
the WINDOW

Arlington Street Church, *Unitarian Universalist*

December 2004 – February 2005, Vol. 4, No. 2

One Soul at a Time

REV. KIM K. CRAWFORD HARVIE, SENIOR MINISTER

Dear Friends,

Greetings from a blue state – in every sense of the words. As I write, the country has been riven by the presidential election; thousands of American and Iraqi troops are amassed on the border of Fallujah; Yasser Arafat lingers between life and death, further discomfiting the Middle East; the Arctic is melting (not news, but these numbers just in: the decrease of sea ice in the past 8 years alone is equal in square miles to an area bigger than Texas and Arizona combined); biology textbooks in Georgia now have warning stickers on their covers stating that evolution is “a theory, not a fact;” and, close to home, there’s not enough flu vaccine to go around, only adding to a general sense that the world is falling apart.



Fortunately for me, just when I reach this perennial conclusion, enter my benefactor and friend, Ambassador Swanee Hunt, and my sisters in her global initiative, Women Waging Peace. For the sixth year in a row, I am spending part of two weeks with women from conflict and post-conflict areas from around the world: my dinner companions last evening were from Afghanistan, Colombia, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Kenya, Kosovo@, Liberia, Pakistan, Rwanda, Sri Lanka, the Sudan, and South Africa. While I know that comparisons are odious, I cannot help but compare our lives to theirs as I hear their stories. For openers, my friend Maria Cristina Caballero, a journalist from Colombia, is asked by a newcomer how she happened to be in America for the first colloquium, in 1999. She answers without flinching, “I was exposing corruption in our government. Someone was trying to kill me.”

On the first night of the colloquium, we exchange gifts. Each woman shows her gift to the group, says just a few words about it, and places it on a table. When we are finished, everyone goes to the table to select a gift. As I listen to the other women’s stories, my heart hurts. My Rwandan friend, Geraldine, brought coffee: “the best coffee in the world!” she tells us. I think of how the United States stood idly by as Geraldine’s

mother, grandmother, and two younger sisters were buried alive in a mass grave. A neighbor, who may have been involved in their killing, discovered their missing bodies while digging a latrine on Easter afternoon. Ala, a new Waging member, has brought an antique ring, made by Jewish jewelers, friends from her home in Basra. “I want you to know that there are Jews in my city; we live together peacefully.” Now she is holding up a leather fan, intricately tooled with the outline of Iraq. “No military force on earth can destroy the heart of my country,” she says. She speaks with great love and tremendous sadness, and hot tears of grief and shame spill onto my face.

It is my turn to make my gift. I have brought a small cherry wood box. On its cover is the Chinese ideogram peace; the cover slides off, and inside, it says “peace.” Also inside, there is an art deco silver ring, set with amethyst: a friendship ring. “I am your friend,” I say. “I want to tell you that I am sorry for the ways you have suffered and are suffering because of the actions or the inaction of the American government and the American military. I am sorry. And I want you

continued on page 8



ARLINGTON
STREET CHURCH
Unitarian Universalist

Spiritual Community within ASC and Beyond

BRIAN SOUZA AND ART SHIRK, CO-CHAIRS, PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE

Synchronicity and buzzing in the air? Every now and then a period of time comes along when it seems that the planets are aligned.... or the timing of events just *feels* right.... Or circumstances line up in ways that were unforeseen. Right now at Arlington Street Church – if we step back and view the life and happenings of our community from a distance – we see that monumental trends are occurring across diverse arenas of our congregation... this is truly an exciting time to step in and become involved. It is a time for attendees to become members, for inactive members to participate, and for engaged volunteers to grow into leadership roles.

Central to that excitement are these events: celebrating our 275th anniversary, completing a dynamic long-range plan, creating two new staff positions, developing deeper connections with other local UU congregations, offering stimulating educational programs, and sharing our inspirational ministry. The very exciting thing that we see as we step back from the details and view the bigger picture is that these are not isolated events, but rather are connected directions that are unfolding in a planful and integrated way. Now, more than ever, we have the opportunity to be a force for good in the larger world as we build our own vibrant community, at Arlington Street Church.

Thanks to the dedication of the tireless “Long Rangers” and all those who gave input during the long-range planning process, we now have a 10-year vision for ASC. In the simplest terms, it is a vision of growth, not only in membership, but also in connectedness, both within our congregation and with the larger community. We now move into the challenging but exciting work of making that vision a reality. Already, both the Prudential Committee and the Church Council are moving forward to portion out the work of the plan within our existing committee structure, with the Prudential Committee selecting Lay Leadership Development as its major goal for this year. It will take many hearts and hands to make this vision a reality, so please get involved.

