
the WINDOW

Arlington Street Church, *Unitarian Universalist*

September – November, 2006, Vol. 6, No. 1

Right Speech

REV. KIM K. CRAWFORD HARVIE, SENIOR MINISTER

Dear Friends,

Do you remember the singsong “Sticks and stones may break my bones but names will never hurt me?”

It’s not true.

We all know that name-calling, gossip, rumors, innuendo, assumptions—let alone character assassination—are very, very hurtful. And that’s the point, isn’t it? At our worst, we lash out at others when we, ourselves, are feeling hurt or threatened. Perversely, we strike the very people closest to us. This bad behavior hurts the most—and does the deepest damage—in families, among friends and neighbors, in community ... in spiritual community.

This is nothing new. The first seven volumes of the Buddhist scriptures are entirely devoted to the topic of spiritual community. Recorded during the Buddha’s lifetime, these teachings detail hundreds of tales of the conflicts and struggles between and among members of the avowed community (monks and nuns). [see Insight Meditation teacher Jack Kornfield’s wonderful book, *After the Ecstasy, the Laundry*]

Out of that morass, like a lotus blooming out of the mud, were born the five precepts, the Buddha’s guides for waking up and living a meaningful, purposeful, joyful life *in spiritual community*.

The fourth of these five precepts is “right speech;” my favorite rendering is by Vietnamese Zen teacher Thich Nhat Hanh:

Aware of the suffering caused by unmindful speech and the inability to listen to others, I vow to cultivate loving speech and deep listening, in order to bring joy and happiness to others and relieve others of their suffering. Knowing that words can create happiness or suffering, I vow to learn to speak truthfully, with words that inspire self-confidence, joy, and hope.

I am determined not to spread news that I do not know to be certain, and not to criticize or condemn things of which I am not sure. I will refrain from uttering words that can cause division or discord, or that can cause the family or community to break. I will make all efforts to reconcile and resolve all conflicts, however small.

Like all the precepts, this is a tall—even impossibly tall—order. [you can read all of Thich Nhat Hanh’s versions at <http://dharma.ncf.ca/introduction/precepts.html>] That’s why spiritual practice is called practice. None of us can do it perfectly. The Alcoholics Anonymous slogan says *progress, not perfection* (emphasis on *progress!*).

The Prudential Committee, our



elected governing body, has placed communication high in their priorities for this church year. Every one of us will be invited into this work; when we’re talking about living in spiritual community, we have to begin with talking about talking (and listening!). We will be working from a firm foundation: every Sunday morning, as a gathered spiritual community, we covenant to speak our truths in love. In addition, Unitarian Universalism has its own set of precepts; we call them our principles, and we have seven rather than five (given our tendency to verbosity, it’s a wonder

see *Right Speech* on p. 11



ARLINGTON
STREET CHURCH
Unitarian Universalist

Change and Opportunity

SHERENE ARAM AND MARK WATANABE, CO-CHAIRS, PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE

As we return refreshed from our summer journeys, we rekindle our collective dreams for the new church year. This is an exciting time to be part of the ASC community! The Prudential Committee hopes to harness this excitement in ways that can further nourish congregational life and move our spiritual mission forward.

Our template will continue to be ASC's approved Long Range Plan, lovingly created with widespread congregational input and now entering its third year. If reviewed in its entirety on our website, one can see how it is infused with a vision of growth. Growth for us means much more than increased attendance at our services or in our New Member class. Indeed, we recognize the ongoing need to develop a more balanced practice of "radical hospitality" so that both newcomers will be welcomed and longstanding members will be affirmed and sustained. Our desired type of growth expands into other profound and transformative dimensions: the deeper spiritual enrichment through individual and communal participation in our programs, the intentional promotion of our liberal religious values through active engagement with others beyond our walls in the pursuit of greater fairness and equity, and

the overarching commitment to remaining in right relationship as our increasingly pluralistic church discerns what it truly means to live together in a community that espouses love and service, justice and peace.

