



Unitarian Universalist Church of Buffalo

In the freedom of truth, and the spirit of Love, We unite for the worship of the Holy,
And for the service of humanity

May 2012

Margret's Musings – *Hearts and Hands*

It takes many loving hearts and willing hands to make a church work smoothly. There are so many big, exciting things happening these days in the congregation: Sunday services completing the history wall and hearing each others' stories; Saturday workshops to learn about healthy congregational dynamics; a study group on governance; classes and forums on immigration; working groups for "fiscal fitness" and policy coherence; and more almost certainly to come. So much big activity is creating such a wonderful energy in the church.

But sometimes it is the "little things" we hardly notice, and about which we don't make a big announcement, that make the church work smoothly as well. Paul Ziebarth found out that a drapery rod in the Parish Hall had fallen off the wall, so he brought in his tools and spent an afternoon putting it back up. And then he installed a rod in the minister's office as well, hanging sheer drapes to block the western sun that beats in on summer afternoons.

The pulpit has been showing its wear and tear, and many hands are helping to shape it back up. Don Shedd and Kirsten Anderson applied their expertise to replace the old and tattered carpet on the pulpit floor, and Kirsten bound the edges of the step carpeting. Paul Ziebarth noticed a broken clamp that holds the lectern part of the pulpit in place, so he took it apart, had a new part made, and got it all put back together in time for me to use it the next Sunday. At the same time, Paulette Notaro and the other ushers noticed that I was using some three-ring binders to create a higher reading angle at the lectern, so they carefully measured for the right dimensions, and Pete Sloan created a lovely, simple wooden structure that gives me a reading angle that keeps my eyes on the congregation as I preach.

People set up, take down, pick up and put away every week in their various activities. Martha Malkiewicz organized a cleaning crew that included volunteers from Canisius College to come in on a Saturday to get to those neglected dusty corners. And I love watching Nancy Thomas, Tony Keller, Judy Danforth, Bill Gardner and the greenscaping crew work their magic on the spectacular lawn and gardens that go all around the church grounds.

Yes, it takes many hearts and hands to make a church, and I am grateful for each and every one. It is so good to be with you – See you in church!

Rev. Margret

UUCB Staff

Interim Minister:

Rev Margret A. O'Neill
minister@buffalouu.org

Minister of Music:

Barbara Wagner
wagschoir@roadrunner.com

Director of Religious Ed.:

Sonja Jensen
sonjajensen@buffalouu.org

Office Manager:

Joshua Layton
office@buffalouu.org

Gatekeeper:

Sara Kirkland
office@buffalouu.org

Wedding Coordinator:

Paulette Notaro
paulettenotaro@buffalouu.org

Care Network:

Ginny Vaughan
716-838-1255
wixsonsg@verizon.net

Unitarian Universalist Church

695 Elmwood Ave
Buffalo, NY 14222
716-885-2136

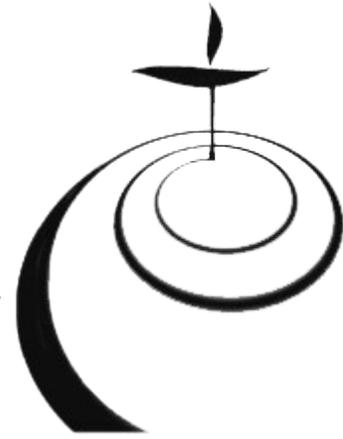
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Who Should Teach RE?

Sonja Jensen, DRE

The mission of our RE program is:

“To provide a safe and welcoming environment in which children, youth, and adults can explore our principles and purposes through thought, action, and transcendent experiences to further their individual spiritual development and connection to our Unitarian Universalist Faith and the world in which we live.”



Our third principle affirms and promotes acceptance of each other and encouragement to spiritual growth. We have many wonderful teachers who embody this principle. The most successful classes are taught by people with a mature sense of their Unitarian Universalist faith. They know why they are here and understand the importance of striving to live into our principles.

Our children are our future and the future of the world. They deserve the time and attention of spiritually mature adults as they undertake the challenging task of becoming self actualized Unitarian Universalists. Ours is not an easy faith. We don't give them all the answers. We can only do our best to provide a rich environment in which to grow.

