

THE WORSHIP COMMITTEE PRESENTS ...

Spiritual Passions, 2009

Way back in the winter of 2003, I conducted a wedding late one Sunday afternoon and returned to the parish house to find it still buzzing with various conversations, hours after the morning worship service had concluded. In fact, there were still sixty people in the building! Right then and there, *Spiritual Passions* was born: an opportunity for members and friends of the Arlington Street community to offer and enjoy experiential workshops on their spiritual passions. Please plan to join us on Sundays from 1:00-3:00 p.m. (unless noted) for this winter's fantastic line-up! - Rev. Kim

Spiritual Passions: Introduction to Meditation

Sunday, January 4th, 1:00 PM in the Clarke Room

Don't just do something; sit there! And when you sit, just sit. Very simple directives... simple, but not easy! Join Arlington Street Church's senior minister, Rev. Kim K. Crawford Harvie, and members of Arlington Street Zen Center for Meditation 101, including answers to burning questions such as, "Where do I put my legs?" and "How do I stop thinking (without going to sleep)?" This ancient spiritual practice will bring profound benefits not just to you, but to all whose life yours touches. Wear comfortable clothing (and yes, you can meditate in a chair!).

Spiritual Passions: Connecting

Sunday, January 11th, 1:00 PM in the Clarke Room

Need Text

OTHER UPCOMING PASSIONS

CHECK INSIDE FOR MORE INFORMATION

Spiritual Passions: Green Sanctuary Congregational Conversation

Sunday, January 18th, 1:00 PM, in the Clarke Room

Spiritual Passion: Corporation Meeting Congregational Conversation about Music

Sunday, January 25th, 1:00 PM, in the Clarke Room

Spiritual Passion: Meditation Arlington Street Zen Center Retreat

Sunday, February 1st, 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM, in the Clarke Room,
Followed by dinner

Spiritual Passion: Budget Congregational Conversation

Sunday, February 8th, 1:00 PM, in the Clarke Room

Other Announcements

Friday Night Supper Program, Inc Help your homeless and hungry neighbors!

The Friday Night Supper Program has been serving meals to over 150 disadvantaged people every Friday evening, never missing a single week, serving on holidays and through snow, storms, and power outages for almost 25 years. Here are two important ways in which you can support the Friday Night Supper Program:

SPONSOR A MEAL

In the past year the Friday Night Supper Program has seen the cost for a weekly meal go up thirty percent from \$900 to \$1,200. You can sponsor a meal by donating funds to assist with costs or by donating bulk food items. You can also sponsor and cook an entire meal; or sponsor soup and dessert for one meal and volunteer during dinner service.

Parking at Arlington Street Church

On Sunday mornings discount parking is available at the Back Bay Garage now at the rate of \$5 for the first three hours. Regular weekend rates apply thereafter. Back Bay Garage is accessible on Clarendon between Boylston and St. James streets. Present your parking ticket to an usher or at the Welcome Table during coffee hour to obtain the discount sticker.

Please note: Parking spaces in the alley are rented to private, non-Arlington Street Church members Monday through Saturday until 6:00 PM. **Spaces #1 and #2 are for our senior minister and business administrator and must be kept available at all times.** Violators will be towed at the owner's expense without warning.

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 noon by e-mail to inside@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, facilities manager. 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. 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
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INSIDE

ARLINGTON STREET CHURCH

NEWS FROM THE SOUL OF SUNDAY

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21ST, 2008

Lessons and Carols: A Celebration of
Kwanzaa, Chanukah, Solstice, and Christmas

Happy Solstice!

Today's Events

Lessons and Carols

Today, 11:00 AM, in the Sanctuary

'Twas the Week Before Christmas! The Arlington Street Church staff presents some new stories of the season, some old favorites, and lots of carol singing!

Coffee Hour

Immediately following the service in the Parish Hall

Gather with Arlington Street Church's congregation in this lively and social environment. To find the Parish Hall, head downstairs at the rear of the sanctuary. All are welcome.

