



BCD In-Brief



December 2013, Volume 7, No. 5

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Holiday Wishes

As the holiday season begins we send you greetings and our wish for you to have tranquility, happiness and good cheer. May we all in 2014 find strength to overcome obstacles, have insight to be wise in our decisions, discover fulfillment in all that we do, and live in delight of the wonders of creation.

*The Board and Staff
of the Ballou Channing District*

Workshop about Membership



"Let's Talk About Membership" is a half-day workshop that will give participants an opportunity to hear from representatives of congregations that have track records of successful membership work, analyze adaptive issues a congregation faces when working to increase membership, and share ideas and approaches to congregation membership initiatives.

January 25, 2014

9:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon Second Parish Church in Hingham

685 Main Street, Hingham, MA

www.secondparish.org

Registration - NO FEE, but need to reserve a space.

Sign-up at

<http://letstalkmembership.eventbrite.com>

Regional Winter Workshops

- **Growing Better Religion**

A half day summit that will explore individual and institutional roles in growing better religion in our Unitarian Universalist context. The Rev. Tandi Rogers, UUA Growth Strategies Specialist, will facilitate conversations about Unitarian Universalist identity in New England and the role of Unitarian Universalism in the public square throughout history and in the present. Information at <http://www.cbd-mbd-uua.org/drupal/content/growing-better-religion>

Saturday, January 11, 2013

8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

UU Church of Worcester

<http://uucworcester.org>

Registration: \$50 Deadline - January 6, 2014

<https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg?oeidk=a07e8hl6eala3e11501&oseq=&c=&ch=>

- **Unitarian Universalist Spirituality: A Wellspring for Lay Leaders and Religious Professionals**

A sustained, daylong experience to explore your own Unitarian Universalist spirituality. The Rev. Jen Crow, *Minister of Program Life at the First Universalist Church of Minneapolis*, offers retreat-style practices of UU adult spiritual development. Participants will walk away with some basic tools for providing a similar program in their own community. But more importantly, the emphasis of the day is on simply the enriching experience of claiming, re-imagining, and practicing the living tradition of one's own Unitarian Universalist spirituality.

Lay Leaders

Saturday, February 1, 2014

9:30am - 5:00pm

First Parish of Sudbury

<http://fpsudbury.org/>

Registration: \$75 Deadline - January 27, 2014 or capacity

<https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg?oeidk=a07e8e8mbwdf4783cd8&oseq=&c=&ch=>

Religious Professionals

Friday, January 31, 2014

9:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Harvard (MA) Unitarian Universalist Church

<http://www.uuharvard.org/Home.aspx>
 Information at <http://www.cbd-mbd-uaa.org/drupal/content/unitarian-universalist-spirituality-wellspring-religious-professionals>

Keep Informed about GA 2014 in Providence



The *GA Blast* is an electronic newsletter published and distributed monthly by the BCD Office to provide up-to-date information about the Providence General Assembly, June 25-29, 2014. Contact the BCD office at BallouChanning@verizon.net to have your name placed on the e-mail distribution roster.

Carbon-Fund Tree Planting Project

Carbonfund.org, the UUA's partner for offsetting carbon at General Assembly, is set to launch a very ambitious tree-planting campaign, coupled with a dining rewards program. The campaign is simple:

Participants go to <https://www.carbonfund.org/plant-trees-dine-free> and select from among the three options and get an eGift Card from <http://Restaurant.com>

* Plant 50 Trees for \$50 - Receive a \$100 Restaurant.com* eGift Card

* Plant 75 Trees for \$75 - Receive a \$200 Restaurant.com eGift Card

* Plant 100 Trees for \$100 - Receive a

\$500

Restaurant.com eGift Card

Carbonfund.org was founded by Unitarian Universalist, Eric Carlson.