Much like seedlings in a garden, we must nurture them. No matter how hard we try, we cannot make them grow by tugging on them. We can nourish the soil in which they grow, we can give them water and tend the weeds, but we can't control the storms that they will endure. So we must do our best to help them be hearty and strong.

Teaching is in and of itself a spiritual practice. As we prepare lessons, our curricula help us to look at our own faith and what we bring to the lesson. And in each class the children teach us almost as much as we teach them. Sometimes more. Teaching is one of the best ways I know to grow as a UU.

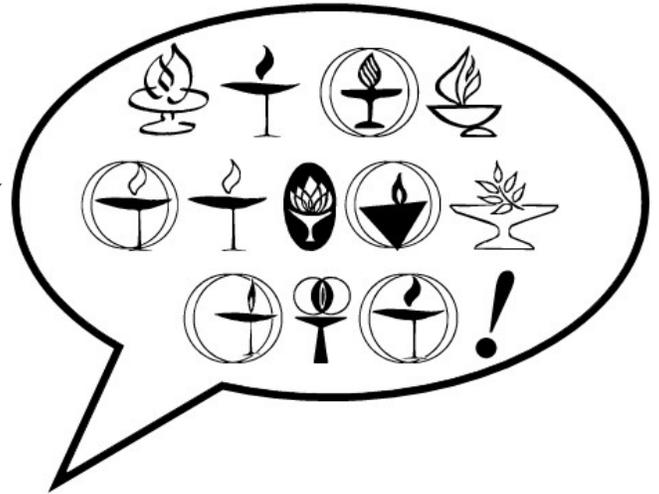
We offer well considered, spiritually grounded curricula, which weave together the threads of faith development, UU identity, spiritual practices and justice work. And this coming year, in order to allow our teachers to be more fully integrated into our worship community, the RE program will be structured so that teachers only commit to 1-2 Sundays of teaching per month. There will be a pattern of 2x/month curricular teaching in the classrooms, 1x/month worship and 1x/month Faith in Action project.

In May we will be accepting applications to teach in our Religious Education Program. The purpose of the application is to best fit teachers with the curricular material. Consider it an honor if we ask you to teach. We are looking for people with a strong sense of UU identity and commitment. We will also be asking promising newer UUs to teach, because you have shown commitment to the RE program. We will do our best to pair established teachers or life-long UUs with people with a fresh excitement for what we do. We will also be trying to pair teachers with a curriculum that speaks to their passions as Unitarian Universalists, because we all learn from moments of enjoyment. We hope to incorporate as many volunteers as we are able into the program.

If you think you would be an asset to our RE program and we haven't contacted you, please call Sonja Jensen, our Director of Religious Education. She will work with you to find where you best fit in our program.

Talking Points From The Board May 2012

- Congratulations All! We got the Chalice Lighter Grant, at least \$8,000 (what we applied for), possibly more. Be sure to thank all those who put the Grant together and submitted it on our behalf: Kristina Church, Rita Capezzi, Joe Ott, Brian Krauss and Rev. Margret O’Neill. Now we have get busy and hire a Membership Coordinator, to begin as church starts up again in the Fall!

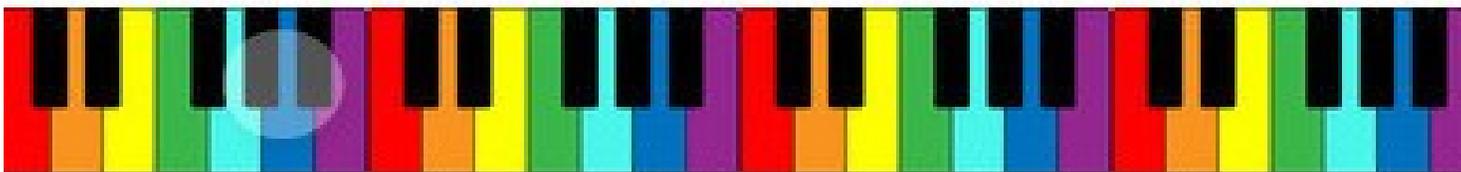


- The Board approved the purchase and installation of a new phone system in June; one that will allow members to reach a staff member directly without going through the office. It will also allow you to leave voicemail for a particular person, it enhances access, privacy and security ... a step into modern times!
- The Board and members of the Congregation continue to work on the following projects, to list a few:
 - Our Treasurer heads up 3 groups:
 - The Finance Working Group
 - The Audit Working Group
 - The Endowment Working Group

