



THE SOUTH COUNTY UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF SOUTH COUNTY

VOLUME 20 ISSUE 5

MAY 2011



May Services



May 1

The Animal World: Another View of the Interconnected Web – *Rev. Betty Kornitzer*
An Intergenerational Service.

You are invited to bring their stuffed animals for a blessing. We'll ask what the animals can teach us about being human, and we'll be called to remember that humans are an animal species too.

A New Member Welcoming Ceremony will be part of the service.

May 8

Mother's Day from Many Angles – *Rev. Betty Kornitzer*

Mothers—we've all got one. One size does not fit all, and every story is unique.

We'll explore the common threads as well as the amazing diversity of being mothered.

May 15

A Change One Thousand Years in Coming – *Nasser H. Zawia*

Our annual Journey Toward Wholeness service.

Dr. Zawia, a founding member of the R.I. Council for Muslim Advancement, the Islamic School of Rhode Island, and the Masjid Alhoda (Muslim Community Center) in Kingston, is a frequent visitor to Yemen. He will offer his perspective on the recent developments in the Arab world.

Nasser H. Zawia, Ph.D., is Dean of the URI Graduate School, and teaches in the College of Pharmacy.

May 22

Francis David and the Roots of the European Unitarian Movement – *Rev. Betty Kornitzer*

It was Francis David who wrote, "We need not think alike to love alike." We'll explore the life and influence of this 16th Century Transylvanian religious leader.

May 29

Tradition – *Linda Whyte Burrell*

For Memorial Day, we will consider how tradition influences what we become.

June 5

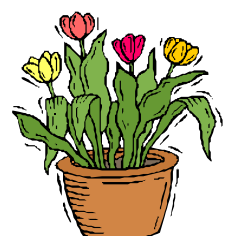
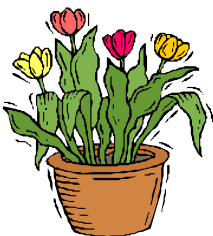
Anticipation and Gratitude, the Perfect Mix

– *Rev. Betty Kornitzer*

South County is about to burst into a summer paradise. Are you feeling Anticipation and Gratitude? They are good for your spirits and your health.

The Service will include Coming of Age and Bridging Ceremonies.

The UUCSC Annual Meeting will follow the service.



OUR HOME IS AT LILY PADS PROFESSIONAL CENTER, 27 NORTH ROAD, PEACE DALE, R.I.



THE SOUTH COUNTY UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

PUBLISHED ELEVEN TIMES A YEAR

KAREN R. ELLSWORTH, EDITOR ♦ VAL FOLLETT & GERRE ALDERWICK, PUBLISHERS

DEADLINE: THE 20TH DAY OF EACH MONTH

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF SOUTH COUNTY

www.uusouthcountyri.org

OUR HOME IS AT LILY PADS PROFESSIONAL CENTER, 27 NORTH ROAD, PEACE DALE, R. I. 02879

(401) 783 -4170 • uucscri@yahoo.com • <http://www.uusouthcountyri.org> David Crockett, Webmaster

Rev. Betty Kornitzer, Minister

Services and Children's Religious Education on Sundays at 10 a.m.

*We welcome all individuals without regard to race, color, physical challenge,
sexual orientation, age, or national origin.*

Staff Members

Debby Hedison, Religious Education Director

Michael Galib, Music Director

Board of Directors

Charles Donnelly, President

Linda Whyte Burrell, Vice President

Will Bender, Treasurer • Ron Creamer, Clerk

Rich Evans • Joan Youngken • Ali Buffum • David Hamel

Tracy Hart, Past President

Myron Waldman, Publicity Coordinator

Committee Chairs

Val Follett & Barbara Pagh,

Membership Committee Co-Chairs

Kathy Swink, Worship Committee Chair

John Glasheen, Social Justice Council
Coordinator

Pam Santos, Religious Education Committee Chair

Carolyn Hurdis, Personnel Committee Chair

Jean Burke, Linda Whyte Burrell & Lindsey

Crowninshield, Committee on Ministry

Aline Couture, Finance Committee Chair

Alice Buckley, Facilities Committee Chair

Peter Himmel, Adult Religious Education Chair

Susan Moreland, Music Committee Chair

Judi Marcy, Caring Connection Chair

Eileen DeMaio, Social Events Committee Chair

Lisa McHenry & Vikki LePree, Hospitality Committee
Co-Chairs

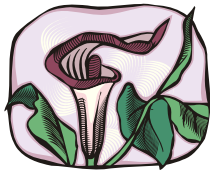
Contact Information for Rev. Betty Kornitzer

