



March 2023

Services Each Sunday at 10:30 am in person and on Zoom



March 5

Put One Foot in Front of the Other:

The Long March Toward Equality

The Rev. Susan-Lynn Johns, Minister

Leading from St. Johnsbury

Women have made many important advances over the past 100 years, but the reversal of Roe v. Wade, thought to be settled law of 50 years, makes

one wonder what other freedoms women enjoy are at stake in today's chaotic political climate.

Feminism is a world-wide human rights movement that's attempting to change injustices, some of which have been going on for millennia. Susan-Lynn will talk a little about the ways in which women's rights are in jeopardy, and take a look at what's being done to restore the forward momentum.

March 12

Unitarianism: A Religion of Freedom

Part One of our UU Heritage

The Rev. Susan-Lynn Johns, Minister

Leading from St. Johnsbury



From its beginnings in Transylvania in the 1500s, to its merger with the Universalists in 1961, the Unitarian philosophy has been controversial. Unitarians rejected the concept of the trinity—the belief that God was father, son, and holy ghost. Interestingly, this wasn't a required

Christian belief until 325 CE when the Nicene Creed was adopted, and while it is hinted at in the

New Testament, it is not stated specifically as a belief. Many Unitarians were also associated with the transcendentalist movement of the 1820s and '30s. Among their core beliefs was the inherent goodness of both people and nature. Numbered among Unitarians and Transcendentalists were Emerson, Thoreau, Whitman, Hawthorne, and Melville. Susan-Lynn takes a look at the Unitarians in the Part I of her discussion of our UU heritage.

March 19

Universalism: A Religion of Love

Part Two of our UU Heritage

The Rev. Susan-Lynn Johns, Minister

Leading from Derby Line



Universalist beliefs have been proclaimed for thousands of years, starting with Origen in 200 CE, but the faith didn't have the opportunity to form into a widespread religious movement until English Universalists came to

America in the late 1700s to escape religious persecution. Because of its loving and inclusive doctrine,

Universalism quickly became popular throughout the US, especially in rural areas. How does it differ from Unitarianism? Well, an old joke has it that Universalists believe that God is too good to damn them, whereas Unitarians believe that they're too good to be damned. Susan-Lynn will reflect upon Universalism and what it means to us as 21st century UUs.

March 26 ~ NEKO Presentation ~ More information to be announced.

Cerebrations ~ Ministerial Musings and Meanderings for March



Slàinte Mhaith

I just watched a snippet of an interview with Jimmy Carter in which he talked about his work for peace after he left office. He was a tireless worker—whether it be peacemaking or peanut farming or building houses for Habitat for Humanity. He was a giving, humble, honest man—a rarity today, particularly in the world of politics. As I mentioned when lighting our justice candle in his honor last Sunday, his continued work for Habitat into his 90s, served as a good example to me whenever I wanted to put off repairs to the house or do any other kind of physical labor. He'll remain in my thoughts, for there will always be repairs!

As I prepare for my retirement, I've spent a good amount of time thinking about my last few sermons and what I want to say. I have six remaining services, three in March, three in April. Although my contract with St J ends on April 30th, I will be Zooming one more service in June from Derby Line. This month, I'm going to do a two-parter on Unitarianism and Universalism. Many people are drawn to us because of our principles, our social activism in the world today, or our inclusiveness, but not a lot of our members and friends know about the early history of the two faiths that came together on May 15, 1961 to form the Unitarian Universalist Association. This is not boring history!

It looks like a snow storm is headed our way this week. I'll be thinking of Jimmy Carter as I shovel the driveway!

May the luck of the Irish be with you this month.

Slàinte Mhaith (good health)

Universalist Unitarian Congregation of St Johnsbury Virtual Office Hours

Tuesdays from 9:00-1:00, and by appointment ~ Phone: 802-473-8110 ~ revsusanlynn2022@gmail.com

First Universalist Parish of Derby Line Virtual Office Hours

Tuesdays from 1:00-3:00, and by appointment ~ Phone: 802-473-8110 ~ revsusanlynn2022@gmail.com

Community Inreach Ministry

The Caring Network is here for you if you need a helping hand or someone to listen. We're still being careful because of all the viruses still out there but we will try to do whatever we can to lessen your burden. Rest assured that any information shared with the caring network will remain confidential.