Anyone interested in joining one of these “fiscal fitness” working groups should contact Stephanie Cole, our Treasurer, at uucbtreasurer@gmail.com

- Healthy Congregations Workshop being attended by some 30 members from our congregation along with members of 4 other congregations will be winding up the workshop series on May 5th. It has been an interesting learning experience ... we could have used our own Congregation’s story as a narrative about how things transpire, how they are addressed and how they COULD be addressed. We’re focusing on the “could be” version!
- The Appreciative Inquiry Team is working on the stories and submissions from the experience a few Sundays ago when we shared lunch and stories together. More to come ...
- The Governance Study Group meets again on May 20 after church. The Board members that are attending the Working Group will be sharing their observations on function with their fellow Board members with the goal to clarify and improve what we do and the way we do it. If you are interested in the Governance Study Group contact Rev. Margret at minister@buffalouu.org.





Music Notes

May, 2012

As many of you know, I moved to the city just about a year ago and conducted my last concert with my beloved Gay Men's Chorus at almost the same time. Leaving a home where you raised children and welcomed grand children is traumatic in itself, and add to that leaving a much loved job and I was in trouble most of the next 3 or 4 months. I'm back in the world of happy people now and love my new place very near to Kleinhans Music Hall and the short time it takes me to get to the church that has been part of my life for almost 50 years. I can look out of my living room window and see the pretty garden that my dear new friend Judy has planted over the years. This year, I get to help her and am even planning a trip to Spain with my wonderful friend, Deanne O'Day. Jennifer Mernitz and Monica Stankewicz will be taking care of all of the music. Both are fine conductors and Monica is also a very skilled pianist. You're in good hands with these talented young women.

May 6 is Youth Sunday. Their services are always thought provoking and leave me wanting more. Don't miss the service and all of the things our youth can teach us.

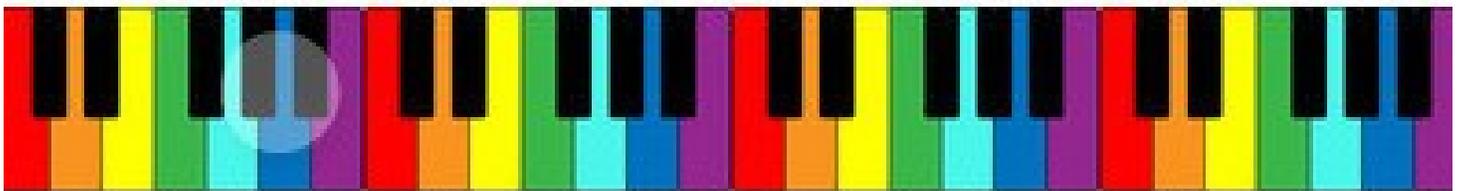
May 13 is Mothers Day and the choir will be singing one of our old favorites, *My Love is Like a Red, Red Rose* by James Mulholland and, of course, Bobby Burns.

Shenandoah along with *The Long and Winding Road* by John Lennon and Paul McCartney will be the choral pieces for May 20th.

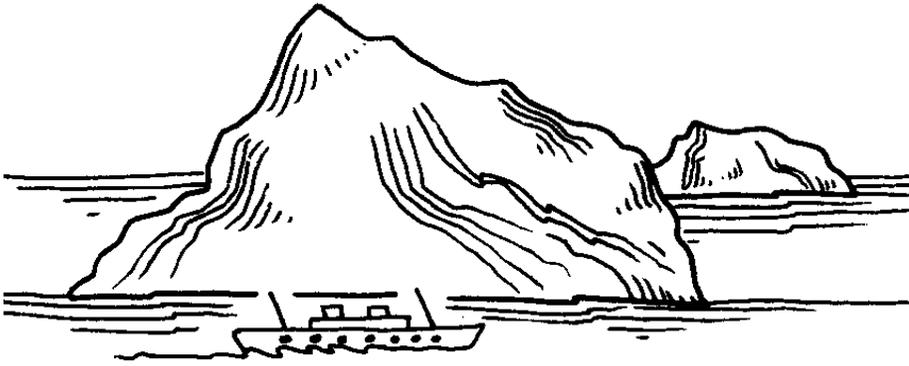
May 27 brings us to Memorial Day Weekend and we'll be doing *Gracia a la Vida*, by Chilean composer, Violetta Parra and a gorgeous setting of the *Stabat Mater* by Kevin A. Memley, one of composers introduced last Summer at our workshop with Rod Eichenberger. I know, I know - but workshops are sooo important.

