

Historian's Notebook

by George Blanchard

I have just finished reading a most interesting book - *Into the Arms of Strangers: Stories of the Kindertransport* by

Mark Jonathan Harris and Deborah Oppenheimer. It is a collection of first-hand stories, (as they remember them 60 years after the fact) of a dozen of the more than 10,000 Jewish children who were rescued from Austria, Czechoslovakia and Germany before the outbreak of World War II in 1939.

These children spent the war years with families throughout Britain. Most of them spoke little or no English. That, and being separated from their families, must have been unbelievably difficult. Many of the children never saw or heard from their parents again, as they ended up in the death camps of Auschwitz, Buchenwald and Bergen-Belsen.

One of the rescuers was a young London stockbroker who had traveled to Prague in 1938 and saw how desperate the situation was for Jewish families. He was personally responsible for bringing 664 Czech children to Britain.

The book tells of one girl who didn't make it to Britain. "Born in Breslau, when it was still part of Germany she was slated to leave for England on the Kindertransport but, at the last moment, her father could not bear to part with her. At the end of 1941, she and her parents were deported to Theresienstadt, where she was confined for a year and a half before being separated from her parents and sent to Auschwitz.

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For the rest of the war she was transferred from one concentration camp to another until she was liberated at Bergen-Belsen, weighing fifty-eight pounds."

I was unaware of Kindertransport and find it interesting that while these children went to Britain there were many English families that sent their children to the United States; sent here by their parents to be safe from Hitler's bombing raids.

An article in the Worcester Telegram dated August 28, 1940, tells of the arrival of twenty-eight, mostly girls, in Worcester to meet their "foster parents." In all about ninety children came to Worcester from the Sherrards Wood School in Welwyn Garden City. Norton Company had a plant there and it was through them that the children came to Worcester.

Two of the families that took in children were members of our church: Dr. and Mrs. Gordon Berry and Mr. and Mrs. Henry Tiltson. I do not recall whether any of the girls staying with those two families ever came to Central Church, more likely they went to All Saints, but some of us knew several of them through school.

This was one small way that our church was involved in the war effort.



BIBLE STUDY

FRIDAYS 10:00 a.m.

SMALL PARLOR

To Our Church Friends,
Many thanks for the lovely Easter flowers. We're enjoying this special touch of spring in our home following the long winter this year.

As we're not able to come to church for Sunday worship, we appreciate Don and Joan bringing the church to us! We truly enjoyed our fellowship visit.

Faithfully,
Priscilla and Candy Young

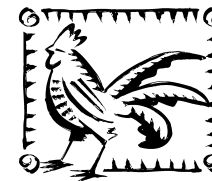


To all those nice people that sent me that Easter card and also such a pretty Lily.

I greatly appreciated your thoughtfulness and I do thank you so much.

Thinking of you
Marion Erickson

The
GREEN ROOSTER
CoffeeHouse



Doors open 7:30
All shows 8:00 p.m.

May 3 \$15	The Baby Boomer Revue: The Buzzards, David Reed-Brown, original songs of Mary Ann Rossoni, all hosted by SteepleJack, Ken Furguson – Music, Comedy, Magic, and information on finances, relationships, and medical wonders!
May 10	Kitchen Musicians Production – Stay tuned!
	Thanks for dropping in! We always need volunteers

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Looking for Coffee Hour Hosts

Visitors to our church often remark on how friendly and welcoming we are, and often comment on our coffee hour!

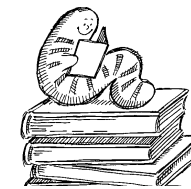
Indeed, we all seem to enjoy the opportunity to have a cup of coffee and some treats, while we chat with one another before heading home after worship.

We currently have six teams who host Sunday coffee hour, and we would like to add two more teams so that each team hosts once every eight weeks.

Hosting is relatively simple. The coffee, juice, sugar and cream are supplied by the church. The teams bring goodies to share, make the coffee, set up, serve and clean up. Usually there are other church members who help with the clean up.

Please call the church office if you would like to volunteer or if you have any questions.