In October, the Prudential Committee voted to approve the recommendation of the Associate Clergy Position Assessment Task Force to create two new half-time positions: Life Span Educator and Membership/Leadership Coordinator in place

of our current Associate Clergy position. We want to thank the task force and all those who took part in the year-long analysis of the Associate Clergy Position, and how best it could meet the changing needs of our congregation. Although a bold new direction for ASC, we are confident that this change will support our efforts to meet the growing programmatic and membership development needs of our large congregation. And, along with supporting all of the goals in our long-range plan, this staffing model is also in keeping with proven models of congregational development and is similar to that used in other local UU congregations.

Also in October, we, as the co-chairs of ASC’s governing board, had an opportunity to gather with roughly 25 other leaders of local UU congregations at the Mass Bay District President’s Convocation. This forum provided a remarkable opportunity to make important connections with our sister/brother congregations.

continued on page 9

Mini Financial Update

Total Pledges To Covenant 2004-2005: **\$254,889**

Payments Received Through November 21st, 2004: **\$98,240** (38.5%)

Total Operating Income Through November 21st, 2004: **\$286,270**

Total Operating Expenses Through November 21st, 2004: **\$225,720**

Reflections on a Milestone

RABBI HOWARD A. BERMAN, ASSOCIATE CLERGY/RABBI-IN-RESIDENCE

As this issue of the WINDOW reaches you, the celebration of ASC's 275th Anniversary Weekend, on November 20th and 21st, will have passed into the historic annals of this Congregation. While there will still be a number of important events throughout the coming winter and spring in our year-long commemoration of this milestone, it seems appropriate to pause to reflect on the meaning of this observance.

My goal in developing the Anniversary programs was to help the members of Arlington Street Church reaffirm this great legacy of faith and service. As this church looks forward to the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead, it is important for it to be grounded in a clear understanding of its principles and ideals. Our encounter with the rich historical tradition of ASC has, hopefully, provided many of you with a renewed appreciation for this heritage, and the inspiration it can offer to this congregation today.

As we have continued our recounting of the history of Arlington Street Church during our weekly Heritage Reflections at each Sunday Service over the past year, we have often recalled the famed ministry, from 1803 to 1842, of the great pioneer of the Unitarian movement, William Ellery Channing. We have been moved by the prophetic vision of his writings, expressing spiritual and moral concepts

that still have deep meaning for us. On October 10th, 2004, I shared with the congregation the narrative of a particular episode in Channing's life, that indeed offers profound meaning and relevance for us at this particular point in American history.

A pivotal development in Channing's moral and spiritual leadership, was his response to America's entry into the War of 1812. In a scenario that seems a striking echo of the challenges our nation faces today, President James Madison declared war against Great Britain after a number of hostile incidents – but with little diplomatic effort to resolve the conflict. The decision to go to war, while opposed by a significant proportion of citizens, was driven by the influence of belligerent, right wing members of Congress, known by the newly coined phrase “hawks”, who insisted that America's honor demanded a fight – but who also saw an opportunity to annex Canada, if Britain could be defeated.

Channing was vehemently opposed to the war. In August, 1812, a day proclaimed by the President as a Day of Public Prayer in support of the nation, the minister of this Congregation delivered instead, an impassioned sermon of protest and dissent. Channing, whose position on war was consistent throughout his life, felt that while always a tragedy and a

scourge, there were instances in which war might justly be waged... prophetically, almost 50 years before the Civil War, he maintained that the destruction of slavery was one of those conditions. But the present war was clearly unnecessary and indefensible, and could have been avoided. He called upon his parishioners to exercise their rights and responsibilities as citizens of a free nation, to voice their opposition to the government's policy both by their vote and by peaceful protest. His words are quite incredibly as relevant and powerful to Americans at this very moment in history, as they were almost two centuries ago...

“The Government is instituted for one and a single end, the benefit of the governed: the protection, peace and welfare of society. And when it is perverted to other objects, to purposes of avarice, ambition, or partisan ends, we are authorized and even bound to make such opposition as is suited to restore it to its proper end, and to render it as pure, as the imperfection of our human nature and temporal state will admit...”

