



The Herald

A Publication of the First Church in Salem, Unitarian

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In this issue

	Pg.
A Meditation	2
MPIC Update	2
February Schedule	2
Calendar	3
Around the Parish	3
Standing Committee News	4
Adult RE Program	4
RE News	5
Henny Penny News	5
Construction Updates	6
Stewardship News	6
Directory	6
From the Music Director	7
Acknowledgements	7
Upcoming Events	8
Chocolate Sunday	
First Church Open House	
Music Sunday	

Minister's Musings

The following remarks were delivered by the Rev. Jeff Barz-Snell at the Community Celebration held on Saturday, January 21 in Salem. Some 70 church members were in attendance and a good time was had by all.

Perhaps it goes without saying, but typically you learn more about yourself on a journey than by staying at home. The metaphor of the journey, or in the parlance of religion, the pilgrimage, is perhaps the most basic narrative structure that exists. Going on a journey leads to knowledge not just about the world but oneself as well. This is certainly true with the First Church in the last eight months.

For the first time in a very long while, we find ourselves homeless (at least on Sunday mornings) and relying on the gracious hospitality of our neighbors and friends. Our fellow travelers at the First Universalist Society have been nothing but pleasant and accommodating. I have enjoyed working with the Rev. Matty and members of their church and getting to know more folks in the larger community. I think many of us have gained some insight into what we like about our tradition and practices and perhaps a few things about parts of our practice that we might want to change. There has been a delightful exchange of ideas and ways of being a UU church in the last six months and I truly believe that both churches are the better for it.

There have been a variety of surprises along this journey that have required significant attention, thought and effort. Lynn Taggart and the Project Management Team have spent the last five months, week in and week out, wrestling with the never-ending array of cost changes and design decisions with both grace and good humor. And along the way there have been many talented members and friends who have stepped forward to pitch in at key moments, including those who arranged for this party. This is a great community, one we can all feel proud of.

When we return to our home this spring, we should all realize that we, the current members of the First Church, will have accomplished something that has only occurred a handful of times in the last 383 years of our history - we will have refashioned a building that was handed down to us by previous generations. We should feel proud of this accomplishment - and perhaps slightly relieved it is over!

But more than that, we should feel proud and excited to be part of an open-minded and warm-hearted religious community that dared to find ways to let its cherished ideals ring out not just from the pulpit, but from its newly configured walls and stairs and gardens and yes, even its heating system.

This is a church that has always attracted thoughtful folks committed to making an impact on their world. The First Church has a longstanding practice of combining open theological inquiry and social improvement. That is part of what our "walk together" is all about. Perhaps that is why we have been a place over the last four centuries that welcomed colonists and revolutionaries, patriots and privateers, social reformers and abolitionists, suffragists and scholars, and freethinkers and entrepreneurs. We are a community that cherishes our traditions, but values progress and change for the better.

The First Church finds itself renewed and reinvigorated with this project and each of you has a part to play in this journey and in our ongoing story. I thank you for your good will and commitment to support the work of this church in the days ahead.

Shalom and Cheers!





MPIC Update

Many of us who attended our recent celebration on January 21st heard that we have adopted a goal and plan to conduct Easter service on April 8th at the First Church. This is exciting news indeed, but also provides a focus for a number of tasks that need to be accomplished before we move back in. We are now actively planning to accomplish these tasks with skills and energy volunteered by members and friends. These tasks include cleaning, sorting, moving, more cleaning, prep and painting, setting up new spaces and more (did I mention, cleaning?). Part of the planning activity is to identify tasks that can or must be accomplished before April 8th, and those that can be deferred to spring or summer.

We are hampered somewhat in starting these actions because we will not have general access to many spaces in the church until mid- to late-March, so there will be a buzz of activity in late March. However, some tasks have begun already. Our refreshed Vestry Committee, under the leadership of Joan Hannah and Ellen Brandenburg, has begun sorting and cataloging items that have been residing in the Sanctuary since the start of the project. We'll all have a chance to see their good works when attend the Open House on February 12.

