

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT FAIR TODAY

Community Center

11:30-12:30

*Would you like to know more about our Committees/Action Teams? Join us after worship! Members of each team will be available to answer your questions and to let you know about some time limited, simple ways you can become involved! **Childcare available.***

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS (BGAT)

Chair: Tom Ryan tryan@ryan-assoc.com

The Buildings and Grounds Action Team acts as the Steward to our historic church, the Community Center, the Marshman Center and the Church grounds. BGAT works with the Sexton to monitor the buildings and the grounds to make sure that they are cared for and preserved for future generations. The committee plans and executes maintenance and improvement projects throughout the year and assists with church events such as Christmas tree sales, the East Village Fair, and the Operetta. BGAT also runs cleanup day in the fall and in the spring.

Short term tasks include: ad-hoc weeding sessions during the summer; SMAF (the Space Management and Furnishings sub-committee) has occasional projects such as updating signage, small painting projects, organizing storage. The coordinator will tell you what to do when you get there.

THE COMMUNITY AND HOSPITALITY ACTION TEAM (CHAT)

Chair: Heather Ryan tandhryan@mindspring.com

The Community and Hospitality Action Team (CHAT), envisions Follen Church as a place where connections are made, friendships developed, learning takes place and spiritual journeys are supported in a fun, warm and welcoming community. Helping people make connections with one another to increase their feeling of community is a big focus of our team and we work hard to make this happen. While weekly services are a starting point for many of us, it is the weekly and monthly events that connect us, excite us, and help us feel part of the whole. **Three committees fall within CHAT: Communications, Membership and Social Events.**

- **THE SOCIAL EVENTS COMMITTEE (SE)**

Chairs: Jenny Marshall jennysm@verizon.net, Caroline Walters cwalters@law.harvard.edu

The Social Events Committee seeks to help us connect through play, relaxation, laughter, breaking bread and having coffee together. SE provides many intergenerational events year-round. Some of these events include: Cardigan Lodge, Cape Cod Weekend, Octagon Dinners, the Stewardship Dinner and Soup Suppers.

Short term tasks include shopping for food and supplies for major events; help with table and food set-up; help with cooking; help with clean-up. **Coffee hour** responsibilities include making coffee and tea; setting up the Community Center coffee counter; setting up tables and laying out food, milk, cream, etc.; replenishing coffee; be on hand at the coffee counter to answer questions, greet people and help serve coffee; and clean-up of the kitchen after Coffee Hour.

- **COMMUNICATIONS**

Chair: Gordon Hardy gordon@dunnhardy.com

The Communications Committee oversees the policy, process, and production of Follen communications, both for the church membership and the wider world. We work with staff and volunteers on the website, emails, helping to set guidelines for effective and integrated communications.

Short-term tasks include: writing articles for newspapers, updating the website, helping with communications for events such as the East Village Fair.

- **MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE**

Chair: Laura Maltby landrmaltby@aol.com

The Membership Committee develops and implements procedures for welcoming newcomers, as well as provides opportunities for all to become more deeply engaged in the life of the congregation. Activities include welcome breakfasts, sponsoring classes that provide information about Follen and Unitarian Universalism, and providing orientation for new hosts.

Short term tasks include hosting at Sunday worship and assisting with events such as classes and welcome breakfasts.

FINANCIAL AND HUMAN RESOURCES (FHRAT)

Chair: Brian Cali bcali01@gmail.com

The Financial and Human Resources Team (FHRAT) is responsible for managing the financial and human resources of the church to create a solid foundation to fund its building, programs, staff and faith initiatives. FHRAT includes the Human Resources and Stewardship committees and is also responsible for the three major budgeted fund raisers: the East Village Fair, Christmas tree sales and the Goods and Services Auction.

Short term tasks include helping to setup, make soup, or solicit donations for the Goods and Services Auction. The stewardship team can always use pledge stewards, help with the production of the stewardship brochure or help publicizing and setting up the stewardship dinner.