THE SECOND WEDNESDAY BOOK GROUP



ALL ARE WELCOME!!

Meetings are at 7:30 p.m. Please call the host/hostess if you plan to attend.

May 14, A Thousand

Splendid Suns by Khaled Hosseini, home of Tom Sanford (508-853-4225).

June 11, The Atonement by Ian McEwan, home of Joy Hennig (508-852-3590).

We look forward to having anyone who loves to read!

Only we, together, as faithful and loving disciples of Jesus the Christ - trusting in the grace and wisdom of God and the leading of the Holy Spirit - can answer those questions!

To those Israelites who were exiled, Isaiah brought a spectacular word of hope from God – words that continue to speak to us on our journey as God’s people:

I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. (Isaiah 43:19)

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Dr. Terry Fitzgerald

**ANNUAL PROGRAM MEETING
SUNDAY, MAY 18
FOLLOWING WORSHIP**

POSTAL WORKERS FOOD DRIVE

This year's annual **Postal Workers Food Drive** will be held on Saturday May 10. The Food Cupboard receives approximately 6 weeks of supplemental food from this drive. Postal workers drop off the food at the church from 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. and volunteers are needed to receive and sort the food. Refreshments will be available! You can volunteer for all or part of the time. Sign up after worship or contact the church office if you are able to help -



508-752-3785 or staff@ucc-worcester.org.

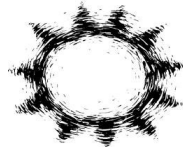
THIBAULT EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE FUND

Applications for the Thibault Educational Fund are now available in the church office. Members of the church of all ages who have been accepted to an educational institution are eligible to apply. The deadline for application is May 31, and the awards will be distributed in June.



**VNA CARE HOSPICE
SUMMER GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP**
A general support group for adults who are coping with the death of a loved one

*Alternate Tuesday evenings
beginning June 3
for seven meetings (dates below)
6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
at United Congregational Church UCC*



SUMMER 2008
*June 3 & 17
July 1, 15 & 29
August 12 & 26*

*There is no fee for participating.
New members are accepted up until the
2nd or 3rd meeting.*

*For information please call
Susan Tarantino, Bereavement
Coordinator at 800-521-5539 ext. 5624
or email
starantino@vnacarenetwork.org.*



MAY BIRTHDAYS

James Moss	5
Harry Manoogian	
Ed Bourgault	7
Amy Sanford	8
Kathryn Clare Mott	10
Stuart Esty	
Shantia Wright-Gray	16
Mary Johnson	20
David Prunier	21
Peter Keck	
Selena Reyes	22
John Goldsberry, Jr.	23
Jane Martin	24
Maria Montalvo	26
Marianne Bourgault	
Benjamin Woodbury	28
Cherie Grant	31
Emily Esty	

**WOULD YOU BE INTERESTED
IN VOLUNTEERING FOR OUR
VAN MINISTRY?**

Our church provides rides to members Sunday mornings who otherwise would not be able to attend worship. We currently have five van drivers and would like to increase the number to eight. Please call the church office (508-752-3785) if you would like to volunteer or if you have any questions



**COFFEE HOUR IS PAID FOR BY
YOUR DONATIONS. THANK YOU
FOR CONTRIBUTING TO THE
BASKET AS YOU ARE ABLE.**

MISSION FAIR – May 4



The Mission Fair will be an informative after worship event that includes a light lunch in the Large Parlor. Numerous groups that have been funded by

United in recent years will be present. Representatives from these groups will have a display table set up to provide information about their groups. The event is intended to be interactive where folks can ask questions of the various groups. This is a good opportunity for the congregation to learn how Wider Church dollars (and a portion of pledge dollars) are spent to make a difference at local, national and international levels.

SAVE THE DATE Sunday, May 18

The Central Massachusetts Housing Alliance, Inc.'s

**23rd Annual
WALK FOR THE HOMELESS**

Members of United Congregational Church will be participating in this event. Please contact Tim Camp at 508-798-6997 if you are interested in walking or sponsoring a walker.