Members of our committee will be recruiting for specific interests and talents over the next few weeks. Please watch this space for upcoming requests and announcements. Or feel free to speak with one of us on the MPIC.

Dave Helen, Paul Madore, Betty Nichols, Steve Palmer

February Schedule of Events

Sunday, February 5

▲ 10:45 am, Sunday Service

Tuesday, February 7

▲ 9:00am, Project Meeting

Wednesday, February 8

▲ 7:15pm, Standing Committee

Sunday, February 12

▲ 10:45am, Sunday Service, 10:30 am, followed by Chocolate Sunday during Fellowship

▲ 12:30pm-2:00pm First Church Open House and Tour

Tuesday, February 14

▲ 9:00am, Project Meeting

Wednesday, February 15

▲ 7:30pm, Adult RE: Cultivating Soul

Sunday, February 19

▲ 10:45am, Sunday Service

Tuesday, February 21

▲ 9:00am, Project Meeting

Wednesday, February 22

▲ 6:30pm, MPIC

Saturday, February 25

▲ 4:45pm, Lifebridge (Salem Mission) Dinner

Sunday, February 26

▲ 10:45am, Sunday Service: MUSIC SUNDAY

Tuesday, February 28

▲ 7:30pm, Adult RE: Cultivating Soul

A Meditation on Milk for Imbolc

THE TIME of BREASTS:

A Meditation on Milk for Imbolc

A pair of substantial mammary glands has the advantage over the two hemispheres of the most learned professor's brain, in the art of compounding a nutritious fluid for infants.

--Oliver Wendell Holmes

Many a poet has sung the praises of wine and even water, but milk--especially that produced by human mothers--deserves a paean all its own. It is actually four different fluids, from the clear, nutrient-and-antibody-rich "first milk" through its three-stage form (fore-, mid-, and hind-milk) as true lactation. Each provides the nourishment, defense, and stimulation to bodily systems appropriate to every stage of a baby's feeding and growth. The bequest of the breast is thus a more miraculous outpouring than that of the most sacred chalice or fabled fountain.

But though milk earns little mention in poetry (beyond Christmas carols), its symbolism is shot through the tapestry of prose like a pure white thread. There the precious fluid often represents spiritual renewal. In *The Neverending Story*, Bastian Bux, boy Emperor of the realm of Fantastica, visits Dame Eyola, a Mother Nature (or Nurture) figure who feeds him with milk-flavored fruits grown from her own body. Though he protests against eating food that "grew on another person," the maternal Dame urges him to "be a little child again" and so to assuage his hunger, physical and emotional, for the mother he lost in infancy. Having faced this issue from his past, the young ruler gains greater wisdom to govern his people.

So celebrate this Imbolc by enjoying a meal that features dairy products, thanking the Great Mother for Her gift of the true Elixir of Life. If, as science tells us, we are made of the same stuff as the stars, then given the translation of the Greek *galaxias*, the answer to the question "Got Milk?" is "Yes--GOD Milk."

--ROSE WOLF



**ALL SERVICES ARE BEING HELD AT OUR SISTER CHURCH FIRST UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY,
211 BRIDGE STREET THIS FALL.**

PLEASE NOTE SERVICES BEGIN AT 10:45AM.

PARKING IS AVAILABLE...The First Universalist is located at 211 Bridge Street in Salem. Parking is free on Sundays in the Church Street lot and street meters. If you are in need of closer parking there is an accessible parking spot right outside of FUSS accessible entrance on the corner of Bridge Street and Ash Street.

