse offerings are complimentary to each other, and are intended to provide a foundation for a personal liberal faith.

The underlying philosophy of the Center concept, as developed by our Rabbi-in-Residence, Howard Berman, and the ARE Committee, is a vision of the two ultimate goals of life-long learning: "Inquiry" and "Practice". Inquiry is an approach to religious commitment and education deeply rooted in the Unitarian Universalist tradition. The pioneer mentors of the Movement, William Ellery Channing, Ralph Waldo Emerson and Theodore Parker, all taught the primacy and sanctity of free intellectual analysis in the search for spiritual truth. Practice is equally important, as we use it to translate the ethical ideals, moral values and spiritual insights that emerge from our inquiry into action in our personal lives.

With these principles in mind, we will strive to offer programs that explore the principles, history and practice of the UU tradition; the Jewish and Christian roots and influences of liberal religion; resources and wisdom from other world religions; the study of Sacred Texts; spiritual themes in literature, art, music and drama; and the critical social issues facing our contemporary society. We hope to draw on the expertise of both our own clergy and staff at ASC, as well as the equally rich resources and interests of our talented, diverse membership, and the broader Boston community.

All of our offerings will be listed in a special program guide Homecoming Service on September 7th, and will also be listed in the weekly *Inside ASC* and on the ASC Website. For further information, or – even better – to offer either ideas for courses or your own willingness to lead or teach, please visit the ARE Hospitality Table during the Coffee Hour following Sunday Worship, or contact Rabbi Howard Berman!



Some Good News During Difficult Times: The Greater Boston Interfaith Organization

On June 10th, 2003 over 1,200 enthusiastic and energized people representing 80 different congregations, community organizations and labor unions gathered at New Covenant Christian Church in Mattapan for an organizational action meeting with Governor Mitt Romney.

As of this writing, there is a bond authorization of \$70 million for the Affordable Housing Trust Fund! While this amount is short of the \$100 million we had hoped for, this is an important victory to celebrate. There are 1,300 units of affordable housing currently awaiting trust fund awards, so this money should be quickly and well spent.

For those of you unfamiliar with GBIO, it is an expanding network of about 85 community organizations and faith-based organizations connected by the commitment to 1) listen to the voices of the community and 2) organize people and money to address issues of concern to the community.

Recent accomplishments of GBIO include:

- Raising over \$6 million to establish the Nehemiah Homes Trust intended for building 1000 affordable homes.
- Winning state funding to buy new textbooks for Boston public schools.
- Leading a campaign and petition drive that resulted in the Housing Trust Fund.
- Strengthening person-to-person connections across faith, ethnicity and socio-economic lines in the Boston area.
- Strengthening our civic institutions one organization at a time through 1:1 campaigns that rebuild community and create power in organized people.

GBIO is about acting on local issues in our community and about building our local community. It is about faith in action, diversity and democracy. The atmosphere is always exciting, uplifting, inclusive and empowering.

Plan to join us on Monday, September 15th for the next delegate assembly. The next Organizational Action Rally will be held in the first week of December. Contact GBIO to participate in a Leadership Session at GBIO@aol.com or 617-825-5600.

Editor's Note:

This article, by ASC member Aileen Montour, has been edited for length so it could appear in this issue of *the window*. To view the complete article along with a second, entitled "Another Reality: Mexico with UU Economic Justice Advocates," visit the ASC web site at www.ASCBoston.org.

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Arlington Street Church's
Quarterly Newsletter
Autumn 2003

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AUTUMN AT ASC

Worship Highlights

Homecoming Sunday

Sunday, September 7th, 11:00 AM

Join us for the official start to our church year. We celebrate this day with the return of the ASC Choir and musicians, as well as Senior Minister Kim K. Crawford Harvie and our new Associate Clergy Rabbi Dr. Howard A. Berman. This kick-off to the new UU year will include the annual homecoming water ritual, which invites everyone to bring a small container of water drawn over their summer travels, near or far.