Transformational growth involves change and even posi-



tive change may require sitting with some level of discomfort as we bid farewell to the routinely familiar. Yet, we already have made a wonderful fresh start along this path. We have hired exceptionally capable staff to enhance our ability to carry out our mission, including

our newest addition, business administrator Ed Thomas. We have been blessed with growing generosity through successful Covenant Renewal Sundays over the past two years. We have embarked on a Jubilee Initiative that publicly reclaims our identity as an advocate for social justice. With this foundation, we can dare to be optimistic about our prospects for ongoing transformational growth that endures in the face of our perennial challenges. The Prudential Committee, for its part, will commit to carefully revisiting and clarifying all the important processes through which such change takes place, including but not limited to establishing regular

forums of congregational conversation. Ultimately, the vitality of Arlington Street Church depends on all of us being willing to move beyond our fears and into a future driven by our best desires to understand life's meanings and to grow within a transforming world. ⊕

Mini Financial Update

Total Pledges to Covenant Renewal 2006 – 2007: **\$287,665**

Payments Received Through August 16th, 2006: **\$18,980** (7%)

Total Operating Income Through August 16th, 2006: **\$64,630**

Total Operating Expenses Through August 16th, 2006: **\$64,647**

General Assembly One Delegate's Journey

BY SHERENE ARAM

The General Assembly in St. Louis was only the second I've attended, and the first at which I was a delegate, so I spent more than a little bit of time getting oriented. Our Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) moderator, Gini Courter, did an exceptional job of keeping the plenary sessions on track, especially during the very complex process of deliberating on the Statement of Conscience "Threat of Global Warming". My delegate voting card certainly got plenty of use at that and the other plenary sessions!

One of the highlights for me came during Saturday morning's plenary session. Bright and early at 8:30 AM, the twenty congregations that have recently been certified as "Green Sanctuary" congregations were awarded their certificates, and I was delighted to be able to accept ASC's certificate on behalf of our very hard-working and dedicated Green Sanctuary Committee. The newly certified congregations were enthusiastically welcomed by those who had previously been certified, complete with a cheering receiving line waving green streamers!

Another highlight was the opportunity to attend several workshops and discussion sessions designed for congregational presidents. On Friday afternoon, more than 400 of us gathered with Bill Sinkford, Gini Courter and much of the UUA Board for a wide-ranging discus-

see GA on p. 11

On Membership

ALISON GREEN WILL, MEMBERSHIP AND LEADERSHIP COORDINATOR

Membership
is a process

Commitment
is a journey

Community
is the path

Transformation
is the hope

These words hang on the bulletin board over my desk in my Arlington Street Church office. I don't know who wrote them originally; they were left behind for me by my friend Amy, my predecessor as membership coordinator at All Souls in New York. I use these words to guide me and to shape my goals as your membership and leadership coordinator here at Arlington Street.

Membership is a process; Commitment is a journey. What does it mean to become a member of Arlington Street Church? To me membership is the process by which we formally commit ourselves to this spiritual community. This commitment is a reciprocal relationship—as members commit to the community and the institution, they

can expect a commitment in return in the form of opportunities for growth and pastoral support. (The Member Relations Committee has been exploring what form this commitment to our members takes—see Sarah Blodgett's article on p. 4 for more.)

Community is the path; Transformation is the hope. Being intentionally in community with one another can help us



to become our best selves. We teach each other how to treat our fellow humans with respect and dignity. We work to heal one another's wounds—to grow as individuals. And we unite to try to heal the wounds of our larger community—to transform the world. ⊕

Membership: New Name, New Commitment

SARAH BLODGETT, CO-CHAIR, MEMBER RELATIONS COMMITTEE

At our recent leadership retreat, the Membership Committee had many accomplishments to celebrate. During the 2005–06 church year, we streamlined the joining process and made it more transparent, combined new member ceremonies with church-wide celebrations, and increased the feeling of connection among new members by involving them in group service projects. It felt good to look back over a year's worth of success!

At the same time, we realized that we still have lots of work to do. Now that we've made improvements to the joining process for new members, how can we improve the membership experience for all Arlington Street members, regardless of how long they've belonged to our beloved community?

We've taken up this challenge for the 2006 – 2007 church year. In return for their commitment as members, we promise to become members' partners on their spiritual journeys, and have developed an innovative way to fulfill that commitment. Over the course of this year, we encourage your input—and will need your help—to make this process rewarding for all members, new and old alike.

New Members

New membership classes are an ideal time to undertake a comprehensive assessment of

each new member's needs and desired outcomes from membership. In small groups, we'll gather information on the following: upcoming or recently occurred major life events, spiritual background, skills and interests, intellectual curios-



ity, and anything else deemed important by the new member. The Member Relations Committee will record and use this information to know more about the people coming into our community, and identify what the prevalent needs and desires among new members are. We'll also share this information with church leadership to help shape the overall direction of the church.