Have a lovely Spring and enjoy the warmth and brightly colored flowers.

With love from the loft ---- Barb and the Choir



Save the Date! July 28th, 6:00pm-9:00pm, “geezers” can’t stay out late to play! Anyone else eligible to apply for Medicare this year??? ... this is going to be an “I made it to Medicare” Party. I wanted to have a celebration at the church and at Margret’s suggestion it’s a fundraiser! Here’s how it’s going to work. I’ve hired a band, the “Outsiders” to play for 2 hours, anyone who would like to join in the festivities can ... you just have to donate \$15 to the church (\$30 per family, children are welcome) invite your friends. Oh, and one more thing, bring a “finger food” to pass. I will supply soda and water, maybe some juices, anything else you want, you can bring yourself. It offers to be a fun time for all, and, I get a party! Again, bring friends, all are welcome! 100 people would bring in \$1500 unbudgeted funds to the church, I don’t have 100 friends that I know of so please help me out! The party will only go from 6:30 to 9pm! The rest of your evening is free! – Dave Batt



The Event That Shook The World

Twenty-five history buffs gathered in the Sanctuary on April 15, 2012, the 100th anniversary of the sinking of the *RMS Titanic*, to remember this tragic event and the heroic role played by the architect of our church, Edward Austin Kent, who perished in the catastrophe. The commemoration started with a brief tour of the enduring presence of Mr. Kent and the prominent Kent Family in the church, including the memorial plaque in the narthex, the carved corbels inscribed with Mr. Kent's parents' names, birth and death dates flanking the pulpit, and renderings of various church designs from 1904. Next up was a visit to the new exhibit in the Parish Hall, titled, "Edward Austin Kent: Our Church Architect, Our Titanic Hero," where an elegant, black mourning bunting fashioned by Liz Parke was added to the circumference of Mr. Kent's portrait, to symbolically mark his passing. We then had a brief reception and enjoyed a handsome cake donated by Karen Streech and Paulette Notaro and decorated with Mr. Kent's image, an early photo of the church, and commemorative text. Returning to the Sanctuary, we gathered for an Invocation from The Rev. Dr. Margret A. O'Neill, a brief lecture by Church Historian Bill Parke, and then sang several songs in remembrance led by Minister of Music Barbara Wagner and guided by Michael Harris of the Choir. The evening was capped off by a showing of the 1997 movie *Titanic*, winner of 11 Academy Awards, including Best Picture, thanks to audio-visual expertise provided by Paul Zanolli.

Friends and visitors of the church are invited to enjoy the exhibit in the Parish Hall in coming weeks. It is also worth noting that Mr. Kent was the focus of a dramatic video by Canisius College students Rich Lunghino and Erik Taheri, filmed in part in our

Sanctuary and premiered on the 15th at the Historical Society. Mr. Kent and our church have also attracted significant positive media coverage in print (*Buffalo News*, *UUWorld*), radio (WBEN), internet (UUWorld.org), and TV (WIVB, YNN). Please join me in thanking the following Staff and Commemorative Committee members for the success of these activities: The Rev. Dr. Margret A. O'Neill, Barbara Wagner, Josh Layton, Sara Kirkland,

Bill Parke (co-chair), Karen Streech (co-chair), Anthony Keller, Paulette Notaro, Paul Zanolli, Eve Holberg, Joe Ott, Liz Parke, and Ted Bieniek. Bill Parke, Church Historian



Ordination and Celebration

On Saturday, May 12 (11am), former UUCB intern, Michelle Buhite, will be ordained here at UUCB. She is being ordained by both the UU Church of Buffalo and her home church, the UU Congregation of Jamestown.

Michelle began her seminary studies at Meadville Lombard Theological School in the fall of 2007, and will graduate this May with a Masters of Divinity. She completed one year of a 2-year, half-time internship at the UU Church of Buffalo (9/10-6/11) and has been working as the intern for Youth, Young Adult and Campus Ministries for the Ohio-Meadville District for the second half of her internship. As this newsletter goes to press Michelle just completed her candidating week with the UU Church of Spartanburg, SC - and since their vote on 4/22 was affirmative, she will become their settled minister on August 1.