In this war, and in other events, there have been symptoms of a purpose to terrify into silence those who disapprove the calamitous conflict under which we now suffer; to deprive us of the only method which

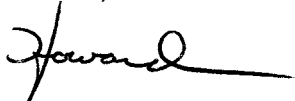
continued on page 4

continued from page 3

is left, of obtaining a wiser and better government. The cry has been, that war is declared – and all opposition should therefore be hushed. A sentiment more unworthy of a free country, can hardly be propagated. If this doctrine is allowed, rulers have only to declare war, and then be screened, at once, from scrutiny. The press, which is expected to expose inferior abuses, must not utter one rebuke, one indignant complaint, although our best interests and most valuable rights are put to hazard by an unnecessary war. Our peace and our interests require that a different sentiment should prevail. *We should teach our present and all future rulers that there is no measure for which they must render so solemn account to their constituents, than for the declaration of war; that no measure must be so freely and so fully discussed... and that no administration can succeed in persuading the American people to exhaust their treasure and their blood in supporting war, unless it be palpably necessary and just...*"

As we continue our celebration of ASC's 275th Anniversary, at a time when the prophetic voice of liberal religion must be heard with renewed spirit, may this generation be imbued with a measure of such commitment, courage and passion! ⊕

Faithfully,



Rabbi Howard Berman,
Associate Clergy/
Rabbi in Residence

Is This Not Love?

ARNIE KATZ

We look at each other
and see the caring in each
other's eyes

We listen to each other
learn from each other
support each other
and respect each other...
and is this not LOVE?

we hold each other's hands
through life's challenges and
trials
and continue to be there for
one another...
and is this not LOVE?

when we fight or disagree
we step back
and realize that our caring is
greater
than any conflict could ever
be...
and is this not LOVE?

and yes, we make love
our bodies, minds, hearts, and
souls connect
and when we look at each
other
we recognize the divinity in
each other's eyes...
and is this not LOVE?

our souls are drawn together
to get to know ourselves
through each other's eyes
to share intimacy
to share trust
to share love
to share laughter
to share our fears and sorrows
and our greatest hopes and
joys
to share our oneness
and I ask you...
Is this not LOVE? ⊕

August 13th, 2004

for David... and all who love
those of the same sex.

A Weekend of Love and Service February 11th - 13th, 2005

Friday night: ASC serves Friday Night Supper! After a brief orientation by Lisa Bergeron, join in serving dinner to our hungry and homeless neighbors.

Saturday: Mass. Bay District Leadership Training! Yes, this means **you!**

Sunday morning: To Renewal House with Love, our annual kids' food drive for the children of Renewal House, UU Urban Ministry's shelter for women and children escaping domestic violence. Please bring non-perishable food items with you to worship (think mac'n'cheese, tuna fish, peanut butter, jelly, juice boxes, fruit roll-ups...); they will be delivered on Valentine's Day!

Sunday afternoon: Cheryl Richardson, speaking on *The Unmistakable Touch of Grace*. (See details on page 7)

Please mark your calendars now, and plan to spend the weekend with Kim, fulfilling our mission to "gather in love and service for justice and peace." Stay tuned; details to follow! ⊕



Worship at Arlington Street Church

KATE STARR, WORSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIR

Where Our Sunday Services Start

The results are in! An overwhelming number of respondents to last year's Survey told us that the worship service was at the heart of their relationship with ASC. But far fewer ASCers know how Sunday services originate or how to get involved.

You might have guessed it already: like so many facets of this community, a committee coordinates worship at ASC. We're the Worship Committee.

There are so many pieces that go into each service: the music, the sermon, the camaraderie, the candles of joy and sorrow, special celebrations, chalice lightings, member's journeys, etc. Some of these come from our Ministerial staff, some from the UU tradition as a whole. But most comes directly from friends and members of Arlington Street Church.

The Worship Committee weaves those threads into a whole that (hopefully) enriches our shared UU experience each Sunday.

We actively seek feedback, participation in services, and new committee members.

Feedback

Share your experience of our services. Suggestions, constructive criticism, compliments, and new ideas are always appreciated. Get in touch by:

- writing a letter (anonymous or not) and dropping it in our mailbox near

- the entrance of the Hunnewell Chapel and Howard Berman's office,
- e-mailing Worship@ASCBoston.org,
- speaking to one of our current members: Katherine Starr, George Whitehouse, Sarah Duncan, Marilyn Castriotta, Nancy Moore, David McClain, Adam Sutton, or Shea Mullaney. You can also speak with Reverend Kim or Rabbi Berman.

Participation in Services

We'd love to hear more from the congregation! Here are some places where you or someone you know can participate in our services: One member's journeys, chalice lightings, pulpit editorials, and reflections/meditations.

Committee Members

We meet on the first Tuesday of each month at 6PM in the Senior Minister's Study near the rear entrance to the church. Feel free to drop in to share a thought, or make a commitment to become a Worship Coordinator and committee-person. For members, it's a great way to fulfill the service component of your pledge.

Come, come, whoever you are. All are welcome to join us!

Spiritual Passions at ASC: Come get involved!