Regular Office Hours – Wednesdays 3 to 6 p.m., Thursdays and Fridays: 9 a.m. to Noon,
and other times, all by appointment. Days off are Monday and Tuesday.

Office Telephone (non-urgent calls) – 284-3321 Cell Phone (urgent calls) – 932-1515

E-mail (very effective) – bkornitzer@aol.com

A note about office hours: For the most part I will be in my study during these posted office hours, though other scheduled activities sometimes call me away. If you'd like to stop by, it's a good idea to call the minister's study phone (284-3321) to confirm that I am in. I am also available at many other times by appointment.



The Minister's Message

By Rev. Betty Kornitzer

Skillful Meetings

During the past year, we've been looking at creating a policy on whether to serve alcohol in our new building. As expected, there are strongly held opinions on all sides of this issue. The Board anticipates a congregational vote at our annual meeting on June 5.

Here, I take a look at our process as we've explored this issue.

Being a Unitarian Universalist congregation is all about living into our Mission Statement and our UU Principles. I believe we've done that well. We've held three open discussion meetings to explore the issue. The first meeting was last May. All were invited to two meetings held this spring. Those meetings were announced in the following congregational e-mail:

This year, the Board would like UUCSC to develop a Policy Concerning the Service of Alcohol at UUCSC functions. They want to hear from you. It is time to frame a policy that reflects the will of the congregation. Based on your input in these conversations and their own best judgment, the Board will create a policy to recommend to the congregation. There will be a congregational vote on the Alcohol Service Policy at the Annual Meeting on June 5. Of course, there will be opportunity for discussion and amendment to the proposed policy at the Annual Meeting.

These conversations are an opportunity to practice deep listening to understand one another and to be enlightened about differing points of view. This is a spiritual practice reflecting our principles, especially the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process. We hope that many of you will participate in the formation of this important policy.

The meetings opened with the reading of our UUCSC Mission Statement and an affirmation of our commitment to bring open minds and loving hearts to the meetings.

There was no "cross-talk." We practiced mindful listening, which is listening to understand, rather than to respond. We timed ten seconds between speakers to create conditions for respectful listening and a sense of being heard. While speakers offered widely divergent views, the tone of the meetings was polite and interested. Near the end of the last meeting, one member said that her mind had been changed by what she had heard that day. Copious notes were taken. These notes represent the voices of many community members. They will be made available to the Board and the congregation for consideration prior to the vote at Annual Meeting.

In all, I believe we created a skillful meeting experience. Congratulations to all who participated.

Blessings, Peace and Love,

Betty



Join Rev. Betty (please!) at General Assembly 2011

General Assembly 2011 in Charlotte, North Carolina will mark the 50th anniversary of the merger of the American Unitarian Association and the Universalist Church of America. Join thousands of fellow Unitarian Universalists from across the country as we remember the persons and events that brought into being the Unitarian Universalist Association in May 1961, to reflect on our denomination's relevant achievements and struggles since then, and to chart new aspirations for the future we are determined to shape.

Amazing anniversary events are being planned, including:

- a party celebration after opening ceremonies on June 22
- a lecture on the past and future of Unitarian Universalism
- a panel discussion on UU social justice history
- a "New Epiphany Revival Show" led by UU composer, writer, and performer Nick Page

There is also a terrific lineup of speakers, including

- Theologian Karen Armstrong, this year's Ware Lecturer
- Rev. Dr. Michael A. Schuler of the First Unitarian Society of Madison, Wisconsin, who will lead the Service of the Living Tradition
- Rev. Jacqui Lewis, Ph.D., author and sought-after speaker on the multiracial/multicultural congregation
- Nina Perales, Southwest Regional Counsel for MALDEF, the leading Latino legal civil rights organization in the U.S.