Crowdsourcing Platforms

Interested in experimenting with Crowdsourcing as a fundraiser, but confused by the ever growing number of platforms? Here is an excellent blog post that will help you determine which platform is right for your congregation or organization:

<http://forums.techsoup.org/cs/community/b/tsblog/archive/2013/09/03/which-crowdfunding-platform-is-best-for-your-organization.aspx> You need to take into consideration the scope of your project, the risk factor (some platforms require that you meet your goal or you get none of the funds raised), any fees involved, and the track record of success for any given platform. For an example of a UU fund on a crowdsourcing platform, see: <http://cbd-mbd-uaa.org/drupal/faithful-risk-fund>.

Christmas Gifts from the UUA Bookstore

Looking for a unique book to give this Christmas? Check out the offering at the UUA Bookstore, such as:

- *Where Two Worlds Touch* While caring for her mother, who is living with Alzheimer's disease, author Jade Angelica's learned a lot about grief, the nature of selfhood, and the unexpected gifts of Alzheimer's disease. She also found a purpose and embarked on her life's work-to teach that people with Alzheimer's can have relationships, meaningful lives, joy, and growth. *Where Two Worlds Touch* is both a spiritual memoir and a pastoral guide for those who love someone with Alzheimer's.
- *"Thou, Dear God" ": Prayers That Open Hearts and Spirits*. A collection of sixty-eight prayers by Martin Luther King, Jr. Arranged thematically in six parts--with prayers for spiritual guidance, special occasions, times of adversity, times of trial, uncertain times, and social justice--
- *American Plastic: Boob Jobs, Credit Cards, and Our Quest for Perfection* Sociologist Laurie Essig traces the history of plastic surgery, tracks the effect of fashion and porn on our desire to "fix" ourselves, and explores our image- and youth-obsessed culture.

Check out the selection at www.uua.org/bookstore.

Interweave Newsletter

The current Interweave newsletter has articles about: Interweave Continental Board meeting in Boston, Interweave Continental Needs Assessment Reveals All, Employment Nondiscrimination Act, and Remembering Transgender Day of Remembrance. For this issue and archived issues go to: http://interweavecontinental.ning.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=144&Itemid=157

Meditation Manual - Morning Watch

Skinner House Books, a Unitarian Universalist publishing house continues its series of classic meditation manual reissues with **Morning Watch** by Barbara Pescan. This popular title from 1999 is available again in print and eBook editions at www.uuabookstore.org/productdetails.cfm?PC=1950

Calendar

Dec 24-Jan 1 BCD Office closed for holidays

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|---------------|---|----------------------|
| Jan 11 | BCD Board of Directors Winter Retreat
<i>Unitarian Church of Sharon, Sharon, MA</i> | |
| Jan 11 | Growing Better Religion[@]
<i>UU Church of Worcester, MA</i> | 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. |
| | [a Clara Barton-Mass Bay Districts workshop] | |
| Jan 25 | Let's Talk About Membership[@]
<i>Second Parish Church, Hingham</i> | 9:30 a.m.-12:00 noon |

- Jan 31** **Unitarian Universalist Spirituality: A Wellspring for Religious Professionals[@]**
Harvard (MA) Unitarian Universalist Church 9:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
 [a Clara Barton-Mass Bay Districts workshop]
- Feb 1** **Unitarian Universalist Spirituality: A Wellspring for Lay Leaders[@]**
First Parish of Sudbury, MA
 [a Clara Barton-Mass Bay Districts workshop]
- Mar 8** **BCD/New England Music Conferenc** 9:00 a.m.-3:00pm
Murray UU Church, Attleboro, MA
- Mar 14-16** **Allies for Racial Equity 2014 Conference**
Rocky River, OH
- Apr 2-5** **UU-United Nations Office Intergenerational Spring Seminar on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples**
New York City, NY
- Apr 6** **Rev. Pamela Barz, Scituate Minister, Installation[@]** 3:00 pm
First Parish Unitarian Universalist Church, Scituate, MA
- May 3** **BCD Spring Conference and Annual Meeting**
First Universalist Society of Franklin
- Jun 25-29** **General Assembly**
Providence, RI
 # Change of information from last *BCD in Brief*
[@]New from last *BCD in Brief*