At the same time, we'll introduce a "What You Can Expect from Membership at Arlington

Street Church" plan to all new members. It will include an overview of what is possible as a member over the course of one year, five years, and beyond—personal introductions to people they'd be interested in meeting, opportunities for

service and witness, possibilities for spiritual and intellectual development, and opportunities for leadership positions, among other things. By giving an example of a typical member's experience, we'll help them know what they can look forward to as their commitment deepens over time.

By having more detailed information on both what new members expect to get out of membership and how we plan as a congregation to integrate

see *Membership* on p. 10

Worship Notes

FROM THE WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Another Summer at Arlington Street Church

We've wrapped another summer's worth of services at ASC, and I've been continually reminded why I'm a member of this community.

From Darrick Jackson's reminder that diversity means more than maintaining a 'minority quota,' to Rev. Susan Criscione's message of hope and love in the face of domestic violence, to throwing paper snowballs at one another during the Young Adult Service, to Vera OBrien's exploration of life after death, this summer has been filled with insight, caring, and the values which mark us Unitarian Universalist. Each week I looked forward to seeing the friendly faces of the 30 to 100 members and friends who made it to most of the services, as well as meeting visitors and travelers from all over the globe.

It's a good thing that we started the summer with the lightness and humor of our first annual "Avenue UU"; we needed those things to outlast the punishing heat of July, misplaced chalices, the inability to get any recordings made for a period of three weeks (strangely coinciding with Miguel's vacation), practice runs of the next iteration of Community Candles, and other small mishaps.

Through it all, the dedicated team of worship and candles coordinators have made sure that

we've had a summer of quality, laughter, and spirit. The Coffee Hour spread and the birthday cakes were something to anticipate, those volunteers refreshing our bodies and spirits each week. Of course, no service would be possible without the unflagging and continued support of our staff Alison Green Will, Brad Nobles, Rodger Vine, and especially Corey Spence and Miguel Felipe. It's a privilege to see all these people in action. Thank you to everyone!

Stay tuned for even better things from the Worship Committee this upcoming church year. ☺

In gratitude,
Shea Mullaney
Co-chair, Worship Committee

Community Candles of Joy and Sorrow

Thanks to more than 150 people who've participated in the discussion about revising the Community Candles process to better reflect our growing community's needs. A notable success of introducing the written process is the new online candle card www.ASCBoston.org/worship/ which has brought us joys and sorrows from those who can't make it on a given Sunday and from our partner church in New Orleans.

With your feedback and participation, the Worship Committee has crafted the next

iteration of this important ritual over the summer. We welcome your participation in our Community Candles and encourage you to continue to send feedback to Worship@ASCBoston.org. Here's how the new format works:

- If you have a personal joy or sorrow you'd like to share with the Arlington Street Church community, please visit the candles coordinator at the right rearmost box-pew and fill out a Candles card.
- Each Sunday, the candles coordinator waits from twenty minutes before the start of services through the beginning of the first hymn to listen and receive your personal Candles. (If you can't make it to services, or may run late, we welcome online Candles throughout the week at www.ASCBoston.org/worship/candles.html.)
- To honor our spiritual community, we ask you to limit your Community Candle to a personal situation that has an emotional/spiritual impact on you and would benefit from recognition from the community.
- The candles coordinator will read all cards during the candles ceremony. There may also be an opportunity each service for a limited number of people to read their own candles card.

see *Candles* on p. 11

Worship Highlights: Autumn 2006

Sunday, September 3rd, 2006

“Speaking Our Truths in Love”

Preaching

Shea Mullaney/Ginny Merritt

Wednesday, September 6th, 2006

Wednesday Gathering featuring
Joe Della Penna and friends,
musicians

Sunday, September 10th, 2006

Homecoming Sunday

Preaching

Rev. Kim K. Crawford Harvie

Music

Peace I Ask of Thee, O River,
Gwyneth Walker

Sunday, September 17th, 2006

Preaching

Rev. Kim K. Crawford Harvie

Music

Even When God is Silent,
Michael Horvit

Sunday, September 24th, 2006

Preaching

Rev. Kim K. Crawford Harvie

Music

Deep Peace, Bill Douglas

Sunday, October 1st, 2006

Blessing of the Animals

Preaching

Rev. Kim K. Crawford Harvie

Music

The Canticle of Brother Sun,
Grayston Ives, and the Boston
Choral Ensemble, Artists in
Residence