For more details, visit <http://www.uua.org/events/175404.shtml>. – Betty Kornitzer

Room or apartment wanted in Wakefield area

Please help the mother of UUCSC member to find a furnished bedroom or small apartment to rent in the Wakefield area from July through December. I'm a semi-retired college instructor and UU board member in North Carolina with a quiet lifestyle, and look forward to getting involved at UUCSC. I would be happy to share a house or apartment; nothing fancy or scenic required. Please contact Charlotte Hamlin at chamlin1@triad.rr.com or (336) 855-1266.

Congregational Meetings to Discuss the Ministry

The Committee on Ministry and the Board invite all UUCSC members and friends to open meetings to discuss the optimal form for our continued ministry. Here's the meeting schedule:

Sunday May 1 at 11:30 in the Sanctuary
 Friday May 6 at 7:00 in the Sanctuary
 Sunday May 15 at 11:30 in the Sanctuary
 Sunday June 5, Annual Meeting and Vote

Our Journey Toward Wholeness

"A Change One Thousand Years in Coming" will be the title of Nasser Zawia's message at our annual Journey Toward Wholeness service on May 15th.

Dr. Zawia, a frequent visitor to Yemen, will offer his perspective on the recent developments in the Arab world. He is a founding member of the R.I. Council for Muslim Advancement, the Islamic School of Rhode Island, and the Masjid Alhoda (Muslim Community Center of Kingston). Dr. Zawia is Dean of the URI Graduate School, and teaches in the College of Pharmacy.

This year Common Ground has focused on getting to know our Muslim neighbors and forming interfaith connections. On Sunday, May 22 at 5 p.m., we will have a family potluck here at UUCSC to meet and have fellowship with members of the Muslim community who live in the area.

A number of families from the Sisters Wing of the R.I. Council for Muslim Advancement are coming. You may remember some of them from the panel of Muslim women who spoke with us after a service in November. We have also invited folks from the Muslim Community Center at

URI, where several of us visited and were welcomed.

Please come with your children, bring a (non-pork) dish, and enjoy fellowship with our guests.

– Penny Hall, for Common Ground

Special Collection on Journey Toward Wholeness Sunday

Each year at our Journey Toward Wholeness service we collect an additional offering. For our service this year on May 15, the special collection will be divided three ways. One third will go as usual to the Whitney Young Urban Ministries for their work with inner city youth. One third will go to the R.I. Council for Muslim Advancement's Healthy Families Initiative, for their work to end domestic violence. And one third will go to the Middle East Children's Alliance, for water purification units in Gaza schools.

We hope you'll be as generous as you always are! Please make out your check for this special collection to UUCSC and write "Journey" on the memo line.

Thank you!

– Penny Hall

Our Annual Spring Plant Sale is on May 22

Our annual spring plant sale will take place on May 22 (two weeks after Mother's Day) before and after the service. Doris Anthony started this wonderful fun(d) raising tradition; please do not allow it to lapse.

If you're a gardener, think now about separating perennials and thinning ground covers and potting the results for the sale. House plants that are snipped now and nicely potted are most welcome. You are urged to look over your flower beds that need some space. Now is the best time to pot your goodies!

Questions about potting? Need pots? Have some pots (preferably clean) to contribute? The person to call is Helene Gersuny.



Coffee with the Minister

Do you have a question or two about our congregation that you would like answered? On Sunday, May 22, after church, you will have such an opportunity. Just gather your coffee and snacks and take a comfortable seat in the front of the sanctuary during coffee hour to have a nice relaxed chat with our beloved minister. Newcomers, old-timers and all those in between, this gathering is for you.

.....

The Caring Connection

The Caring Connection listens for concerns and relies on members and friends of the UUCSC to let us know if there are folks in the need of our help during times of crisis, emergency, or illness. The Caring Connection is always pleased to have new members. Please call or send an e-mail. Thank you.

– Judi Marcy, Chair

Hospitality volunteers needed

We have enjoyed working together to organize the hospitality for this past year, and we thank all of you who have hosted a coffee hour. Hosts are still needed for the May and June services, so if you have not hosted or wouldn't mind another turn, please contact one of us.