Here are the names and contact information for the members of the Core Committee:

Marguerite Bruno (802-892-1256) mbruno2@mac.com

Jane Brickett (603-788-2220) silofarm@gmail.com

Brendan Hadash (802-748-8074) bhadash@sover.net

Joanne Giannino (508-577-7869) jojouw63@gmail.com

Susan-Lynn Johns (802-748-2442) stjuuc@gmail.com



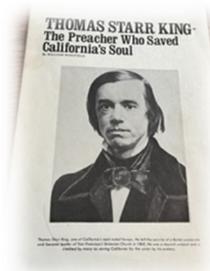
The Downstairs Hallway Bookshelf

By Bill Coleman

Many of us may have walked past the book shelf near the stairway to the basement, noticed a volume or two, and thought “It might be interesting to take a look at some of these selections one day.” Until recently I had such thoughts myself, prior to discussing the matter with our Reverend Emeritus Brendan Hadash and one or two other members of the congregation after services on a recent Sunday. Brendan encouraged me to see what sort of readings might catch my interest. I returned home that day with several, and am finding that our Meeting House holds some real spiritual gems hidden in plain sight. At Reverend Hadash’s suggestion I am offering this month the first of what I anticipate will be a series of literature reviews from this unique library of ours. Unfortunately, at the moment we do not have space to add to this collection, so please hold off on bringing in additional volumes until we can ascertain whether support emerges from within the congregation to perhaps catalogue and organize what we have. If interest emerges, perhaps we can find room for additional bookcases and slowly put together some thoughtful additions culled from the personal libraries of those who may take an interest in such an endeavor.

March 2023 Bookshelf Review: two pamphlets,
“Thomas Starr King, The Man Behind the Legend” by Arnold
Crompton

“Thomas Starr King, The Preacher Who Saved California’s Soul”
by William Wingfield



These two remarkable pamphlets brought this reader 160 or 175 years back in time to an era when congregations were not faced by the distractions of television, action packed movies, video games, and all that technology would bring forward to draw attention from what was being presented from the pulpits. The son of a prominent Universalist Minister from New York City, Thomas Starr King was observed from an early age to be highly gifted. At fifteen years of age his family lost their husband or father after having moved to Charlestown, Boston where Reverend King had been called to their flourishing Universalist Church. Starr’s hopes for a college education were disrupted by the tragedy, but he soon took an interest in attending lecturer courses at Harvard. After some appearances as a guest preacher, by age 22 he had accepted an invitation to become ordained at the Charlestown Universalist Church where his father had been situated.

Starr’s fame rapidly grew as an astonishingly powerful orator who often spoke in a loud voice despite his small stature. Throughout his life he struggled with health issues, while often tending to ignore concerns expressed by those who were closest to him to take time to rest and recuperate from his energetic efforts for the good of all. Starr King showed remarkable skills as a unifier of sometimes struggling and divided congregations. He also demonstrated some astonishing capabilities as a fund raiser. Much of his fund raising occurred through charging speaking fees for popular public lectures that he gave, particularly after moving west. One of his favorite causes was called the Sanitary Society, a forerunner of the modern day American Red Cross, that tended to wounded soldiers who had previously been relegated to dangerously substandard and unclean conditions, even for that time period, when wounded in battle.

The Downstairs Hallway Bookshelf continued....

Starr King was one to view as imperative responses from the pulpit to injustices taking place within the larger society. He stood staunchly opposed to slavery, and aligned himself with the Presidential campaign of Abraham Lincoln, who knew and admired him. Calls for him to run for elected office himself were rejected as he was fearful that the duties of serving might undermine his determined efforts to bring moral attention to critical issues of his time.

By the age of 35 Starr King's fame had grown, and offers began arriving regularly to move to wealthier parishes in major cities. He moved to San Francisco, having gravitated towards Unitarianism while not having given up on Universalism. He seemed to know that his life span would be short and tried to pack as much energy as possible into the years he would have on earth. Starr was highly influential as an orator and played an enormous role in preventing California from joining the secessionist movement, which would have strengthened Jefferson Davis's hand greatly with the vast reserves of California gold that could have fortified the rebel army. He ventured into many rarely visited corners of California with his lecturing and preaching, stopping at Negro meetings, miners' encampments, and taking time to peruse seldom seen natural wonders in the mountains and forests. This was a continuation of his tendency to draw spiritual sustenance from climbing expeditions in New Hampshire's White Mountains, where a majestic peak named after him can today be found outside of Jefferson village.