The Spiritual Passions series will enter its third year at ASC in January 2005.

Many of us are involved with activities that really light up our whole being. Things we feel passionately about and love sharing with others. This can be an everyday practice such as

gardening or cooking, an intellectual or artistic pursuit, or a metaphysical practice such as Reiki or meditation.

Offered during the winter months and coordinated by the ASC Worship Committee, past years' Spiritual Passions "workshops" have included such topics as pilgrimage, making sacred art, meditation, and finding fulfilling work. Once again, We're calling for you or someone you know well to help us bring the next round of this popular series to the congregation.

Generally, a Spiritual Passion is a two or three hour workshop-style session on a Sunday afternoon. The session covers an approved topic by whoever is willing and feels qualified to lead it, by sharing a passion they're excited about. Attendance at past sessions has run anywhere from 5 to 40 participants and we are hoping to offer an even more popular and diverse series this year.

To suggest a Spiritual Passion you would like to facilitate, simply contact the Worship Committee with your name, telephone number, and summary of your topic, and the *sooner the better*. We'll get back to you with the details on the when and where. Please email Worship@ASCBoston.org or call the Church Office at 617-536-7050, ext. 0 and leave a message.

The session schedule will be listed in the order of service and announced from the pulpit as topics and dates become finalized. ☺

Worship Highlights

December 5th, 2004

Preaching

Rev. Kim K. Crawford Harvie

Music

Hodie Christus natus est,
Francis Poulenc

December 12th, 2004

Preaching

Rev. Kim K. Crawford Harvie

Music

Aleih Neiri, *Chaim Parchi*, arr.
Joshua Jacobson

December 19th, 2004

Christmas Sunday

Preaching

Rev. Kim K. Crawford Harvie

Music

Deo Gracais from "Ceremony
of Carols," *Benjamin Britten*

December 24th, 2004

Christmas Eve by Candlelight

Preaching

Rev. Kim K. Crawford Harvie

Music

Selections performed by the
ASC Choir and the Boston Gay
Men's Chorus

December 26th, 2004

Kwanzaa Celebration

Preaching

Linda Berez, Ministerial Intern

Music

special music

January 2nd, 2005

Happy New Year!

Preaching

Rev. Kim K. Crawford Harvie

Music

Er, der Herrlichste von Allen,
Robert Schumann
Stephanie McGuire, mezzo
soprano

January 9th, 2005

Preaching

Rev. Kim K. Crawford Harvie

Music

Deep Peace – A Gaelic
Blessing, *Bill Douglass*

January 16th, 2005

M. L. K. Jr. Sunday

Preaching

Rabbi Howard A. Berman

Music

Hope for Tomorrow, *Jean
Berger/Martin Luther King, Jr.*

January 23rd, 2005

Preaching

Rev. Kim K. Crawford Harvie

Music

Ave verum corpus, *William Byrd*

January 30th, 2005

Preaching

Rev. Kim K. Crawford Harvie

Music

Swing Low, Sweet Chariot, arr.
Elliot Schenck

February 6th, 2005

Preaching

Rev. Kim K. Crawford Harvie

Music

They are at rest, an elegy,
Edward Elgar

February 13th, 2005

All Kinds of Love Sunday

Preaching

Rev. Kim K. Crawford Harvie

Music

Various lovely selections by the
ASC Choir

February 20th, 2005

Preaching

Rabbi Howard A. Berman

Music

Stephanie McGuire, mezzo
soprano & Matthew Wright, lute

February 27th, 2005

Preaching

Rev. Kim K. Crawford Harvie

Music

As the heart longs, Psalm 42,
Felix Mendelssohn



music@ASC

The Music@ASC Concert Series – Events for Winter, 2004 – 2005
Visit ASCBoston.org/music/series.html for the latest details

30 Years at ASC:

A Recital by Rodger Vine

Sunday, December 5th, 2:00 PM

After an unbelievable 30 years at Arlington Street Church, our very own organist Rodger Vine is preparing to offer this recital to the ASC community in celebration. He will be joined by New Hampshire-based flutist, Martha Woodward. Having performed at ASC in the past, Martha looks forward to her return as part of Rodger's performance. Also featured on the program will be several works by Boston composer Nancy Faxon in celebration of her 90th birthday.