Wednesday, October 4th, 2006

Wednesday Gathering featuring
Rodger Vine, musician



Sunday, October 8th, 2006

Preaching

Kelly Asprooth-Jackson,
Ministerial Intern

Music

Rodger Vine, Artist in Residence

Sunday, October 15th, 2006

Preaching

Rev. Kim K. Crawford Harvie

Music

Jubilate Deo, Benjamin Britten

Sunday, October 22nd, 2006

Preaching

Rev. Kim K. Crawford Harvie

Special Music

Cantores Minores and
Walk Together Children, A. Leach

Sunday, October 29th, 2006

Dia de los Muertos

Preaching

Rev. Kim K. Crawford Harvie

Music

We Remember Them, Elaine Broad

Wednesday, November 1st, 2006

Wednesday Gathering featuring
Alan Helms, author

Sunday, November 5th, 2006

Open House Sunday

Preaching

Rev. Kim K. Crawford Harvie

Music

Breaths, Ysaye M. Barnwell

Sunday, November 12th, 2006

Preaching

Rev. Kim K. Crawford Harvie

Music

Rodger Vine, Artist in Residence

Sunday, November 19th, 2006

Thanksgiving Sunday

Preaching

Rev. Kim K. Crawford Harvie

Special Music

Chichester Psalms, L. Bernstein

Sunday, November 26th, 2006

Preaching

Barb Greve, Ministerial Intern

Music

Rodger Vine, Artist in Residence

MUSIC@ASC

Arlington Street Church, *Unitarian Universalist*, Boston, Massachusetts
Concerts for All Ears • 6th Season • 2006 – 2007

This September kicks off an exciting season of **Music@ASC!** Starting with nationally acclaimed performer and peace activist Holly Near, the series is designed to bring a wide variety of music to our community and a wide variety of people to share in that community. This season's performers are from both sides of the country, both sides of the Atlantic, and include both young talent and nationally recognized performers. Learn more at www.ASCBoston.org.

HOLLY NEAR

BENEFITTING UNITED FOR JUSTICE WITH PEACE

When Saturday, September 30th, 7:30 PM
Where Arlington Street Church's Sanctuary
Tickets \$20 – \$60, justicewithpeace.org, 617-491-4857



Singer, songwriter, and activist Holly Near is defined by her passion for human rights. For more than 35 years, she has traveled to every corner of the country and around the world, singing for peace and justice. From concert halls to rally stages, Holly's voice gives strength to those in the front lines of struggle. Arlington Street is delighted to welcome United for Justice with Peace and Holly in her first solo Boston concert in years. Space is limited and we expect a full house so order your tickets now!

CANTORES MINORES

THE HELSINKI CATHEDRAL BOY'S CHOIR

When Sunday, October 23rd, 2:00 PM
Where Arlington Street Church's Sanctuary
Tickets Free Will, \$10 – \$20 suggested, at the door



Cantores Minores is an extremely competitive choir of boys aged 8 to 21. Since its creation in 1952, this highly trained and acclaimed choir has performed its rigorous classical repertoire for the king of Sweden, the president of Germany, and Pope John Paul II. Arlington Street is the only Boston stop on the 70-person touring choir's 2006 American tour. This promises to be a rare afternoon you will not want to miss. Check www.cantoresminores.net to learn more.

BERNSTEIN: CHICHESTER PSALMS

When Sunday, November 19th, 11:00 AM
Where Arlington Street Church's Sanctuary
Tickets Free! Just come to church

Written fewer than ten years after *West Side Story*, Bernstein's *Chichester Psalms* are a rollicking setting of three Hebrew psalms for choir, soloists, and chamber ensemble. Bernstein penned this work in 1965 while on a sabbatical from the New York Philharmonic. The psalms are tuneful, full of Bernstein's wild rhythms, and remain popular with choirs around the world. Don't miss this musical treat presented by ASC's choir!



Music@ASC is committed to supporting young talent as well as providing a wide range of quality musical experiences for ASC's community and guests. If you know someone who would like to perform in the Music@ASC Concert series, please contact series producer Barbara Seidl at Series@ASCBoston.org.

Music@ASC is sponsored by:



ARLINGTON
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Unitarian Universalist

Rebuilding First Church of New Orleans

FROM THE PARTNER CHURCH COORDINATING COMMITTEE



Although it has been over a year since hurricane Katrina blew through the Gulf Coast devastating our sister church and impacting the greater web of life, the work of rebuilding in New Orleans continues. Arlington Street Church has made a five year commitment to walk with the First Church of New Orleans community every step of the path.