F E B R U A R Y 2 0 1 2

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Sunday Services at 10:45 am			1	2	3	4
5 - 10:45am, Sunday Service	6	7 - 9am, Project Meeting	8 - 7:15pm, Standing Cmte	9	10	11
12 - 10:45am, Sunday Service - Fellowship Hour: Chocolate Sunday - 12:30pm, First Church Open House	13	14 - 9am, Project Meeting	15 - 7:30pm, Adult RE: Cultivating Soul	16	17	18
19 - 10:45am, Sunday Service	20	21 - 9am, Project Meeting	22 - 6:30pm, MPIC	23	24	25 - 4:45pm Lifebridge dinner,
26 MUSIC SUNDAY - 10:45am, Sunday Service	27	28 - 9am, Project Meeting	29			

Around the Parish

*Over hill, over dale, Thorough bush, thorough briar,
Over park, over pale, Thorough flood, thorough fire...*

Act II, Sc. 1 of Midsummer Night's Dream

The First Church is full of summertime theatrical visions for the next few months, all in homage to the immortal bard himself. First, **Denise Granniss** is currently directing a production of William Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at Salem Academy Charter School. This high school production feature many of the students at the school and is the latest in a series of successful and ambitious shows that Denise has directed for Salem Academy, including *Othello*. Show dates are Friday, Feb-

ruary 10 and Saturday, February 11 at 7:00 pm.

And if you still haven't reached your fairy quota for the season, several kids from the First Church are in another production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, this produced by the Salem YMCA Children's Theater program. Among those hale and hardy performers are **Emma Bassett, Leah Barz-Snell, Jacob Barz-Snell, Luce Brandt, Justin Granniss** (the son of Denise – above) and **Jacob Pini**. This production is scheduled for April.

Our thoughts and condolences go out to **Alicia Diozzi** whose grandmother passed away this last month. She was 102 years old. Rumor has it that Alicia delivered the eulogy at the funeral service and did an excellent job.



From the Standing Committee

Phase 1.5 Note: these remarks were made at the Saturday, January 21 congregational party marking some of the successes of the construction project.

Nearly five years ago we started the process of deciding what work needed to be done to our building to preserve it for the future. We recognized that we are a growing community, increasingly multi-generational and diverse. We went through a painstaking process to identify issues of importance to us all, and we decided on a project that in its very construction would embody principles we hold dear.

1. We said that we want to create access for everyone, and soon all who wish to enter will be able to do so. They will find a building that now graciously welcomes them and allows full participation in all that we do.
2. We said that our youth are vitally important. We have carved out new spaces for them indoors and out, and we are making the old spaces safer. Our children are the engine of our growth.
3. We said that sustainability is a priority for us. We stretched to include a new eight-zone heating system that will allow us to live out our desire to tread more lightly on the earth.
4. We said that we treasure our heritage and want to preserve it. Wherever possible we have re-used important pieces of our old building, and there are new architectural elements that reference our past. Our children will walk past parts of our history on their way to their classrooms.
5. We said that we want to expand our role in the larger community. Through the sometimes agonizing process of dealing with our longstanding water infiltration issues, we were forced to do work in Willson Hall that we thought would have to wait until the next project. The proverbial silver lining is that Willson Hall will be usable not only for us, but for many others. We have now officially declared this project Phase 1.5.

It's a remarkable process, sometimes painful, and always educational. We went into it saying what people say – that there are always surprises with an old building. But oh my! Just ask about it sometime.

Nevertheless, the time is coming for us to return home! We hope to host our First Universalist friends for Easter services on April 8. In order to make that happen we will need lots of help to make ready and we'll be counting on you. But tonight, let's celebrate the beginning of our homecoming. We are the generation that has taken up the work of making First Church in Salem, Unitarian, live on into another century.

Lynn Taggart
Chair, Standing Committee

Adult Religious Education_Cultivating Soul: the nuts and bolts of developing a spiritual life.

Join Jeff Barz-Snell for our wintertime adult education program as we discuss the “why’s” and “how’s” of developing an intentional devotional practice that becomes a part of one’s daily / weekly routine. To sign up email firstchurch@nii.net or call 978.744.1551.

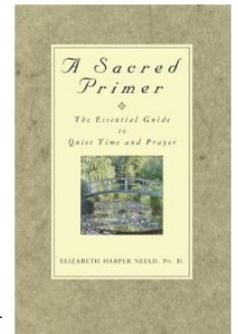
Text: [A Sacred Primer: The Essential Guide to Quiet Time and Prayer](#), by Elizabeth Harper Neeld, Ph.D., Renaissance Books,1999. Available at Amazon.com. Chapters are no more than 8-12 pages and can be read in less than half an hour. Even so, this is a “guilt free” program. All interested participants are encouraged to attend regardless of whether or not they have completed the reading.