This open performance will be held in the sanctuary and will celebrate a tenure that has included many premiere performances, recitals, and an enormous repertoire. Please join Rodger and his musical colleagues in celebration of his years of service to our community – and bring a friend! ⊕

The Pneumatic Synthesizer: High-Tech from the 17th Century

Saturday, January 22nd, 4:30 PM

Ed Stauff, Minister of Music at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Middlebury, Vermont, is the author of the acclaimed on-line Encyclopedia of Organ Stops (www.organstops.org). In addition to popular works by Bach and others, the concert will include a demonstration of the pipe organ, making this an good concert for organ neophytes. ⊕



Steven Serpa: A Recital of New Music

Sunday, January 23rd, 2:00 PM

Join us for an intimate recital of vocal works by Boston-based composer and countertenor Steven Serpa. This promises to be an exciting recital of new art song and vocal chamber music, inspired by diverse texts ranging from Imperial Japan and Medieval France to 20th and 21st century America. ⊕

Mark Your Calendar: The Unmistakable Touch of Grace – An Afternoon with Cheryl Richardson

Sunday, February 13th, 2:00 - 5:00 PM

In her most personal work yet, Cheryl Richardson shows us how to identify and embrace the transformative power of 'grace.' In *The Unmistakable Touch Of Grace* Cheryl takes readers on a personal journey showing how grace leads us to the exact events, experiences, and people we need at exactly the right time in our lives. Interweaving her own story of awakening to grace (which began almost 20 years ago) with that of her clients, family, and friends, Richardson helps us to see that everything does in fact happen for a reason and that the "coincidences" that occur in our lives are actually divinely inspired messages meant to remind us that a Higher Power is protecting us and directing our lives.

During this event, Cheryl will talk about:

- How to discover the evidence of grace that already exists in your life including the relationships or 'spiritual change agents' who have been placed in your path for an important reason.
- How to call upon and use the power of grace for guidance and support with everyday decisions as well as in dealing with life's most difficult challenges like serious illness, loss, or major upheavals.
- How to create a life that reflects the gifts of grace – stronger faith, deeper peace, freedom from fear, heightened intuition, and an overwhelming sense of gratitude and reverence for all life.
- How to become a spiritual pioneer by bringing the gifts of grace to the lives of others. ⊕



Where's Linda? The Other Half

LINDA BEREZ, MINISTERIAL INTERN

Did you know that I only work at Arlington Street Church half time? The other half of the time I am the intern minister at the Church of the Larger Fellowship, at 25 Beacon Street, just up the hill.

CLF, as we like to call it, is a church without walls and is housed at the headquarters of the Unitarian Universalist Association. Its mission is to provide a ministry to isolated religious liberals, and to offer a spiritual home within the UU movement. It promotes the understanding and growth of Unitarian Universalism and institutes programs to that end. Many UU ministers and religious educators are members of the CLF and look to it for resources as well.

My role there is similar to here but distinctive in that I don't see the members of CLF each week like I see many of you on Sunday mornings when I'm leading or participating in worship services. Instead, I compile and organize worship materials for our Church on Loan program members who use these worship services on Sundays. I also attend meetings, like I do here with the Prudential, Council and other committees, but instead of face-to-face meetings much of the time we meet via



conference calls and do almost all of our work via email.

One of the exciting projects I'm involved in this year at CLF is with a couple of young adults, who created a website, <http://www.fuuse.com>, that

now reaches almost a thousand UU young adults. Out of initial discussions with them the CLF board and staff members are now working with a core group of young adults spread across the country to create a church within a church that will exist to fulfill the spiritual needs of

Youth and Young Adults and will allow access to a greater voice within the UUA.

There is so much more that I'd love to tell you about my work at CLF. I invite you to call, email or stop and talk to me on Sunday mornings. Also, if you have access to the Internet you can check us out at <http://www.clfuu.org>.

This is a one of its kind internship that is split between the most prestigious church in the UUA, Arlington Street, and the most unique, Church of the Larger Fellowship. I love what each half of my week has to offer. So now if you're wondering where I am when I'm not here at ASC you will know. ☺

continued from page 1

to know that we will not stop working for peace."

I sit down. I think, Really, no one here will want to be my friend. And I can't blame them.

Everyone goes to the table to choose a gift. I watch; no one is taking my offering of peace and friendship. And then something extraordinary happens.

I hear Ala ask, "Where is Kim's box?" Ala – Ala! – wants the box!

Without another word, she picks up the box, opens it, takes out the ring, and places it on her finger. Then she turns to where I am, crying like my heart will break, and embraces me. She sits down beside me, and we sit like that for the rest of the evening, hand in hand.

My spiritual friends, what I want to say to you is just this:

Take heart.

There is hope.

One soul at a time, let us give ourselves to the vision and the hard work of the beloved community, gathered in love and service for justice and peace. ☺

Faithfully yours, with love,


Rev. Kim K. Crawford Harvie,
Senior Minister

Personal Reflections from the Prison Reform Task Force

SARA DAVIS, ASC MEMBER

Our prisons are filled with lower-income, predominately minority men and women, many who come from neighborhoods and families where prison is a way of life. Little education, large families, and no representation. In my research for the ASC Prison Reform Task Force, I have been shocked by the undeniable injustice of correction officers, eyewitnesses, even juries. Perjury, forged documents, racism, and outright lies seem to be commonplace.

