

three services!). At 7:00 and 9:00 pm, the Boston Gay Men's Chorus stands in for the Heavenly Host! Candle lighting is a highlight of all three services (candles are provided). Please come and bring your loved ones to share in this magical evening.

“On Ending and Beginning Again in Love”

Sunday, December 27th, 11:00 AM, Sanctuary
Worship, Rev. Yvonne preaching

We'll see the old year out and the New Year in, held in love, grace, and community.

Christmas Eve Ushers & Greeters Needed!

Volunteers are needed for each of the Christmas Eve Services at 5:00 PM, 7:00 PM, and 9:00 PM. Sign-up sheets will be available at the Membership Table during Coffee Hour. There will be a short informational meeting on December 20th, in the sanctuary at 12:30 PM.

The Arlington Street Center
for Liberal Religious Inquiry
and Spiritual Practice

The Wednesdays: Three Chinese Poets

Wednesdays, January 6th, 13th, and 27th, 6:00 – 8:00 PM, Frothingham Library (please note that we do NOT meet on January 20th)

Join Professor Alan Helms and Rev. Kim for our latest literary adventure at Arlington Street's *The Wednesdays* literary salon: Three Chinese poets! Read on for Prof. Alan's instructions and admonitions. All are welcome!

The tradition of Russian literature is less than 200 years old; French literature is about 600 years old; English literature 1200 years old; Persian literature 1400 years old; Chinese literature 3000 years old. There's universal agreement that the golden age of Chinese poetry occurred in the eighth century during the Tang dynasty. We'll be studying the three best Tang dynasty poets, all of them giants of world literature: Wang Wei, Li Bai (also known as Li Po), and Du Fu (also known as Tu Fu). All three poets are easily accessible and deeply moving, writing largely about simple things in a world of evanescent beauty. Their emotions are understated but powerful, and they're probably more attuned to nature than any other poets who ever wrote.

Our text is *The Anchor Book of Chinese Poetry*, edited by Tony Barnstone and Chou Ping. You'll find many cheap copies at abebooks.com and amazon.com. Please be sure to get the book well in advance of our first meeting so that you can read not only the poems of Wang Wei but also the “Preface” and “Introduction to Chinese Poetic Form.” These two essays are absolutely essential for the success of our study. Anyone who doesn't read them will be seriously hobbled in this course.

January 6: Wang Wei plus the two essays

January 13: Li Bai/Li Po

January 27: Du Fu/Tu Fu

Each selection runs 15 – 20 pages and many of the poems are short, some only four lines long, but if you've been in a previous poetry course in *The Wednesdays* at Arlington Street Church, you'll know that I expect people to re-read a lot and also to **READ EVERYTHING OUT LOUD!!!** Otherwise there's really no point; you'd just be wasting your time.

A course in Chinese poetry represents a very new direction for *The Wednesdays* and I'm tremendously excited about it. I hope you are too! Welcome aboard.

If your child grows restless during worship, please be welcome to bring her or him to the nursery (located off of the Chapel, through the leather door). The service is piped-in, so you won't miss a word, and your child will be happy.



UNITARIAN
UNIVERSALIST
ASSOCIATION OF
CONGREGATIONS

Suggestion Box

The staff and leadership of Arlington Street Church welcome your ideas, comments, and suggestions. If you have a thought to share about what works well or what could be improved, please send a message to Comments@ASCBoston.org or leave a note in the suggestion box outside the Church Office. Your message will be received by the Church's administrative assistant so it can find its way to the appropriate people. Please speak your “truths in love” and include your name and contact information so we can follow-up. Thanks! For emergencies, please see “[Our Caring Community](#)” to the right.

Inside Submission Guidelines

Please deliver all Sunday announcements before Tuesday at 3:00 pm by e-mail to communications@ASCBoston.org. Announcements will not be accepted by telephone. Materials must be legible, signed, and fully composed and may be edited, as space is limited. Please note that we only publish submissions related to Arlington Street events or the wider Unitarian Universalist community.

Scheduling Events at Arlington Street Church

All issues dealing with building usage, for both congregational usage and rentals, must be coordinated by Jeffrey Bouchard, Assistant to the Administrator. Jeffrey is able to help you Monday – Friday, 8:00 AM – 3:00 PM. He can be reached by phone at 617-536-7050 ext. *8 14 or by e-mail at JBouchard@ASCBoston.org.

Our Caring Community

In the event of a disruption or major transition in the life of an Arlington Street member, please inform the church office. Our staff and ministers will be in touch to lend support.