Program Schedule: Classes take place in the library at the First Universalist unless otherwise announced

Wed, February 15 7:30 to 9:00 pm	Chpt 5: Creating the Space & Making the Time Chpt 6: Describing a Spiritual Practice
Tues, February 28 7:30 to 9:00 pm	Chpt 7: Coming to Stillness Chpt 10: Living an Aligned Life

The first two classes (held 1/17 and 1/31) covered the Intro and Chapters 1 through 4.

(Copies of the reading for the first two meetings will be available at the First Church and at the First Universalist Society in the back of the Sanctuary. Copies can also be emailed as a PDF file upon request.)





From Religious Education

OWL to Begin in Fall 2012!

OWL is short for Our Whole Lives, a sexuality education curricula created through a collaborative effort between the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) and the United Church of Christ (UCC). OWL has six levels of curricula, from Kindergarten through older adults. We'll be launching our OWL program with our young members in grades 7-9.

OWL is offered in many venues—schools, churches, and community groups. It's based on the Guidelines for Comprehensive Sexuality Education produced by the National Guidelines Task Force, a group of leading health, education, and sexuality professionals assembled by the Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States (SIECUS). Many churches have run it for decades, and we're excited to open the opportunity to our community!

In early January, Deb DiGiulio and Trish Newhall participated in a three-day facilitator training for OWL, led by Jesse Jaeger, who has long experience developing curricula and facilitating programs for the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). We learned a great deal about the program and were impressed with the scope and age-appropriateness of the curriculum, and more importantly, by its guiding values: self worth; sexual health; responsibility; justice and inclusivity. The youth of our church community will benefit tremendously from participating in this comprehensive, humanistic program.

In the coming months, we'll contact parents to set up an informational meeting and provide an orientation to the program. We're in the process of scheduling and planning, and are looking forward to connecting with all those members of the congregation who are interested in OWL. Trish Newhall and Jesse Jaeger will be co-facilitating the program in collaboration with Deb DiGiulio. If you have immediate questions, don't hesitate to contact any of us.

Here is how the Unitarian Universalist Association describes OWL:

Our Whole Lives helps participants make informed and responsible decisions about their sexual health and behavior. It equips participants with accurate, age-appropriate information in six subject areas: human development, relationships, personal skills, sexual behavior, sexual health, and society and culture. Grounded in a holistic view of sexuality, Our Whole Lives not only provides facts about anatomy and human development, but also helps participants clarify their values, build interpersonal skills, and understand the spiritual, emotional, and social aspects of sexuality.

Each level of Our Whole Lives offers:

- Up-to-date information and honest, age-appropriate answers to all participants' questions
- Activities to help participants clarify values and improve decision-making skills
- Effective group-building to create a safe and supportive peer group
- Education about sexual abuse, exploitation, and harassment
- Opportunities to critique media messages about gender and sexuality
- Acceptance of diversity
- Encouragement to act for justice
- A well designed, teacher-friendly leaders' guide
- Parent orientation programs that affirm parents as the primary sexuality educators of their children
- Sexuality and Our Faith, an optional religious component for Unitarian Universalist and United Church of Christ settings.

More information is available at <http://www.uua.org/re/owl/>

In faith,
Deb DiGiulio, Director of Religious Education
Trish Newhall, OWL Team Member

From Henny Penny

Greetings All,

January proved to be a busy month for us. ELL (English Language Learner) students visited Henny Penny to practice their reading skills. They were joined by Ms. Mary Kate, a teacher at Salem High. The High School students read children's books to the preschoolers. We were very excited to participate in this event again this year.