Please plan on taking part in this joyous occasion as Michelle is ordained into the Unitarian Universalist ministry!



New Class For Theatre Lovers

With the Women's Society gearing up for a trip on May 10 to see the musical RAGTIME at Niagara-on-the-Lake's Shaw Festival, now's a great time to learn more about this great theatrical institution, 50 years old and still going strong! Michael Harris will lead a survey of the Shaw's upcoming season called THE INTELLIGENT WOMAN'S (AND MAN'S) GUIDE TO THE SHAW FESTIVAL 2012. The title reflects the 10th anniversary of Jackie Maxwell's artistic directorship of the Festival, as well as the distinctly feminist point of view of this season's offerings.

Each session will focus on one of the eleven plays in the Shaw Festival season, including two Bernard Shaw comedies (MISALLIANCE and THE MILLIONAIRESS). We'll learn about the playwrights and each play's production history, analyzing each piece through scene readings, recordings and videos. And Mr. Harris offers his unique critical perspective on each Shaw production he has seen so that you can decide if it's a 'must-see' or a 'must avoid at all costs'!

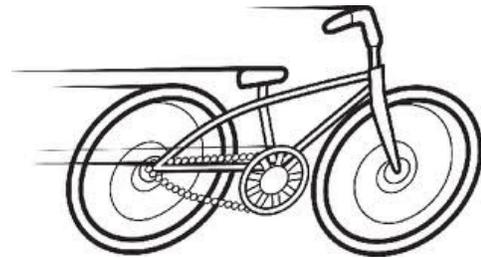
Schedule of plays:

- May 2 Ragtime
- May 9 Misalliance
- May 16 A Man and Some Women
- May 23 Present Laughter
- May 30 French without Tears
- June 5 Helen's Necklace
- June 13 Hedda Gabler
- June 20 Trouble in Tahiti
- June 27 His Girl Friday
- No CLASS on July 4
- July 11 Come Back, Little Sheba
- July 18 The Millionairess

The course, beginning May 2, comprises 11 sessions that will meet Wednesday mornings from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. in the Alliance Room at the Unitarian Universalist Church at Buffalo -- 695 Elmwood Avenue at West Ferry; Buffalo, NY 14222. The registration cost for the course is \$70 (or \$10 per class), payable to UUCB. Try a class and you'll agree: there's no business like 'Shaw' business!

Family Promise

It's that time again. Our next scheduled dates are Friday June 8 through Friday June 15. Thanks to all our volunteers who make this program work here at UUCB. Can you help us once more? Family Promise of WNY unites religious and other organizations in responding to the needs of homeless families in our community. We provide overnight lodging, meals and compassion for up to 3 families every few months. Most importantly this program keeps the families together during this difficult time in their lives. This has been a great experience. We have learned that, as one would expect, the families are not the only ones who benefit. Our fellowship grows as we continue to find out more about each other in this process. Please let us know if you can participate -- we need people to stay overnight, provide meals, and give time. Any questions -- we can be reached at familypromise@buffalouu.org.



Ride For Roswell

Doug Sherman and Eve Holberg are putting together a team for the Ride for Roswell. The Ride for Roswell is a fundraiser for Roswell Park Cancer Institute and a great family and community event. This year's event is Friday June 22 and Saturday June 23. Routes range in distance from 3 to 100 miles with lots of options in between. If you can't ride, join us as a virtual rider. For more about the Ride, go to RideforRoswell.org where you can also visit our personal pages to read our Ride for Roswell stories (and make contributions to our rides if you like -- and we'd be very grateful!). For more about our team and to join us, send an email to Doug (djsherman@roadrunner.com) or Eve (evvec@waynorth.com). Thank you!

First Tuesday Discussion Group

The group will not meet in May or June 2012.

Notes From the Gardener

Spring is here, and it's time to order our bedding plants. Orders will be taken in the Parish Hall on Sundays - April 29, May 6, & 13 after church. Pictures of the perennials that have been planted in the church yard will be on display at that time. The plants will be delivered May 24 and can be picked up later that week. The sale benefits the church and pays for plants that we put in the church garden.

Women's Society

May is just a fun meeting! We're going to the Shaw Festival to see Ragtime on May 10.