We are not available to host this summer. Last summer, a volunteer arranged for cookies and ice tea after each service. Would you volunteer this summer? Please contact us if you are so inclined.

– Vikki LePree and Lisa McHenry

Music at Lily Pads series continues on Friday, June 3rd

The Music at Lily Pads series continues on Friday June 3rd with the return of Brown Bird and Joe Fletcher and the Wrong Reasons, two of Rhode Island's finest bands. Both have played the Lily Pads stage, Brown Bird last September and Joe Fletcher in January, opening for The Low Anthem.



Brown Bird now performs as a two-piece, with MorganEve Swain on violin, cello, double bass and vocals, and Dave Lamb on guitar, banjo, kick drum and vocals. Their sound combines roots Americana with outlaw country, Gypsy jazz and more. This year they have been invited to play Newport Folk Festival!

Joe Fletcher was voted by the Providence Journal as "one of the 11 people to watch in 2011." His great new album "White Lighter" showcases his unique take on outlaw country, with influences like early Johnny Cash, Waylon Jennings, Merle Haggard and George

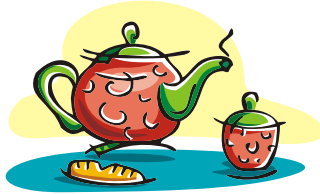


Jones. His excellent band, The Wrong Reasons, includes mandolin, fiddle, standup bass and drums.

Don't miss these two outstanding bands. Tickets are \$12, and go on sale May 1st at Sweet Cakes, the Alternative Food Co-op and Looney Tunes II, and online at Brown Paper Tickets. – David Floyd

Charity tea a huge success

On Saturday, April 16th, the UUCSC sanctuary was transformed into a beautiful tearoom with linen tablecloths, china teacups, teapots and pansy and daffodil decorations. It was the ninth charity tea we've done for the Jonnycake Center and the third one we've held at UUCSC. More than 55 guests attended and the room was buzzing with young servers from our youth group pouring tea



for our guests, people checking out the lovely raffle baskets and folks just chatting together, connecting and enjoying tea, sandwiches, pastries and fruit. Daniel Glickman and his friend Malcolm were catching it all on video, having been briefly trained by Myron Waldman, who will have the results ready for us soon on the UUCSC Facebook page.

Jae Spence and her musicians, The Renditions, provided mellow jazz music that was terrific. The fashion show was produced by Laurie Schneider and Patti Burton, owners, respectively, of One More Time and Chameleons of Wakefield. Their recycled fashions and accessories looked sensational on the attractive models who included our own male models, Dr. Peter Himmel and Myron Waldman.

The many volunteers were extremely helpful in putting together this wonderful affair and enjoyed working together. It was great to see young and old and guests from many places enjoying a delightful spring afternoon together at our church. We met our goal and raised \$1,000 for the Jonnycake Center and \$500 for the UUCSC.

Thank you to everyone who contributed in any way at all!

– Marie Younkin-Waldman, Chairperson

Coping with Fear

Using Harold S. Kushner's *Conquering Fear: Living Boldly in an Uncertain World* as a point of reference and source of information, the Adult Religious Education Committee is offering a five-session group discussion on Coping with Fear. The remaining sessions are on May 3, 20, and 27 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in the Community Room. Topics include "Bigger than Life" (Mas-sive Fear), "Fear of Rejection and Change," and "Fear of Illness and Ag-ing." Each session will cover one or two fears that the group chooses to discuss. Purchasing the book is not required.

– Peter Himmel



Religious Education News and Events

By Debby Hedison, Director of Religious Education

"...go with Wisdom, go with Wonder...."

"It's true we don't know what we've got until its gone, but we don't know what we've been missing until it arrives." – Anonymous

What you're Missing . . .