THE PASTORAL CARE ACTION TEAM (PCAT)

Chairs: Linda Dacey ldacey5@gmail.com; Maggie Herzig maggieherzig@gmail.com

PCAT provides caring support and opportunities for deeper connection and spiritual growth to all in the congregation. Through our Lay Ministry (Maggie Herzig), Covenant Groups (Margaret Micholet), Caring Congregation Committee (Sharon Cerny), and Volunteer Service Network (Caroline Jacobs and Amy Horsburgh) as well as focused support groups such as Parents of Children with Special Needs and Support Group for Those with Elderly Parents, we move and grow together through life's joys and challenges. **Short term tasks include** helping The Volunteer Service Network (VSN): provide meals, rides, childcare and other services for fellow members of the congregation who may be recovering from an illness or going through a time of need. Assignments are managed through the website "Lotsa Helping Hands." You can sign up at <https://www.lotsahelpinghands.com/c/709520/>. Other tasks include providing childcare for meetings or presentations, taping presentations, or helping with food for presentations.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION ACTION TEAM (REAT)

Chair: Leslie Stebbins lesliestebbins@gmail.com

The mission of the **Religious Education Program** at Follen is to nurture, sustain, and model a loving, empowering, and joyous community wherein children and adults may seek their own spiritual identities and grow to become compassionate, mindful, and engaged citizens of the planet. It is our goal to "awaken the soul, to excite and cherish spiritual life" in order that each individual might discern our commonalities and answer the fundamental questions asked by all people in all ages: "Why am I here?" and "How should I conduct my life?"

Volunteer opportunities include: Drive for field trips, serve as Coming of Age mentor, serve as Youth Group Advisor, visit a Sunday Class as a special guest, visit family worship as a special guest, serve as an Our Whole Lives "OWL" teacher, serve as a Classroom Assistant, help on a RE Special/Connection Sunday, share a skill, passion, art form with a group/class, assist with Pancake Breakfast, chaperone overnight, substitute in Sunday morning classroom, lead an adult program or workshop, join the RE Action Team or one of our sub groups: Adult Programs or Youth Programs, Curriculum Review & Development, Teacher Development & Appreciation.

SOCIAL JUSTICE ACTION TEAM (SJAT)

Chairs: Stan Griffith stangriffith@mac.com; Kathy Spang katalinspang@yahoo.com

The Social Justice Action Team directs and coordinates the social justice work at Follen Church. The Team is comprised of representatives from each of the sub-teams listed below and a number of members at-large, some with specific duties such as hosting the SJAT information table during coffee hour and administering the Sally & Dennis Brown Fund For Youth Social Justice Training. By joining SJAT and participating in its monthly meetings, you can help set the church's social justice priorities and strengthen the church's capacity to fulfill its historic commitments to build a more just and peaceful world.

SJAT ongoing tasks needing help: SJAT monthly meeting note taker, SJAT website, news, and announcement coordinator, update web site as needed, collect news items and announcements from sub-teams and edit for Follen Friday Updates. Economic Justice Project: looking for Follenites interested in exploring how Follen can find ways of addressing the social justice issues associated with income inequality and poverty.

- **BOOKS FOR CHELSEA**

Contact: Sarah Richards sjrichards68@gmail.com

Chelsea is the smallest and one of the poorest cities in MA. Children here have little access to books. As a pediatrician at the MGH-Chelsea HealthCare Center, I collect children's books that children may take home with them when they visit us. This helps promote literacy and love for reading and supplements the free books we give out at the Well Child Visit from ages 1-5 through the National Reach Out and Read Program.

- **ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE TASK FORCE (EJTF)**

Contacts: Jean Foster jean@jeanfoster.org; Anne Engelhart engelhart@rcn.com

The Environmental Justice Task Force (EJTF) believes that global warming is a social justice issue because those who will suffer its effects first and most devastatingly are those people of the world who have done the least to cause the problem. EJTF works to raise awareness at Follen about climate change and about actions we can take as a community and as individuals to address it. This year we will be providing information about how to lower our carbon footprint by 20%, both as individuals and as a community, and working to divest our holdings from fossil fuels so that we can reinvest in sustainable energy initiatives. We welcome new members who are interested in learning about and acting on environmental issues.

- **GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION GROUP (GVPG)**

Contact: Anne Grady agrady@eonconnect.com

Each year in the US gun violence -- murders, suicides and accidents -- kills more than 30,000 people, including 2,700 children and teens, rates far higher than in any other developed country. The Gun Violence Prevention Group is working to reduce these tragic statistics by becoming informed, lobbying for stronger state and federal gun laws, participating in related activities, and educating the Follen Community about this important issue.

- **KIVA MICRO-LOAN PROGRAM**

Contact: Karen Gray Carruthers karenggray@nesop.com

The Kiva Micro-Loan Program envisions a world where all people - even in the most remote areas of the globe - hold the power to create opportunity for themselves and others. Kiva's mission is to connect people through lending to alleviate poverty. Follen Church makes micro-loans to people throughout the world. It could be a shepherd in Nigeria, a seamstress in Azerbaijan or a taxi driver in the United States. And when the money is paid back, we re-loan it again and again. Together we embrace the world. Who should we loan to next? **Short term tasks:** If you are looking for rewarding work with a limited time commitment (even just using a computer to pick a few loans), we are looking for you!