Children's Religious Education

Join the children of the church school as we create gift bags of candy for children in need. Combining our Christmas spirit and the seventh principle of Unitarian Universalism, celebrating the interdependent web, the children of the church school welcome all children to join us in the Perkins Room for this social action project.

Worship at Arlington Street Church

Christmas Eve! Services at 5:00 PM, 7:00 PM, and 9:00 PM
Wednesday, December 24th, in the Sanctuary

Silent night, holy night... Our choir sings in the holiday at the 5:00 PM family service, followed by a traditional Wassail party (this service is perfect for children, but all are welcome at all three services!). At 7:00 PM and 9:00 PM, the Boston Gay Men's Chorus incarnates as choir boys! 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.

Music at Arlington Street Church

First Night Organ Recital

Wednesday, December 31st, 10:00 PM, in the Sanctuary

Admission by First Night button (\$18.00)

The American Guild of Organists, Rodger Vine, and Arlington Street Church present a New Year's Eve organ recital! Three organists, Brink Bush, G. Fredrick Guzasky, and Lois Toepfner, will share in the program, playing 20 minutes each. The concert showcases Arlington Street Church's 1957 Aeolian-Skinner organ, housed in a magnificent case original to the E. and G.G. Hook organ of 1861; the Hook case pipes still provide the organ's foundation sound.

This will be the 33rd First Night Boston. Founded in 1976, First Night was started by artists who sought an alternative to traditional New Year's Eve revelry. First Night has gone from attracting about 25,000 people to drawing crowds of over one million people.

To buy First Night buttons online, visit www.firstnight.org.

Congregational Announcements.

Only A Child Announces Author Visit—Books On Sale

Today, during coffee hour, in the Parish Hall

Only A Child is excited to announce that on Sunday, March 29th, author Francisco Goldman will be at Arlington Street Church to join us in a discussion of his best-selling book, *The Art of Political Murder: Who Killed the Bishop?* The New York Times named the book one of one hundred Notable Books of 2007. Copies of The book will be available for only \$5.00 (half price), during Coffee Hour on Sundays December 14th and 21st. A grant from Jubilee, Arlington Street Church's work in the world, has made it possible to sell the book at a low cost. Give yourself a present and/or buy copies for friends!

The book gives an accurate feel for the violence-laden community in which Only A Child operates, and reinforces the urgency to help homeless youth move off the streets and into stable environments. George Leger, the founder of Only A Child urges all to read this compelling book. Please help to spread the word about this opportunity to speak with Mr. Goldman about human rights in Central America.

Thanks to the Christmas Eve Candle Assembly Line

The Usher Leadership Team would like to thank all the elves who volunteered to assemble candles and holders for our Candle Light Christmas Eve Services. A tedious job went rather quickly with the extra sets of hands.

There is a sufficient number of volunteers for all three services on Christmas Eve. Just a reminder for ushers to please report to the back of the sanctuary 45 minutes before the start of the service.



Coming Up...

Sunday, December 21st, 2008

9:30 AM Choir Warm-Up - Sanctuary
11:00 AM Worship Service - Sanctuary
12:00 PM Coffee Hour - Parish Hall
12:30 PM Santuario Task Force - Stage Right Room
1:00 PM Young Adult Group - Hunnewell Chapel

Monday, December 22nd, 2008

No congregation related events at this time

Tuesday, December 23rd, 2008

6:00 PM Buddha's Belly - Hunnewell Chapel
7:00 PM Arlington Street Zen Center - Hunnewell Chapel

Wednesday, December 24th, 2008

5:00 PM Family Candlelight Service - Sanctuary
7:00 PM Community Candlelight Service - Sanctuary
9:00 PM Community Candlelight Service - Sanctuary

Thursday, December 25th, 2008

No congregation related events at this time

Friday, December 26th, 2008

5:00 PM Friday Night Supper Program - Parish Hall and Kitchen

Saturday, December 27th, 2008

No congregation related events at this time

Sunday, December 28th, 2008

9:30 AM Choir Warm-Up - Sanctuary
11:00 AM Worship Service - Sanctuary
12:00 PM Coffee Hour - Parish Hall

* This program is currently closed. Check *Inside* for the next open 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.