Arlington Street Church volunteers traveled to New Orleans in May. Work crews dug right in and got their hands dirty:

- ripping out ceilings
- tarring roofs
- removing debris
- cutting lawns
- hanging doors
- installing kitchens

This was a great contribution in getting First Church's Volunteer Center up and running!

Arlington Street Church's Partner Church Coordinating Committee (PCCC) has taken the lead in organizing the relief efforts of all the partner churches in raising funds for the

rebuilding effort, sharing ideas and resources, and facilitating the volunteer network.

This summer, the PCCC has worked on:

- a web page on www.ASCBoston.org
- a return work visit to New Orleans in early October
- a memorial/fundraiser in late September

Updates may be found on our web page. To volunteer please leave the PCCC a message at 617-536-7050, ext. 20 or on line at NewOrelans@ASCBoston.org

The following article by Cherie Coen, a New Orleans native and volunteer coordinator, is a wonderful reflection on New Orleans and First Church. The church group Ms. Coen sties as inspiring is our own Arlington Street Church volunteer work crew! ☺

Arlington Street Church PCCC is: Robert Cuddi, Sarah Richards, Susie Nacco, Elizabeth Lindholm, and Kate Wilkinson

Why We're Still Here Weekend Visits Below Sea Level

BY CHERÉ COEN

June 16, 2006

It took me nine months to get up the nerve to visit the 9th Ward. Since visiting New Orleans usually involved crying spells, I thought it best to take in the devastation in stages, which is one reason why I have yet to visit the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

Passing into the Lower 9th, I came away with images that will haunt me forever. But I didn't cry this time.

I credit crossing that emotional threshold with the group sharing the van with me. They were volunteers from Boston in town to build a volunteer center at the First Unitarian Church of New Orleans. During their week in the city, they broke up and hauled out a massive concrete ceiling, scrubbed bathrooms, mopped vast expanses of floor in the Fellowship Hall that had a lingering floodwater smell that I can't remove from my senses, tarred a leaky roof in 90-degree heat and hung doors and kitchen cabinets. Did I mention summer has arrived and the building had no air conditioning? They also assisted an elderly woman in the community with the rebuilding of her home and life.

So this time, when I drove into my hometown to help organize the crew, I was greeted with eager faces ready to work. No one complained, no one held back. Every member of that group saw the need and jumped right in, not worrying that they were covered in tar or that their beds consisted of Red Cross air mattresses.

So when we drove across the

Claiborne Bridge into the vast devastation that is now the 9th Ward, I had hope rising inside me. Even as I viewed houses torn from their foundations and folded like accordions on their neighbors' lawns, I knew that as long as people cared about our communities and came down to help us dig out of the mess, someday these residents would return.

Yet, one question gets asked repeatedly. Why do people live in such flood-prone areas? And why would they want to return to such decimated neighborhoods?

The question was posed to me this week by a relief worker who had traveled to the 9th Ward to survey a property of an evacuee living in his home state of Minnesota. He found her home listing on one side and heavily damaged from the flood. He immediately wrote it off because first, the house was in terrible shape, and second, "Who would want to live in a neighborhood that now looked so horrible?"

Then he added that he was puzzled why anyone would put New Orleans where it is in the first place. Why place a port city in a crescent almost surrounded by water and swamplands? Which made me think he was wondering if we should be rebuilding at all.

His point rested on property values. He surmised that on the Mississippi Gulf Coast, where he had been spending most of his volunteer time, property owners could rebuild knowing their land had value being located on the coast. But who would want to rebuild a house in the 9th Ward if the area had been impoverished and crime-ridden beforehand, and was now uninhabitable and prone to flood in the next

storm that visits?

All good points, except for one important element. And it's called "home."

New Orleans isn't just a place to live and work. We don't stay in this below-sea level town that's sweltering in the summer and infested with tropical insects merely because our jobs are located here. We stay because our culture, traditions, and history connect us to our neighborhoods like umbilical cords, stretching taut when we venture too far away. We eat different from the rest of America and are proud to do so. We have our own language. When the rest of the country diets in January, we applaud the coming of Carnival. Play a certain beat and we get up and parade, preferably with an umbrella in hand. We still sit on our stoops and talk to one another across the streets.