- **LEXINGTON INTERFAITH GARDEN**

Contact: Janet Lane j.f.lane@rcn.com

Since 2010 Lexington's Interfaith Garden has provided over a ton of fresh local produce to the Lexington Food Pantry annually. Volunteers of all ages from over fourteen faith communities work together while planting, tending and harvesting organically grown produce. Follen sends two volunteers for two work sessions a month during the growing season on a Saturday morning or Tuesday afternoon. You'll learn on the spot, no experience needed. The garden is next to First Parish UU Church.

- **LIFT UP LEXINGTON**

Contact: Nancy Alloway nalloway@gmail.com

The Lift Up Lexington (LUL) team provides support for homeless families who live at the Quality Inn Hotel in Lexington. LUL is under the aegis of the Lexington Interfaith Clergy Association. Follen Church works with other religious institutions in Lexington to provide support for families living in the hotel. Families often live in one room with only a microwave and a small refrigerator. **Volunteer opportunities include:** providing rides to the food pantry twice a month, a community meal once a month, and assisting with a social outing once a month. In addition, other items like diapers and Charlie Cards are provided as funds become available.

- **NEW ORLEANS GULF RELIEF (NOLA)**

Contact: Ann Schaufler ann.schaufler@gmail.com

Since April 2006, Follen volunteers have traveled to New Orleans twice a year to rebuild New Orleans homes and businesses following Hurricane Katrina. Working with a New Orleans-based UU organization, groups of Follen adults and high school and/or college youth have worked with families and residents to restore homes and communities. Annual fundraising through soup sales and a youth group coffee house, as well as a Share the Plate offering help us to buy building materials for Follen's service projects.

- **PARTNER CHURCH COMMITTEE (PCC)**

Contact: Sarah Richards sjrichards68@gmail.com

The Partner Church Committee, established in 1998, was Follen's response to a UU initiative to foster relationships with, and to help rebuild, Unitarian congregations long isolated in Eastern Europe. Our Partner Church is a Hungarian Unitarian congregation in Alsófelszentmihály, Transylvania, Romania. Our support for this congregation has included educational scholarships, the renovation of church buildings, and financial support for the minister and church programs. Visits between our congregations have deepened this relationship.

- **SUNDAY'S BREAD**

Contacts: Mark Metzger mmetzger@metzgerco.com; Paul Rubin pjrubin@aol.com

Sunday's Bread is a program that serves free, hot meals to people in need in Boston every Sunday of the year. With its sister program, Saturday's Bread, it serves 9,000 to 10,000 meals a year. Follen supports the program with a financial contribution and by sending teams of volunteers to cook and serve meals.

- **URBAN MINISTRY CONGREGATIONAL TEAM (UMCT)**

Contact: Tempe Goodhue tgoodhue@aol.com

Uniting Communities, Transforming Lives. That's what the UU Urban Ministry does for both the people it serves and those who volunteer. The five life-changing -- sometimes even lifesaving -- programs of UU Urban Ministry address a variety of needs in the Roxbury community. This ministry-at-large literally owes its existence to the volunteer engagement and financial support of its member congregations: that means us. The UMCT can help Follenites make a connection with a UUUM program for a single event or a more sustained time.

- **WELCOMING CONGREGATION COORDINATING COMMITTEE (WCCC)**

Contacts: Jane Spickett janespickett@gmail.com; Jane Bausch jbausch@earthlink.net

WCCC supports and leads the ongoing work of this congregation, both here and in the world at large, to heal the emotional and spiritual harm done to LGBT people and their families, to share the blessing of loving and being loved in community with all, and to be advocates for justice.

- **WOMEN'S LUNCH PLACE**

Contact: Ellen Adolph ellen.adolph@rcn.com

The Women's Lunch Place is a safe, welcoming day community for all self-identified women who are experiencing homelessness or poverty. The Women's Lunch Place strives to meet guests' most basic and immediate needs while coordinating and delivering critical support services designed to help women achieve greater stability and self-sufficiency whenever possible.

WORSHIP AND MUSIC ACTION TEAM (WMAT)

Chairs: Laura Maltby landrmaltby@aol.com; Melissa Howe Raberg mhowe@berklee.edu

The Worship and Music Action Team works with the Minister, the Director of Religious Education, and the Music Director to provide spiritual nourishment, inspiration, and intellectual challenge to the members of the Church. Areas of involvement include the planning of worship services and musical/art events to enrich and inspire the life of the congregation. **Short term tasks include:** helping the ushers with collecting the offering, providing flowers for worship services, providing rides to church.