A few examples. Shawn Drumgold was exonerated after years in prison, in part because police officers had to keep “reminding” the star witness of what she’d seen. Police beat a confession from a 15 year-old in Florida without even taking fingerprints of the purse he had supposedly stolen. Elaine Bartlett was given a life sentence for handing a bag of cocaine to a friend, who as a police informant lied and said she sold it to him.

I’ve talked to people, read books, and watched movies about some of the two million people in prison today, and I’ve come to this realization: these people are nothing like me. I believe the stories I’ve heard, yet – perhaps the most shocking thing for me to realize – I still feel as though the system works for me. I am confident that if I were ever arrested my family could find a decent lawyer and I would be given a fair trial.

I am part of the predominately white, well educated, and middle-class society that creates these

problems. In my world, and I think the world of most journalists, politicians, and yes, most Unitarians, prison happens to other people but crime supposedly happens to us. We live in fear of violent crime, although most of us have never been victim to a crime as violent as we fear.

Learning more about prison reform has helped me define my religious beliefs. I benefit from the status quo, yet, as a faithful believer in social justice, I can no longer ignore the near apartheid injustice in our country. But what can I offer to the discussion on prison reform?

The conservative “tough on crime” rhetoric works because it speaks to the dominant society. As a member of the majority, I can help to frame the debate in a language that is understandable to those in power. Unitarians understand this culture. We know what gets it excited and how to change its mind. As an urban congregation, ASC is more diverse than many churches and our sanctuary is a rare phenomenon – I’m sure we have convicted felons sitting next to people who couldn’t name one prison in Massachusetts. Let’s talk to each other.

The Prison Reform Task Force is organizing an educational course for the early winter. Discussions will include history of prison reform, state laws, and an overall understanding of what prison really means. We eventually hope it will lead to a long-term social justice program for the church. I hope you will join us. ⊕

continued from page 2

gations, to discuss the common issues and successes faced by our district, and to identify opportunities to work and learn together. In the coming months, we will have several opportunities to strengthen our community bonds and to shed a brighter light on the work of our denomination.

In the midst of all this excitement, the fulfilling ministry and program life of ASC continues to thrive. With wonderful new additions, such as Linda Berez, our ministerial intern and Aaron White, our new lead teacher for Children’s Religious Education, together with Kim, Howard, Miguel, Peter and the rest of the staff, ASC remains the spiritual center of our lives, not only on Sunday mornings, but all week long.

As our community, our country and our world appear to become increasing polarized, let us find strength on this community. We close with the words of Ekongkar Singh Khalsa:

“We have brought peace to one place and shown, by our being here, what a community of light looks like. Let us go forth to be peace for others, for the seekers and believers, for the makers of war and victims of war, for the people of this city, this nation, of this world. Let us be the peace we seek... Let us resolve as we go forth to speak and act without fear. Let us write letters, make speeches, say prayers, be seen, be heard. Let us encourage one another in the name of peace. Let us keep this community of light burning with a holy flame.” ⊕

ASC Young Adult Group

KATE WILKINSON, ASC MEMBER

It's 11:00 AM, do you know where your pew is? Well, if you're age 18-35 and looking for someone to sit with, we hope you'll come join us in ours at the front center-left of the sanctuary. Every Sunday you'll find warm, welcoming faces to share the service with. Or if you're one of those "slip in at 11:10 AM and sit in the back" types, come find us after the service and we'll tell you where we're going for lunch.

The young adult meetings/events are now being held on the second Friday of each month at 7:30 PM, so keep your eye on our list-serve and in the order of service for details on our upcoming plans. Just to give you an idea of what's in store for the young adults at Arlington Street Church this year, you can probably expect: game nights, service projects, circle worships, birthday cards, potlucks, city outings, bowling, spiritual discussions, and whatever else the group expresses interest in.

If you're not already on our listserve, you can sign up at http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ASC_YA/. And if you'd like to get involved in one of our 4 leadership groups (social, social action, spiritual, or publicity), please e-mail Kate at greatkate33@yahoo.com. ☺

Social Action at ASC

CHRIS CURTISS, SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

Arlington Street Church has a long tradition of strong commitment to social justice. The Social Action Committee provides leadership in continuing this commitment.