Hi, Friends,

If you haven't yet volunteered in our Religious Education program, here's what you're missing:

- ☺ Hugs, lots of them, every Sunday without fail.
- ☺ Joys and concerns about animals, insects, siblings, exams, life, birthday presents, boo boos and candy.
- ☺ Listening to a teen tell you about her philosophy on life and religion.
- ☺ Playing silly games with children of every age.
- ☺ Playing games that allow you to hear what others believe.
- ☺ Doing a split (yes, I did!) during "Simon Says."
- ☺ Having a child know your name, favorite color and which baseball team you're rooting for.
- ☺ Drooling, laughter and, sometimes tears.
- ☺ Learning from a child's curricula things you didn't know.
- ☺ Attending a youth conference with our amazing teens.
- ☺ Being outside during service.
- ☺ Having a young person ask you what you think God is.
- ☺ Hearing a rousing song of "Happy Birthday" when they find out it's your birthday.

These are just to name a few, and I promise you that every RE volunteer would have a list similar and different to this one.

Please consider not only teaching in RE, but perhaps being a youth adviser or assistant in any area of our program. Not only are you very much needed, but you are missing out! And no, you don't need to do a split!

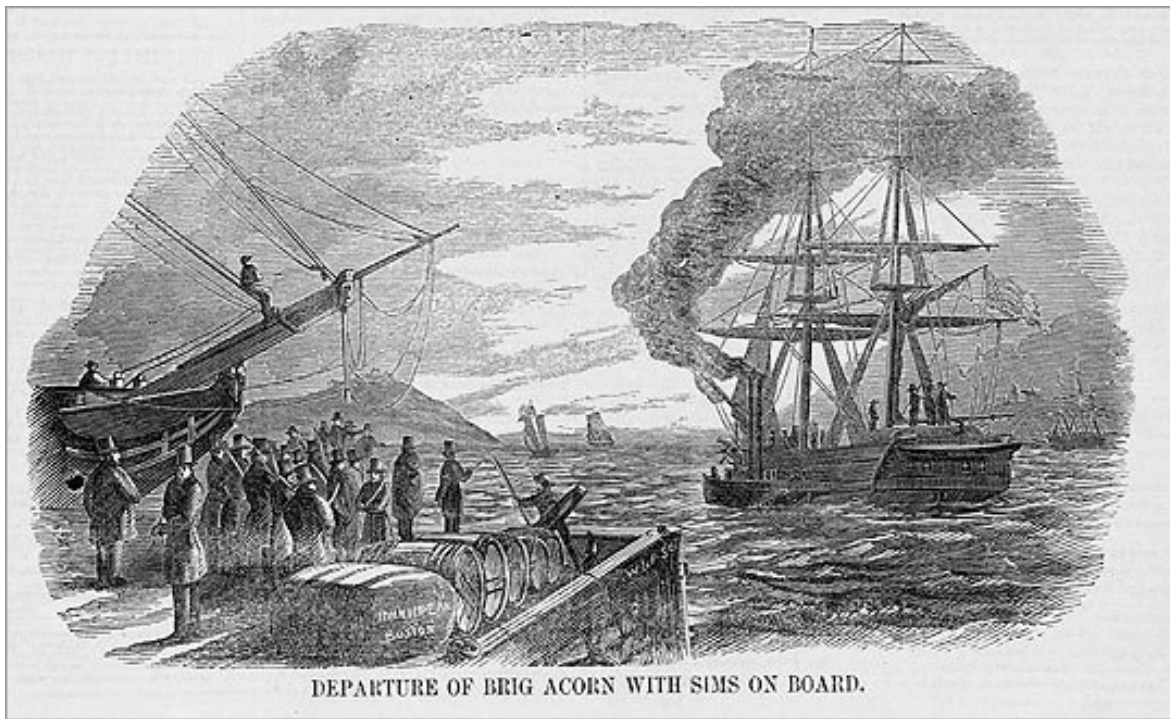
With Love,
Debby

Dates to save:

May 8: Child Dedication

June 5: Bridging and Coming of Age Ceremonies

June 12: Teacher Appreciation & Family Fun Day



When Boston awoke

*It took a grim incident to turn the city
from criticizing slavery to doing something about it*

BY STEPHEN PULEO

In the early morning dampness on Saturday, April 12, 1851, police and federal troops mustered by the weak light of a single gas lamp outside the courthouse in Boston's city center. More than 100 police officers armed with double-edged Roman swords, plus another hundred volunteers armed with clubs, drilled for more than an hour, their heavy boots clomping upon the dirt-packed street. The police had practiced their formation for several days in preparation for what would happen within the next few minutes.