Security Note

This is an urban church. Please do not leave your valuables unattended! Also, please be attentive when exiting the church into the alley. When walking in the alley avoid being alone, carry a cell phone, walk in the center of the road, and pay attention!

Arlington Street Church, *Unitarian Universalist*
351 Boylston Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02116-3303

Office Hours: Monday – Friday, 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM
Phone: 617-536-7050 • Fax: 617-536-7051
E-mail: office@ASCBoston.org • Web: www.ASCBoston.org

INSIDE

ARLINGTON STREET CHURCH

NEWS FROM THE SOUL OF SUNDAY

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6TH, 2009

Children's Religious Education

Today the church school children are invited to join Erick DuPree, religious educator, on the lower chancel to light the Advent wreath with its message of Peace, before leaving for class during the Children's Blessing.

Today's lesson will be on the annual Unitarian Universalist Service Committee congregational program, *Guest At Your Table*, which supports the Committee's social justice activities. The children will return to the Sanctuary at the end of worship to pass out *Guest At Your Table* boxes to the congregation. Church School is held downstairs in the Perkins Room and all are welcome.

Congregational Announcements

Women's Spirituality Group

Saturday, December 12th, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM, Perkins Room

A lively multi-generational group of sixteen Arlington Street Church women met in retreat on Saturday, Nov. 7th, and enjoyed being together so much that they've decided to continue meeting monthly as the **Second Saturday Soul Sistahs**. Our next gathering of the Sistahs will be on Saturday, December 12th, from 10:00 am until 2:00 pm in the Perkins Room. If you can, please bring a potluck lunch item for sharing or your own brown bag lunch. Yvonne will bring veggie soup for sharing. RSVP to office@ascboston.org, subject: Sistahs. All Arlington Street Church women of any age are very welcome to join us. If you have any questions, please either be in touch with Acting Associate Minister Yvonne Schumacher Strejcek yesyvonne@ascboston.org or speak with Linda Evans.

The Sistahs will continue meeting on the second Saturday of each month, so calendar these dates now if you plan to attend: January 9th, February 13th, March 13th, April 10th, May 8th, and June 12th. Beginning in January, we'll use a Unitarian Universalist curriculum, Evensong, to help shape our gatherings, deepening our conversations and connecting our souls. We ask for a commitment to attend regularly, and the group will be closed to new members, after the January gathering, until June.



ARLINGTON
STREET CHURCH
Unitarian Universalist

The Mitten Tree

Sunday, December 13th, 11:00 AM, Sanctuary

Come decorate the Mitten Tree with new, unwrapped gloves, hats, scarves, and socks for the gentlemen guests of our Friday Night Supper Program.

Holiday Bake Sale!

Sunday, December 13th, during Coffee Hour

The Sandwich Board's busy bakers will offer some great baked goods along with their normal "Soup and Sandwiches" spread. Proceeds from Sandwich Board sales during Coffee Hour add thousands of dollars to church program income, so please continue to support the Sandwich Board and build community over coffee, soup, sandwiches, desserts. Volunteers are always welcome to help prepare, serve or cleanup. If you are interested in assisting, speak with any Sandwich Board volunteer.

Come Celebrate the Holidays!

Young Adult Group Holiday Event

Friday, December 18th, 7:00 PM, Perkins Room

The Young Adult Group will be holding their holiday season event featuring the traditional viewing of "A Muppet Family Christmas!" The evening will be filled with friendship, community, Muppet characters (including Sesame Street and Fraggle Rock characters) and Christmas carols. All young adults are welcome!

Lessons and Carols

Sunday, December 20th, 11:00 AM, Sanctuary

'Twas the Week Before Christmas! Come join us for some new stories of the season, some old favorites, and lots of carol singing!

Rodger Vine

Christmas Music on Piano

Sunday, December 20th, 12:30 PM, Hunnewell Chapel

Arlington Street's Artist-in-Residence, Rodger Vine, presents a brief concert of Christmas music for the piano, followed immediately for our 3rd Annual Carol Sing!

3rd Annual Carol Sing!

Sunday, December 20th, 1:15 PM, Hunnewell Chapel
FREE, Donations Gratefully Accepted

Join Arlington Street's musicians for our third annual old-fashioned Christmas carol sing! Mark David Buckles, Director of Music, and the Arlington Street Choir will lead us in seasonal favorites, from *Jingle Bells* to *It Came Upon a Midnight Clear*. Hot chocolate, tea, cookies, and fruit to follow!