This fall, most of our energy has gone into all-important election related activities. Judy Chamblis, Jim Vetter, and the Voter Registration and Education Task Force have been tirelessly registering voters. Heleni Thayer has been educating us all and leading us in a valiant effort to stop the use of electronic voting machines that do not provide a paper trail. Meanwhile, many of our activists have been busy

working for the candidate of their choice. Important as it is, they must do this apart from the church. But we all knew that, regardless of who won, the struggle for social justice would go on. It's now time to come together and decide on our direction for this year.

Our meetings are the first Sunday of every month, at 9:30 am in the Clarke Room. We need a small but solid core of people to decide on our direction and keep us moving toward it. If you'd like to be a part of it, please come to our meeting, or contact Chris Curtiss at 617-277-6510 (or e-mail chrisrts@backpacker.com).

Our letter-writing table at Coffee Hour provides letters to send on a wide variety of issues. You're welcome to contribute one of your own on a subject that's important to you.

While you're there, have a cup of fair-traded coffee. A generous donation for your cup of coffee pays struggling coffee farmers a fair price, helps the environment, allows us to supply coffee for Friday Night Supper, and supports the UU Service Committee.

We also have an E-mail list for people who would like to keep informed about social justice issues and opportunities, both at ASC, and sometimes beyond. We don't overload you with E-mails – usually just one or two a month. If you're not on the list and would like to be, let us know.

Other social concern related opportunities at ASC include the Rice Sticks and Tea program which distributes food to Asian elders and families, and Friday Night Supper, which provides a wonderful meal for more than 200 homeless people every week.

Does work with a group outside the church leave little time to get involved in our activities? Bring some literature for our table or bulletin board.

There's lots of ways to get involved. Sign a letter. Write a letter. Buy a cup of coffee. Volunteer. Start a task force. Sign up for our E-mail newsletter. Come to a meeting and join the committee. We meet the first Sunday of every month, at 9:30

AM in the Clarke Room. For more information, contact Chris Curtiss at 617-277-6510, or e-mail SocialAction@ASCBoston.org. ☺

Ushering: A Great Way to Meet People!

ELLEN SPENCER, ASC MEMBER

It's also one way for church members to fulfill part of their commitment of volunteer service to ASC. Ushering requires a minimal time commitment: head ushers typically ask people to usher for a single upcoming Sunday.

What do ushers do? First, they need to arrive at the church about forty minutes before the service begins – in time to be in place when the doors open at 10:30 am. They are then responsible for these basic tasks:

- Greeting people at the front door
- Handing out orders of service
- Distributing disposable name tags to visitors and others
- Collecting the offering

Ushers carry out these tasks under the direction of head ushers (volunteers like themselves), who are each responsible for one Sunday a month.

To be placed on the usher pool list, contact: Peter Lowber, Usher Coordinator, 617-876-0784 or plowber@hotmail.com.

Important: During November, the head ushers are updating the usher pool list. If you are not contacted this month – by surface mail, e-mail, or telephone – you may have "fallen out" of the usher pool. Contact Peter to be placed back on the list. ☺

Music Committee Reforms

JIM TICE, MUSIC COMMITTEE CHAIR

The newly formed ASC Music Committee, after meeting for the first time this year in early October, has a renewed mission to continue to support the music program at Arlington Street Church. This includes strengthening the choir experience for singers by encouraging and recruiting new members as well as providing an enriching

experience for current members; supporting the Music@ASC music series with logistical assistance; and developing new giving opportunities for the Music Program to support the long range sustainability of the program.

Our initial planning session resulted in several ideas for the choir including a choir brunch and open rehearsal in early January, a winter choir retreat to work on upcoming performances as well as vocal technique sessions led by our very capable section leaders, choir "mentors" to welcome new members, and encouragement of "one choir member's journey" pulpit editorials. As is evident every Sunday, the choir continues to be an integral part of the worship experience. If you are interested in joining the choir, please do not hesitate to contact our Music Director, Miguel Felipe at MFelipe@ASCBoston.org or any of the Music Committee members: Jim Tice (chair, music@ASCBoston.org), Janice Brunts, Tim Harbold, Richard Marshall, Brian Reardon, Sarah Richards, Paul Rivenberg, and Gaby Whitehouse. ☉

Search Committee Formed

PETER JOHNSTON, CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR

Following the recommendation of the Associate Clergy Position Assessment Task Force (ACPA) the Prudential Committee has appointed one search committee to find suitable candidates for both the LifeSpan Educator and Membership/Leadership Coordinator positions, which need to be filled by the summer of 2005.

Job descriptions have been drafted, a search timeline has been set, budgets have been prepared and a profile of the congregation will be drafted, based on the information gathered in last year's congregational survey. The search committee will work with Liz Strong, the Mass. Bay District (UUA) Religious Education Consultant.