Our neighborhoods represent who we are in New Orleans, a

concept that may be disappearing in American today.

"Where ya from?" we ask each other, answered by a host of neighborhood names.

In the 9th Ward, for

instance, famous musicians such as Fats Domino and rapper Lil' Wayne emerged. Mardi Gras Indians, a culture unique to New Orleans, parade every year. It was the birthplace of Homer Plessy, an African American tired of sitting in the "colored" car of a train, who fought segregation in the Supreme Court ruling Plessy vs. Ferguson. Six-year-old Ruby Bridges lived in the 9th Ward as well, the first African American to integrate Frantz Elementary School

in New Orleans in 1960.

So why rebuild this "bowl"?

For one, because the levees failed us and the federal government owes it to residents to rebuild their homes (if they so desire) damaged by the breaches, regardless of if they stood on hills and below sea level. If a corporation had spilled toxins into a neighborhood, they would be required to make amends. New Orleans should not be any different. Hurricane Katrina didn't flood New Orleans. The Army Corps of Engineers did, and they have finally admitted as such.

For another, we should rebuild New Orleans neighborhoods because it preserves the culture and traditions of a unique group of people and honors a way of life often forgotten in this country.

And last, rebuilding provides an opportunity for us to do it right this time, to rebuild a city with careful planning, affordable housing, quality schools and yes, even green space in low-lying areas where rebuilding may be unreasonable. Instead of ignoring the poverty of its people, we can build toward its elimination.

My father's ancestry travels back to the founding of New Orleans. For three hundred years my family has lived in this bowl. I have ventured out to new places, almost always making more money elsewhere, but I invariably return, just like I am now, visiting my hometown every month to help in its recovery. It's in our soul, this crazy, dangerous bend in the river. And above everything I could name in its defense—the contribution to American music, its cuisine, a major port city—New Orleans is our home.

Cheré Coen is a native of New Orleans but currently lives in Lafayette, Louisiana. She works in hurricane recovery for the Unitarian Church of Baton Rouge and visits her hometown on weekends. This is her continuing update.

Note: This article is reprinted with permission from Washington International.

We stay because our culture, traditions, and history connect us to our neighborhoods like umbilical cords...

Social Action Committee

What can we do to make changes in our local communities, in our country and world?

What work is most important for us to focus on at this time? The Social Action committee is a place to ask these questions and a place to meet other people from Arlington Street Church who want to find answers. We have members working on voting rights, water privatization, women's rights, race dialogue, environmental issues, the organization Only a Child and more. Last year we continued our discussion of "moral values", a Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) study/action issue, were glad to work with the Green committee on a film series, worked on petitions, and sponsored several events. We also try to support the activism of committee members and others at Arlington Street Church who are interested in social action, and who bring their concerns to us. We respond to current issues by having letters and information at our weekly table, downstairs in Coffee Hour after services. We look forward to participating in the important Jubilee Initiative discussion of ways Arlington Street Church can give back as a congregation in the coming year. The Social Action Committee meets the first Sunday of each month from 9:30 – 10:30 AM, in the Clarke Room on the second floor—except in September when we will meet on Sunday the 10th, at the usual time and place. Come and join us! ☺

Visit "Only a Child"— and Study Spanish!

CHRIS CURTISS, SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

Are you a friend and supporter of George Leger's "Only a Child" program? Would you like to go to Guatemala to see firsthand the wonderful work that George is doing, and meet his kids? Let's begin planning for a trip sometime this year! Timing is flexible. I'm thinking perhaps during the spring of 2007.

If you don't speak Spanish, or if you do and would like to brush-up your skills, at least a couple of weeks at one of Guatemala's language schools would make the visit much more meaningful. The schools are a wonderful way to learn Spanish, and to experience Guatemala. Room and board, with a Guatemalan family are included, and the instruction is one-on-one, individualized to your specific needs. Most schools include opportunities for volunteer work, and various educational and recreational programs. The cost is surprisingly low. No, you won't be speaking fluently after only a couple of weeks, but you should have a rudimentary knowledge of the language that will allow you to communicate to some extent. There are schools both in Antigua (near Guatemala City), and in Quetzaltenango, a beautiful, less touristy, and relatively safe city in the Western Highlands.

Does any of this interest you? Let's talk! E-mail chrisrts@peoplepc.com. If we have a few interested people (it doesn't have to be many), we can get together to start doing the planning. ☺

Membership, continued from p. 4

them into the community, we'll have a more definitive way to check in with new members to see if things are "going well" or that "they're on the right path." In doing so, we hope to prevent having to wait until members stop coming to church to try to find out what part of the promise was not fulfilled for them.