We invite you to cut out this calendar and clip it to your refrigerator or bulletin board!

Coming Up...

Sunday, December 6th, 2009

9:30 AM	Choir Warm-Up - Sanctuary
10:00 AM	ASC Auction Committee - Archives Room
10:00 AM	Children's Chapel - Chapel
11:00 AM	Sunday Morning Worship - Sanctuary
12:00 PM	Path to Membership - Archives Room
12:00 PM	Coffee Hour - Parish Hall
12:30 PM	Young Adult Group Lunch - Stage Right Room
12:45 PM	Unplug the Christmas Machine - Chapel

Monday, December 7th, 2009

6:30 PM	Membership Committee - Perkins Room
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Tuesday, December 8th, 2009, 2009

6:00 PM	Buddha's Belly - Chapel
6:00 PM	Finance Committee - Perkins Room
7:00 PM	Arlington Street Zen Center - Chapel

Wednesday, December 9th, 2009

3:30 PM	*Staff Meeting - Perkins Room
6:00 PM	Kundalini Yoga - Chapel
7:00 PM	UU Affairs Committee - Perkins Room

Thursday, December 10th, 2009

7:00 PM	Choir Warm-Up - Clarke Room
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Friday, December 11th, 2009

5:00 PM	Friday Night Supper Program - Parish Hall, Kitchen
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Saturday, December 12th, 2009

10:00 AM	Soul Sistahs Meeting - Perkins Room, Kitchen
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Sunday, December 13th, 2009

9:30 AM	Choir Warm-Up - Sanctuary
9:30 AM	Social Action Committee - Archives Room
10:00 AM	ASC Auction Committee - Clarke Room
11:00 AM	Sunday Morning Worship - Sanctuary
12:00 PM	Coffee Hour - Parish Hall
12:30 PM	Security Meeting - Chapel
12:30 PM	Young Adult Group Lunch - Stage Right Room

*Closed meeting

NOTE: This calendar is accurate as of noon the Wednesday before publication and only includes events directly related to the congregation. For complete, up-to-date calendar listings over the coming months, visit www.ASCBoston.org.



Black Nativity

Sunday, December 20th, 3:30 PM

Tremont Temple, 88 Tremont Street, Boston

Join with members and friends of Arlington Street Church at this performance of "Black Nativity". Produced and presented by the National Center of Afro-American Artists, "Black Nativity" tells the original story of the Nativity in scripture, verse, music and dance. Based on the Gospel of St. Luke and combined with the poetry of Langston Hughes, this song-play is presented by a company of 160 singers, actors, dancers and musicians and delivers a powerful message of joy, hope, victory and liberation. The Boston production is the longest running performance of "Black Nativity" and this year marks its 40th consecutive season.

For ticket information, visit the Welcome Table during Coffee Hour.

Children's Holiday Party

Monday, December 21st, 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Bethel Tabernacle Pentecostal Church

12 Bicknell Street, Dorchester

Come to our third annual children's holiday gathering as we celebrate our connections with Bethel... and have fun! We are in need of art supplies for an ornament-making project at the party. If you have glitter (all colors), bottles of Elmer's glue, sheets of green felt, or boxes of plain ornaments you would like to donate for the party, please bring them to Arlington Street by Sunday morning, December 20th.

Bethel is the home of Villages without Walls (VWW). VWW is a project of Jubilee, Arlington Street Church's work in the world. If you are planning on attending please let us know by sending an e-mail to SocialAction@ascboston.org with the word "Party" in the subject line. And use the same e-mail to let us know if you need a ride to the party. We will have rides for eight people, half from Arlington Street Church and half from Forest Hills Station in Jamaica Plain (Orange Line).

Arlington Street Zen Center Winter Solstice Vespers and Waking Up the Trees!

Tuesday, December 22nd, 7:00 PM

Hunnewell Chapel and Boston Public Garden

Join the Arlington Street Sangha for a Winter Solstice Vespers, with beautiful readings, silent meditation by candlelight, songs, and walking meditation in the Public Garden complete with Wassailing the Trees! Refreshments to follow.

All are welcome!

Christmas Eve!

Thursday, December 24th, Sanctuary

Services are at 5:00 PM, 7:00 PM, and 9:00 PM

O, Come All Ye Faithful! Our choir sings in the holiday at the 5:00 pm family service, with participation by all the children (this service is perfect for children, but all are welcome at all