Members of the Search Committee are Kay Carson (chair of the Personnel Committee), Kate Wilkin-

son (representing the Prudential Committee and young adults), Gaby Whitehouse (our inveterate search committee organizer), Joan Goodwin (a lifelong UU Educator), Don Rickter (representing UU Affairs), Mark Watanabe (Small Groups Coordinator), and Peter Johnston and Rev. Kim K. Crawford Harvie (staff liaisons).

If you would like more information on the search process, please contact Peter Johnston at 617-536-7050, ext. 16 or PJohnston@ASCBoston.org. ☉

UU's for Verifiable Voting

HELENI THAYRE, ASC MEMBER

Although the U.S. Congress adjourned on October 11th without addressing it, verifiable elections will continue to be an issue until the last unverifiable voting system is replaced. We must continue to inform legislators about the threat to democracy posed by unverifiable voting systems. Public outcry is the key to getting action at the federal, state, and local levels. HAVA (the Help America Vote Act) requires accessible voting by 2006, so voting machine choices will be coming up locally and we need to communicate with election officials and the Secretary of State about security issues.

In the House of Representatives, UUs are still pushing Rep. Rush Holt's bill, HR2239, the "Voter Confidence and Increased Accessibility Act," which has 157 co-sponsors and continues to add more. Michael Capuano and Stephen Lynch are **not** yet co-sponsors and need to be lobbied by phone and fax.

In the US Senate, the companion "Voter Confidence and Increased Accessibility Act" is S1980, introduced by Sen. Bob Graham. It has 6 co-sponsors. We can now also support the S2347 which does not kick in until 2006. It is sponsored by republican Senator John Ensign and may have a better chance of passage.

More election concerns about which legislators need to be informed: As it turns out, even paper

ballots are affected by electronic counting machines. Diebold's GEMS central tabulating software counts votes coming from precincts into the county level in 30 states and 1000 jurisdictions. This includes counts of absentee and optically scanned paper ballots. This software can be hacked easily and on-premises security is lax. Stringent precautions must be observed. See www.UUVV.org. ☉

Arlington St. Outdoors Club: Be Spiritual Outdoors

KARA KELLEY, ASOC CHAIR

Everybody finds their "spiritual connection" in different ways. For me being outside, deep in the woods on ski's, on a mountain top with everything I need strapped to my back, or paddling quiet (or not so quiet) waters invokes a passion and a thankfulness for the opportunity to be witness to the beauty of the environment we live in. I knew I would find like-minded people at Arlington Street Church and that is what inspired me to launch the Arlington Street Outdoors Club (ASOC). ASOC has been going strong since March 2004. Our biggest trip to date was the Galehead Hut hike and overnight at the hut which is nestled in the Pemigewasset wilderness. Eighteen members of ASC participated and shared the achievement of summiting together the 3,800 feet to Galehead Hut on its 2004 opening night, preparing delicious food, dining "family style," and spending the warm spring night sharing stories and ideas before bedding down in our bunks exhausted from the active day. ASOC activities vary and examples of activities include hiking, canoe/kayak trips, biking, backpacking, strolling, and workshops to enhance your outdoor event. Anyone can participate in an ASOC event and the intensity of the activity level varies, so watch *Inside ASC* for announcement of each month's event. As winter closes-in remember the best medicine to shorter days is to get out, enjoy and be spiritual outdoors! ☉

the WINDOW



Arlington Street Church
Unitarian Universalist
351 Boylston Street
Boston, MA 02116-3399

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Editorial Staff of THE WINDOW

Peter Johnston, editor; Miguel Felipe, design; Don Rickter, grammarian

Policy for Submission

Calendar items may be submitted with title, date/time, and 50 word description. **Open submissions** of no more than 400 words may be submitted on any topic. **Committee reports** are encouraged. No submission will be accepted by telephone. Materials must be legible, signed, and *fully composed* and may be edited. Please note that we only publish submissions related to ASC events or the wider UUA community.

Submission Deadline and Method

Entries should be sent as Word® documents to Window@ASCBoston.org by **5:00 PM, Friday, February 4th, 2005** for inclusions in Vol. 4, No. 3, March - May 2005.

Subscriptions

To add/remove your name from **THE WINDOW** mailing list, please contact Corey Spence, administrative assistant, in the Church Office at office@ASCBoston.org.

Disclaimer

The views represented in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Corporation or staff of Arlington Street Church.

Office Hours: Monday – Thursday, 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Phone: 617-536-7050 • Fax: 617-536-7051

E-mail: office@ASCBoston.org • Web: www.ASCBoston.org