The Wednesdays: Shakespearean Tragedies

Save the first six Wednesday evenings in 2009 for The Wednesdays, Arlington Street's literary salon. Professor Alan Helms will be on hand to lead us through six of Shakespeare's tragedies. Any text will do, as long as it has numbered acts, scenes, and lines. We'll be reading the plays in what most people think is the chronological order of composition. The plays may be read online, (see the links below).

January 7th: **HAMLET** <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hamlet>

January 14th: **OTHELLO** <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Othello>

January 21st: **KING LEAR** http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/King_Lear

January 28th: **MACBETH** <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Macbeth>

February 4th: **ANTONY AND CLEOPATRA**

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Antony_and_Cleopatra

On February 11th, we'll watch a DVD of one of the plays. All are welcome!

Women's Spirituality Group

Sunday, January 11th, 12:15 PM

We're forming a Women's Spirituality Group at Arlington Street Church. Our first meeting will be an informational session to determine the group's purpose, meeting dates/times, and to brainstorm and gather ideas for topics to explore together in the next six months. Come and contemplate the spiritual side of life as well as gain opportunities to connect with others. If you are interested in the group but can't make the meeting, please contact Susan Thomas by email at SThomas@ASCBoston.org or by phone at 617-536-7050 ext. 13.

National Volunteer Day, The A Team

President Elect Obama is spearheading a National Volunteer Day on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. The First Family is making a request of all Americans to reach out and do service in their neighborhoods, cities, and towns. Is it any wonder that Arlington Street Church is forming the A Team to connect with Boston Cares? There are many options for hands-on service across the city on Monday, January 19th, from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM. Since some might not be available to join in for hands-on service, Boston Cares is also hosting a drive collecting NEW kids' warm winter boots for Cradles to Crayons. They are hoping to collect at least 100 pairs that day.

Look for Inside updates or speak to Susie Nacco and Rob Cuddi as this project unfolds. In the meantime, check out those after-holiday sales and pick up a pair of kids boots to donate. Let's unite with our president elect and other service groups across the city and the nation and support our sisters and brothers.

Take the Membership Survey online!

Please take a moment to share your thoughts and experiences as part of the Arlington Street Church community. This survey has been developed by our Membership Task Force and is a part of Arlington Street Church's ongoing effort to enrich the spiritual journey of members and guests alike.

This brief survey is posted on our Web site at: ASCBoston.org/AboutUs/AWelcomingCongregation. By taking part in this survey, you will help inform our plans for enhancing membership at Arlington Street Church.

Wassail Party Volunteers Needed!

Each year between the 5:00 PM family service and the 7:00 community service on Christmas Eve, Arlington Street Church hosts a Wassail Party for members, friends, and guests. We need a few volunteers to help organize, host, and clean-up for this year's party. If interested in volunteering, please contact Susan Thomas at (617) 536-7050, ext. 13 or stthomas@ascboston.org. Susan will be at the Welcome Table after church with a sign-up sheet.

Holiday Shopping Tip

You can support the homeless youngsters who live in Only A Child's shelter without writing a check, and you can do your holiday shopping at the same time! Amazon.com will give 4% of all your purchases to Only A Child. Simply go to www.onlyachild.org, and click on Help Us. Then scroll almost to the bottom of the page, click on Shop at Amazon.com, and in the blink of an eye you will be at Amazon's home page. By doing this you will be assisting Only A Child which maintains a group home and a carpentry shop for street youth in Guatemala City, offering them a place where they are respected and cared for and a place where they can grow and develop an identity complete with confidence and self-esteem. Jubilee, Arlington Street Church's work in the world, proudly supports Only A Child!