Here's a perk for you: Michael Harris will present a special program on Ragtime on May 2 in the Alliance Room at 9:30AM. If you've not attended one of his classes before it is FREE, and if you're a returning fan, it is only \$10. Ragtime is a complex musical and the experience of the play will be greatly enhanced by knowing what is going on! Do come. He continues the Shaw Fest lectures every Wed until he's exhausted the entire list! The schedule appears elsewhere in the newsletter. Come....it's really a good morning.



Pulpit Flowers In Bloom Year Round!

Perhaps you've thought of dedicating a pulpit floral bouquet as a tribute to a person, event or idea and weren't sure about how to go about it. It's a simple process. Select a meaningful date and create a brief text. The cost is \$35.00 payable to UUCB with "pulpit flowers" in the memo line of your check or money order. Mail it to the church office or give it to the person at the parish hall table. This is not a church fund raiser! It is a service designed to enrich your spirituality while beautifying our sanctuary. Only 6 Sundays remain open for this program year! Please email pulpitflowers@buffalouu.org if you would like to reserve a floral date for your tribute or memorial.

Pulpit Flower May Schedule:

May 6: Josette Cunningham

May 13: Ellen Gibson

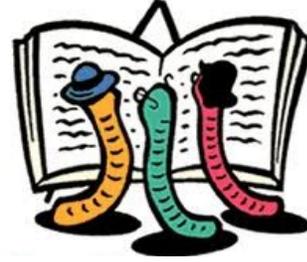
May 20: Carol Condon

May 27: Michael Shanahan & Dave Batt

Multiculturalism Class

A second three-session course on Multiculturalism will be offered on three consecutive Wednesdays in May: May 16, 23, and 30 between 1 and 3 pm in the Alliance Room. The course will include a movie, "Sin Nombre," with follow up discussions about the movie's themes as they relate to the current humanitarian issues of migrant workers.

If you are interested in signing up for the course, please contact John Marohn at johntmarohn@yahoo.com (885-4541) or RE Director, Sonja Jensen, at sonjajensen@buffalouu.org.



UUCB Book Club May Meeting

Our group will meet on May 21st at 7 PM to discuss Jamie Ford's book, HOTEL ON THE CORNER OF BITTER AND SWEET. An historical fiction set in Seattle at the time of the internment of Japanese-Americans citizens during WW2. Wilma Cipolla will lead our discussion at the home of Ellen Gibson.

The Doctrine of Discovery

The legal justification for the colonization of the Americas and the subordination of aboriginal people is a narrative unfamiliar to many Americans. Yet the Doctrine is so deeply embedded in American and Western culture that it hides in plain sight. The Doctrine of Discovery is key to understanding and reconstructing many of today's public debates, particularly debates about immigration. The UUA Board calls us to open our minds, hearts, and spirits to the implications and the potential of a new, truer story of how this continent was settled and our nation formed.

Three sessions define the issue, contextualize it with native voices, and guide a plan of action. The class will be led by Rev. Margret and Jean Ott, Tuesday evenings, 7-8 pm, May 22, 29 and June 5. Register with Sonja Jensen at dre@buffalouu.org.

May Worship Service Schedule

Sunday, May 6, 11:00 am

***Our Stories* – The UUCB Youth Group**

We are formed by our history and experience, as well as by our dreams for the future. Come join the youth of our church as they explore the stories and songs from their formative years.

Sunday, May 13, 11:00 am

***Step by Step* -- Rev. Margret A. O'Neill**

As our Fourth Grade class completes their Stepping Stone year, and we acknowledge the power of maternal love in our lives, we celebrate the creative commitment that guides us step by step into the future.

Sunday, May 20, 11:00 am

***Love, Learn, Live* -- Rev. Margret A. O'Neill**

A church is a community in which we learn and grow to create our lives in the world. Celebrating our Religious Education program, we express our appreciation for all those who create that program, and participate in the Bridging of our high school seniors as they take the next step into their futures.

Sunday, May 27, 11:00 am

***Commitment and Sacrifice* -- Rev. Margret A. O'Neill**

There are many ways to serve a cause, and many generousities of spirit to bring more peace and justice to the world. As the Seventh Graders present the video produced in their Heeding the Call class, we recognize and celebrate all those who heed the call of commitment and sacrifice.