One of Boston's most fanatical abolitionists, fiery Unitarian minister Thomas Wentworth Higginson, described the chill he had felt as he watched the troops "marching and countermarching, drawing their cutlasses, and forming up into a horrible hollow square," which moved as a whole up and

down Court Street. Within that hollow square, the troops would be escorting a lone man to the ship that would carry him back to slavery. His name was Thomas Sims, a 23-year-old runaway slave from Georgia, whom the police had captured nine days earlier. In compliance with the recently strengthened Fugitive Slave Law, part of the controversial North-South Compromise of 1850, the progressive city of Boston was returning Sims to his master.

In the popular history of Boston, the Sims event has been largely forgotten, or seen as a minor episode in the long run-up to the Civil War. But it deserves much closer consideration as a pivotal event not only for the city, but for the nation. Boston has always taken pride in having played an instrumental role in the antislavery movement, but it wasn't until this embarrassing and shameful event—the city sending a free man in the North back to

slavery—that Boston abolitionists began to harden from armchair philosophical opponents of slavery into relentless activists. The bitterness of Sims's capture, the spectacle of his imprisonment, and their own inability to prevent his return galvanized the abolitionists and taught them a lesson in defeat that no victory could teach. And when they absorbed that lesson, they would reshape America. The Thomas Sims case became the stuff of legend in Boston, forever changing the slavery debate and propelling the city and her abolitionists into the forefront of the national campaign against slavery.

By the time Thomas Sims escaped and fled to Boston, the city had been home to a vocal antislavery movement for decades. Boston's transcendentalist writers and Unitarian ministers were passionate abolitionists.

Continued on page 9

The city's strong African-American community had become increasingly active since the turn of the 19th century, especially through its churches. William Lloyd Garrison began publishing his antislavery newspaper, *The Liberator*, in 1831, and had continued without interruption for 20 years. Though a broad cross-section of Bostonians still rejected abolitionism as too radical, the city's antislavery ardor took shape early.

In the wider nation, regional differences had reached a near breaking point by 1850. California had just been admitted to the Union as a free state, upsetting what had been a fragile balance of 15 slave states and 15 free. Proslavery Southerners, already whispering the word "secession," had demanded something in return for a "free California," and so forced the Compromise of 1850.

Boston abolitionists were furious about the law, which they viewed as one of the great outrages in the history of the republic, and were perhaps even more furious that their own senator, Daniel Webster, had played a key role in crafting it. They vilified him, often personally, with the venom reserved for traitors and turncoats.

Yet despite its expressions of outrage, Boston's abolitionist community did little more than watch unhappily after Sims was captured on April 3. Higginson, urging some kind of militant action to free Sims, pronounced himself disgusted by his fellow citizens' unwillingness to act. A handful of individuals had tried in vain to spearhead rescue attempts, including a failed plot to help Sims escape by jumping from his open third-story window onto a pile of mattresses, but most of Boston's leading abolitionists took no concrete action.

During secret abolitionist meetings to discuss ways to free Sims, "where everyone present had to be identified and every window closed," Higginson wrote, passiveness, inertia, even timidity, prevailed. Most members discussed the fugitive slave's predicament in academic, even hypothetical tones.

Even the redoubtable Garrison, who had railed against Daniel Webster in *The Liberator* and launched a petition against the senator, seemed more concerned about "preparing next week's editorial" than actually acting to rescue Sims. Brave pronouncements and a "dedication to the cause" filled the small room, Higginson declared, but the group could not bestir itself to actually do anything.

"Let the heavens weep and hell be merry."

Legal efforts failed, too. A Massachusetts judge refused to rule the Fugitive Slave Law unconstitutional. Later, the court issued a certificate attesting that Sims was indeed the property of James Potter of Georgia, and identified the former slave as "a chattel personal to all intents, uses, and purposes whatsoever." The legal proceedings in the case were over. Despite Sims's protestations to his lawyer—"I will not go back to slavery"—he was ordered back to Georgia.