Blessing of the Animals

Sunday, September 28th, 11:00 AM

Each year on a Sunday near St. Francis Day, we celebrate the animal companions in our lives by welcoming parishioners to bring their pets (crated, on a leash, in a bowl, or controlled in some manner!) to be blessed. Join us for this happy, hilarious, and love-filled worship service.

El Dia de los Muertos, Day of the Dead

Sunday, October 26th, 11:00 AM

Join the ASC community in our annual observance of the Day of the Dead and All Souls-Saints Day. Our community celebrates the lives of beloved friends and family who have gone before us, calling out their names to affirm their continuing presence. As always, the altar building party will be held on Saturday, October 25th, at 6:00 PM. All are welcome.

Thanksgiving Sunday

Sunday, November 23rd, 11:00 AM

On this Sunday before Thanksgiving, we join together to celebrate and give thanks for the blessings of our community, our lives, and all those we hold dear. This day will feature the ASC Choir performing Stravinsky's *Mass* with a chamber wind ensemble accompaniment. After the service, ASC members are invited to gather for our Corporation meeting.

Save These Dates

Christmas Sunday

Sunday, December 21st, 11:00 AM

Christmas Eve by Candlelight

Wednesday, December 24th, 5:00 PM, 7:00 PM & 9:00 PM

M.L.K. Jr. Sunday

Sunday, January 18th, 11:00 AM

All Kinds of Love Sunday

Sunday, February 8th, 11:00 AM

Music@ASC

Drakensberg Boys Choir

Sunday, September 14th, 3:00 PM

South Africa's acclaimed Drakensberg Boys Choir will sing at our Sunday worship on September 14th and perform a concert later that afternoon at 3:00 PM. The choir's forty-four young men will present a varied program capped by songs and dances of South Africa's indigenous peoples. The Drakensberg's appearance in the Music@ASC series is sponsored jointly by the Youth Choir Foundation and Boston City Singers, Boston's dynamic children's choir led by Artistic Director Jane Money. Concert tickets are \$12 and can be purchased with a credit card at www.YouthChoirInfo.org or by phone at 617-247-4248. MC/Visa will be accepted at the door.

Recital: Stephanie McGuire

Saturday, September 20th, 8:00 PM

Stephanie's voice has become well-known at ASC over the last year through the many solos during Sunday morning services. Stephanie's talents are celebrated both here at ASC and at the Longy School where she is completing her Master's degree. Stephanie will be accompanied by ASC's own spectacular pianist, Vytautas Baksys, in this not-to-be-missed recital.

The Arlington Street Chamber Players

Sunday, October 26th, 2:00 PM

In their first recital performance as Artists-in-Residence at ASC, the newly-named Arlington Street Chamber Players (ASCP) present an afternoon of chamber music. The core woodwind quintet will perform works by Barber, Ligeti and others. While the event will be ticketed, a discount will be extended to the ASC community. Look in the weekly *Inside ASC* for more information about this exciting new program.

As Artists-In-Residence, the ASCP will perform during four Sunday services as well as in two recitals. Please mark your calendars now to hear the ASCP perform a benefit for Music@ASC on Sunday, February 8th, 2004 at 2:00 PM.

Cooperative Metropolitan Ministries 10th Annual Music Festival

Saturday, November 8th, 6:00 PM

Music@ASC is happy to host Cooperative Metropolitan Ministries' 10th Annual Music Festival. Come join us to listen to a variety of ensembles perform a wide spectrum of sacred music; gospel, a cappella, children's choir and more. A silent auction to support CMM charities will be held in the Parish Hall during the performances. To find out more about CMM or this event, visit www.coopmet.org.

Music@ASC cont.

Choir Sunday

Sunday, November 23rd, 11:00 AM

Don't miss this rare opportunity to hear a live performance of Igor Stravinsky's *Mass* of 1948. This short work for chamber choir and ten-member wind ensemble will be performed in the Sunday morning worship service by the ASC Choir and Arlington Street Chamber Players.