Existing Members

To extend our promise as spiritual partners to existing members, we'd like to do the same type of assessment over the course of this year. Although the details of implementation are yet to be worked out, we look forward to having a method for determining how the congregation as a whole is being served. In addition, we'd like existing members to know they can come to us for guidance and support. A Membership Committee member will always be there to listen no matter what the issue or question. If we can't help directly, we'll find someone who can!

To reflect our changing role within the congregation, we've decided to change our name from "Membership Committee" to "Member Relations Committee." Our goal is to nourish the membership and spiritual journeys of all members, not just those who are brand new. Our door will always be open, so to speak, for suggestions, concerns, and new ideas. By doing so, we hope to provide a vital service to the life of the community we each cherish so much, and deepen the experience of membership for all. ☺

GA, continued from p. 3

sion on outreach and growth strategies, social justice work and administrative processes. There were several opportunities for deeper conversation in small groups, sometimes by size of congregation and sometimes randomly. Not surprisingly, many of us are wrestling with common issues, and it was really a pleasure to share ideas with such a dedicated and creative group of people. We also heard an overview of the new UUA Health Plan, and in September the Prudential Committee will be considering whether to enroll ASC's staff in the plan.

Perhaps my favorite moment at GA, though, was the Service of the Living Tradition, which honors and celebrates the rites of passage of our UU ministers. Sheila and I and all our ASC friends cheered vociferously as we watched our own Paul Sprecher and Roger Pelletier enter into Preliminary Fellowship and our good friend and now husband of Mark Watanabe, Art Lavoie, who is the minister of the Dorchester UU church, receive Final Fellowship.

GA is exhilarating, overwhelming and a feast of ideas! I would encourage everyone to check out the UUA web-site <http://www.uua.org/ga/gao6/> for the many detailed reports of plenary sessions, workshops, worship services and other events. It's the next best thing to being there! ☺

Stay tuned to further issues of **THE WINDOW** when our other delegates report back on their General Assembly experience. And just as the series finishes, GA 2007 will be here!

Right Speech, continued from p. 1

there aren't more!). I think of our first and seventh principle as companions of the fourth (right speech) precept:

We covenant to affirm and promote the inherent worth and dignity of every person.


We covenant to affirm and promote respect for the interdependent web of all existence, of which we are a part.

And if we really mean it, we can't keep those promises without "loving speech and deep listening."

In this country, and in the world theatre, these times are a tragic act that has been poisoned by bad speech and hard hearts (some would argue that this is true of every place in every time inhabited by humans). Arlington Street—both its individual members, and our congregation as a whole—is both a part of this world and apart from it. On occasion, the secular world gets in, and gets to us. But I count on our spiritual apart-ness, on our intention and willingness and capacity to do things differently from how they are being done in the secular world. It's up to us to bring our soul power to bear, starting with a devotion to communication as a spiritual practice.

I count on us. And I am eternally grateful to be counted among you. ☺

Faithfully yours, with love,


Rev. Kim K. Crawford Harvie,
Senior Minister

Candles, continued from p. 5

- We respectfully ask you to refrain from sharing candles that contain profanity, personal attacks, or political news/announcements. (See the worship coordinator if you have an announcement to share with the community.)
- Also, if you've had the opportunity to read your own candle within the last thirty days, allow other persons the same opportunity. The candles coordinator will be happy to read your candle.
- The Worship Committee has crafted this important ritual to foster closeness and personal connection between members, old and new friends, visitors, and strangers. Community Candles allows us to hear and recognize one another, to ask the community for support, and to share the joys of our lives. They are not an open microphone or a substitute for counseling. (If you are in need of counseling or additional support, Arlington Street Church will be happy to match you with some of our deeper resources. Please speak to the candles coordinator after the service ends.)
- After the service all candle cards (unless you specify otherwise) will be posted on the wall behind the Membership Table downstairs at Coffee Hour.

Thank you for participating in this important ritual of sharing and healing. The Arlington Street Church community honors your joys and sorrows. ☺

the WINDOW



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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Editorial Staff of THE WINDOW

Miguel Felipe, editor and designer; Don Rickter, proofreader

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, November 3rd, 2006** for inclusions in Vol. 6, No. 2, December 2006 – February, 2007.

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.

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