Notes on Notes

Hello All,

For women's history month, here are four favorite pieces by/for/about women (a mighty broad umbrella!)

[Nana Marina Viotti & Gabriel Bianco](#) a beautiful lullaby by Manuel De Falla

Sleep, little one, sleep; sleep, my darling; sleep, my little morning star. Lullay, lullay, sleep, my little morning star.

[Waft her, Angels, through the skies; Thomas Cooley, tenor](#) This is a musically exquisite (in my opinion) tenor aria from GF Handel's oratorio Jephtha. From decidedly unliberated times, Jephtha promises God that if he wins his upcoming battle, he will sacrifice the first thing he sees upon return and that turns out to be his beloved daughter. This aria is Jephtha asking for mercy for his daughter.

[Bring Me Little Water Sylvie Sweet Honey In the Rock](#) I didn't get a Notes on Notes done for Black History Month, so this one can cover Feb and March.

[One Voice Wailin' Jennys](#) Song by Ruth Moody; a simple message of uniqueness and togetherness.

Enjoy!

Kathy

Grow UU



- 3/05 Our 1st Principle: Each Person is Important
- 3/12 Our 2nd Principle: Be Kind in All You Do
- 3/19 Our 3rd Principle: We're Free to Learn Together
- 3/26 Our 4th Principle: And Search for What is True
- 4/02 Our 5th Principle: All People Need a Voice

Volunteers Needed
to join the
SEA Committee!!

Cabin Fever Soup

2 lbs of Ground Round
2 coarsely chopped leeks
4 cups of chopped celery
1 chopped red bell pepper
1 chopped yellow bell pepper
1 bag of frozen baby peas
1 Qt of water
2 cups of heavy cream or whole milk
2 pinches of thyme
1 crushed anise star
1 dash of hot sauce
Salt & pepper to taste



Brown ground round with bell pepper and anise.
At to large pot of boiling 1 Qt water.
Add remaining ingredients and slowly stir in cream or milk.
Reduce heat and slow cook for 2 hours stirring occasionally.
Add lemon zest and parsley sprig for garnish. Serve with oyster crackers or Melba toast.

Submitted by David Harrison



Bottle & Can Drive for Social Justice!

Now that we're back in person, please remember to bring your returnable bottles and cans to the Meeting House to help our Social Justice Team support the NEK Asylum Seeker's Assistance Network. Please call the office (802-748-2442) to schedule a drop-off on a weekday or drop them off when you join us in person for a Sunday Service!

THANKS!!



March Birthdays



10th ~ Rick Wold

12th ~ Jane Brickett

12th ~ Wes Lau

21st ~ Alice Wuertele

Rent The Universalist Unitarian Meeting House in St. Johnsbury For Your Special Event



Choose from any or all of these available ADA-accessible spaces, each floor is ADA compliant but stairs must be used between floors.



Sanctuary Summer View

Upstairs (2nd floor, accessible outside entrance):
Sanctuary, kitchenette, meeting room and bathroom.
Capacity 145 people. Moveable pews. Space for tables or dancing.

Downstairs (1st floor):
2 Meeting Rooms, full kitchen, and bathroom.
Capacity 61 people. Moveable tables and chairs.



Sanctuary Winter View

Convenient Parking

All faiths are welcome. A UU minister may be available for services or you may hire your own officiant.



To reserve: Contact stjuuc@gmail.com or 802-748-2442.
Include date(s), your contact information, which space(s) you are interested in, and approximate number of attendees expected.

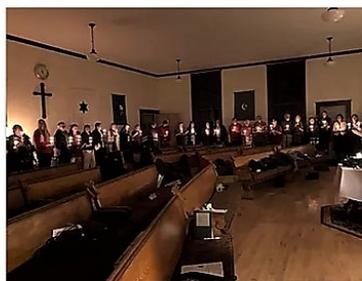
All gatherings are required to comply with current Vermont Covid regulations and guidelines.



2nd Floor Meeting Room



2nd Floor Kitchenette



Candle Light Sanctuary Service



1st Floor Kitchen



1st Floor Meeting Rooms