At about 4:15 a.m., police officers and volunteers assembled in the double-filed hollow square formation, and marched to the east door of the courthouse. "The dreaded moment was at hand," historian Leonard Levy wrote. "The authorities meant to sneak Sims back into slavery while the city slept. It was not the bravest way to

uphold the constitution, but it was the safest."

Nearly 200 horrified abolitionists looked on as the main doors of the courthouse opened and a tearful Sims appeared. Abolitionists accompanied Sims and his armed guards down State Street, hissing and shouting "Shame!" and "Infamy!" but one witness noted that, even now, "no other attempt at disorder was made."

The entire mass finally arrived at Long Wharf, near the site of the Boston Tea Party, where once Colonists disguised as Indians had dumped tea into the harbor to protest oppression, the irony of which was not lost on the abolitionists. The brig *Acorn*, its sails unfurled, was ready for sea. As Sims was led to the *Acorn's* deck, a man standing on the wharf cried out, "Sims! Preach liberty to the slaves!" With the last words he uttered in Boston, Sims answered with a sharp rebuke to his captors: "And is this Massachusetts liberty?"

Within two minutes, at just after 5:00 a.m., the *Acorn* was moving.

Sims's capture and forced return were bad enough, but Boston abolitionists were further outraged when they received word one week after the fugitive's departure that, upon his arrival in Savannah, Sims was whipped in the public square. He was administered 39 lashes across his bare back.

Grief-stricken, former slave and prominent black abolitionist Frederick Douglass expressed his fury: "Let the Heavens weep and Hell be merry!"

It didn't take long for Sims's dramatic return to slavery to shift attitudes in Boston. On April 24, two weeks after the fugitive slave's departure, the Massachusetts Legislature, on its 26th ballot, finally elected fanatical antislavery candidate Charles M. Sumner to the

Continued on page 10

United States Senate (senators were not yet elected directly by the people). Sumner, along with Garrison and John Brown, would eventually be categorized among the country's most radical and influential abolitionists.

Boston's behavior was called "the reverse of what it should have been; it was supple and inofficious . . . it should have placed obstruction at every step."

The Massachusetts Senate petitioned Congress to repeal the Fugitive Slave Law, calling it "unconstitutional, inhumane, and wicked." The Senate took greatest umbrage in the irony of innocent blacks forced to flee to England, exclaiming in its petition, "They seek in a monarchy asylum from the injustice and cruelty of a republic."

In the three years after Sims's return to bondage, abolitionists in Boston helped more than 300 fugitive slaves escape, providing funds, food, clothing, and safe passage along the Underground Railroad network that wound its way through Concord and Lincoln, snaked northward through New Hampshire and Vermont, and eventually crossed the border into the rugged forests of Canada. Abolitionists took action at great risk to themselves.

Boston's renowned literary community —Emerson, Thoreau, Melville, Hawthorne, and others — also turned their energies to the cause, the power of their words ringing across the country and across the world.

Emerson, especially, was ashamed of Boston's official behavior in the Sims case — "the reverse of what it should have been; it was supple and inofficious . . . it should have placed

obstruction at every step." He told a Concord crowd that it was their duty to break an immoral law "at every hazard."

And, in 1852, one year after Sims's return, Boston publisher John Jewett published Harriet Beecher Stowe's *Uncle Tom's Cabin* in book form. The novel became the nation's greatest popular literary phenomenon of the 19th century, and one of the great influencers of antislavery attitudes in the North.

Courageous abolitionists worked tirelessly and assumed great risk throughout the country — in New York, Rhode Island, Pennsylvania, and Ohio — but after the Sims case, the antislavery heartbeat pulsed most powerfully from Boston, pumping a combination of militancy and influence across the North, and a constant stream of invective and contempt toward the South.

Boston provided the intellectual fuel and the activist energy for the North as it pushed back against the entrenched institution of slavery as the Civil War approached.

Later events also fueled Boston's abolitionist anger, including the return of fugitive slave Anthony Burns in 1854 and the caning of Senator Sumner on the U.S. Senate floor in 1856.

But more than anything, it was the Sims case that transformed Boston abolitionists from antislavery theoreticians to fully invested militants who ignited a national movement.