Hymn Sing

1st Sunday of each month, 12:30 PM

Join Director of Music, Miguel Felipe, in the third year of a new ASC tradition. This monthly event, starting in October, encourages all to gather for informal and fun singing. We'll take time to learn a few unfamiliar hymns as well as sing many of our favorite and familiar tunes. This gathering is open to all!

Other Activities

New UU Classes

Check *Inside ASC* for dates

The New UU class is for people interested in learning about ASC and UUism. Each three-session course allows participants to form relationships with others at ASC; share personal spiritual journeys and explore opportunities for spiritual growth; and obtain information on UU and ASC history, traditions and beliefs, membership requirements, church structure and volunteer opportunities.

A Chosen Faith

Sunday, September 28th, 12:30 PM

Sunday, October 12th, 12:30 PM

Sunday, October 19th, 12:30 PM

Sunday, October 26th, 12:30 PM

Sunday, November 2nd, 12:30 PM

Sunday, November 9th, 12:30 PM

Using *A Chosen Faith*, the popular guide to Unitarian Universalism, this course is an in-depth study of the history, principles and practices of the UU Tradition. The focus of this course is a deeper knowledge of the context of our shared liberal religious ideals in our personal development of our own faith and beliefs. The entire spectrum of diversity within the ASC community will be reflected as we explore the options and possibilities for an informed and articulate spiritual commitment. Copies of the book are available for purchase at the Book Table in the Parish Hall after Sunday services.

Children's Religious Ed.

Sundays, 11:00 AM

After a brief service in the chapel, children go to their classrooms for *Spirit Play*. This program, for ages 5-12, engages kids through stories representing the six sources of Unitarian Universalism: the direct experiences of mystery and wonder; the words and deeds of prophetic men and women; the wisdom of world religions; Jewish and Christian teachings; Humanist teachings; and Earth-centered teachings.

Ongoing...

Mini-Introduction to UU/ASC

Sundays, 12:15 PM, check *Inside ASC* for dates

60 +/- (Social Group for Seniors)

4th Sunday, 12:30 PM

Hymn Sing

1st Sunday, 12:30 PM (October - May)

Gay Men's Support Group

2nd & 4th Sundays, 12:30 PM

Lesbian Support Group

1st & 3rd Sundays, 12:30 PM

Minister's Tea

4th Tuesday, 5:00 PM

Spiritual Practice for Caregivers

1st Tuesday, 7:30 PM

Buddha's Belly Reading Group

2nd and 4th Tuesdays, 6:00 PM

ASC Zen Center

2nd and 4th Tuesdays, 7:00 PM

Prudential Committee

3rd Tuesday, 6:00 PM

Yoga

Wednesdays, 6:00 PM

ASC Choir

Thursdays, 7:00 PM

Friday Night Supper Program

Fridays, 5:00-7:00 PM

FNSP Volunteer Orientation

2nd Tuesday, 3rd Thursdays, 6:30 PM

Note: meeting dates sometimes change, especially around the holidays. Therefore, please check the weekly ASC calendar in *Inside ASC* or at www.ASCBoston.org.

ASC Info.

Arlington Street Church
351 Boylston Street, Boston MA 02116-3399
617-536-7050; fax 617-536-7051
E-mail: office@ASCBoston.org
Web: www.ASCBoston.org

Gathered in love and service for justice and peace. We are a progressive congregation with a historic tradition. Unitarian Universalism affirms the inherent worth and dignity of every person. All are welcome.

Rev. Kim K. Crawford Harvie, Senior Minister
Rabbi Dr. Howard A. Berman, Associate Clergy
Rev. Dr. Gene Navias, Associate Minister Emeritus
Norma Burton, Student Minister

SCHEDULE OF WORSHIP SERVICES
Sunday Morning Worship, 11:00 AM
ASC Zen Center, 2nd & 4th Tuesdays, 7:00 PM

CHURCH INFORMATION
The Church Office is open Monday - Thursday, 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. For information on worship and weekly calendar listings, call 617-536-7050, ext. 27, or visit our web site: www.ASCBoston.org

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