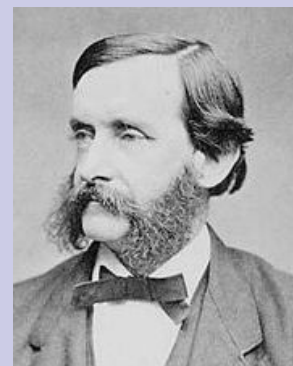
Things were never the same in Boston —or America —after the day in 1851 when a city allowed a hollow square of armed men to march a solitary black man back to slavery's clutches.

This article is adapted from "A City So Grand: The Rise of an American Metropolis: Boston 1850-1900," by Stephen Puleo, published last year by Beacon Press.

Thomas Wentworth Higginson

Thomas Wentworth Higginson (1823–1911) was a Unitarian minister, author, and abolitionist.

Higginson was born in Cambridge, Mass. His father was a merchant and philanthropist. He entered Harvard College at 13. After graduation in 1841, he was a schoolmaster for two years, and in 1842 he became engaged to Mary Elizabeth Channing. He then studied theology at the Harvard Divinity School.



In 1847, he became pastor at the First Religious Society of Newburyport, Mass. He supported the Essex County Antislavery Society and criticized the poor treatment of workers at Newburyport cotton factories. The young minister invited Theodore Parker, Ralph Waldo Emerson and fugitive slave William Wells Brown to speak at the church. Higginson proved to be too radical for the congregation and was forced to resign in 1848.

During the Civil War, he was a captain in the 51st Massachusetts Infantry. After he was wounded, he became colonel of the First South Carolina Volunteers, the first authorized regiment recruited from former slaves.

After the war, Higginson devoted much of the rest of his life to fighting for the rights of freed slaves, women and other disenfranchised peoples. He also was a friend and mentor to the poet Emily Dickinson.

Third annual community contra dance on Saturday, May 14

The third annual South County Open Band Contra Dance comes to the UUCSC sanctuary on Saturday, May 14 at 7:30 p.m. Once again, live music will be provided by a community-based string band that includes several UUCSC members. This “Music at Lily Pads” event is brought to you by our Social Events Committee.



Last year's contra dance was a blast!

The music for contra dances consists of traditional fiddle tunes, which are best learned by playing along with other musicians. The South County Old Time Music Jam Session, which got its start in the American Legion Hall under the sponsorship of UUCSC, has been promoting and playing this music for years. The annual community contra dance is great experience for dancers and musicians, and is supported by a grant from the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts. This year the jam session group will be led by the expert musicians of the French Connection band.

The doors will open at 7 p.m. and the dancing goes from 7:30 until 10:30. Admission is \$7. We hope to see you there!

– Harry Buffum

Contra dance and contra dance music are both fine old American traditions. The dances are very easy to learn—no prior experience is needed. You don't need to come to a contra dance with a partner because everyone dances with everyone else. It's a good idea to wear loose comfortable clothing and flat-soled shoes.

All the dances this night will be taught by expert dance-caller Lucia Watson. Lucia regularly calls contra dances at Brown University, Rehoboth, and at other popular venues, and is a favorite with experienced dancers and beginners alike.



French Connection

The Welcome House Meal

Wednesday, May 11th is our day to provide the evening meal at Welcome House. We prepare a salad, main dish, and dessert to feed twenty people. Can you help? Please contact Gerre Alderwick.

Spiritual Deepening:

Self Reflection

Introspection and self reflection are integral parts of most spiritual traditions. On Wednesday, May 18 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary, we'll explore various practices. All are welcome.

Clear Heart Sangha

Clear Heart Sangha is a meditation group in the tradition of Thich Nhat Hahn, a Vietnamese Buddhist monk. It is led by dharma teacher Joanne Friday on Sunday, May 1 from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
CONGREGATION OF SOUTH COUNTY
27 NORTH ROAD
PEACE DALE, RI 02879

Return Service Requested

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Wakefield, RI
Permit No. 21

“Character is what God and the angels
know of us; reputation is what
men and women think of us.”

– Horace Mann (1796-1859)

*An educational reformer and Unitarian,
Horace Mann was born in Franklin, Mass.
215 years ago this month.*