The children and teachers enjoyed celebrating Pajama Day with Pancakes. This was an extra fun special day and an opportunity for the children to roll right out of bed and head over to Henny Penny in their PJ's and slippers. Throughout February, the children and families at Henny Penny will be participating in The Pajama Program. This non-profit provides new books and new pajamas to children in need, many who are waiting and hoping to be adopted. Thousands of the children they serve live in orphanages, group homes and shelters and are shuffled around often to temporary living facilities. Many of them have been abused or abandoned and have never enjoyed the simple comfort of having a mother or father tuck them in at bedtime and read to them. Since 2001, The Pajama Program has provided over new pajamas and books to children in need, nationwide. Check out their website at www.pajamaprogram.org. We are very excited to be working with this organization throughout February!

All best,
Kerry Martin and Barbara Hermann



CONSTRUCTION UPDATES

The following actions were accomplished during the last month of our construction project. They are chronicled, arbitrarily perhaps, by subject:

Celebration...The new radiators were installed and the heat soon followed in the Cleveland and Barnard Rooms as well as upstairs in the Church School classrooms. Since the Cleveland Room is the temporary home of the Church Office, there was much rejoicing.

Communication...Electricians ran over 8,000 feet (i.e., a mile and a half!) of new telecommunications wires throughout the building. The First Church should have excellent internet and phone access going forward.

Fascination...While running wires underneath the pulpit, we discovered a glass "Mason Jar" sitting up on a wooden ledge. It had probably been left there by workers when they first installed our current pulpit in 1872. The year etched on the side of the jar: 1858.

Remediation...The asbestos tile in the basement Archives Office (off the stage) was removed and the whole space was fully remediated. As of this week, there should be no more asbestos anywhere in the building. (Cue sounds of knocking on wood...)

Fenestration...The windows in the addition are now installed including the large main gothic window which we saved and rebuilt from the old stairwell.

Elevation...Stanley Elevator arrived and installed our new elevator. While not finished, (we have to wait for an inspection), the elevator is now operational.

Rejuvenation...Chris Finn is scraping and prepping the metal and wood windows in the Cleveland Room getting them ready for the painting parties we hope to host this spring.

Weatherization...Scaffolding has been set up around half of the new building and workers have been painstakingly applying stucco to the exterior of our building. This is a labor intensive, three-layer process and the newly applied material must be kept above 40 degrees F for a minimum of 48 hours after application. Hence the tent over the scaffold-

From the Stewardship Committee

2011 Contribution Statements to be mailed soon!

All members and friends who made a monetary contribution to the church in 2011 will be receiving their annual contribution statement in the mail soon. If you don't get a statement or after reviewing it you have any questions, please contact Catherine Bertrand, the church administrator at 978-744-1551 or firstchurch@nii.net.

2012 Pledge Campaign:

**"WE MAKE A LIVING BY WHAT WE GET, BUT
WE MAKE A LIFE BY WHAT WE GIVE."**

~ Winston Churchill

In the same envelope with your 2011 contribution statement, you will find materials related to our annual pledge appeal for 2012. Please take a few minutes to read the information provided and then prayerfully consider how The First Church has made an impact on your life, the lives of those you love and the life of the community and make a pledge to support that important work. One-third of the church's operating budget comes from member/friend giving. Without your pledge of support, it is impossible for the church to meet its budget for the year. As an added incentive for returning pledge cards this year, please see the information on this page about a raffle for all pledge cards that are received by March 1st!

The Second Annual First Church Pledge Raffle!

Please submit your pledge card by March 1, 2012 to be entered in a raffle to win one of the following:

- Gift Basket of Wine
- Green Tea Yoga Gift Card
- A History of Salem Walking Tour
- 2 Tickets to a performance of the Salem Theatre Company
- Your Choice of Pew on Christmas Eve!

First Church Directory Now Available

Copies of the First Church Directory will be available at the back of the First Universalist Meeting House. It is also available electronically. If you would like a copy emailed to you please contact Catherine at firstchurch@nii.net or at 978.744.1551.

From the Music Director

It's hard to believe that we are in our seventh month of being the very grateful guests of FUSS for weekly services and sundry other activities. All and all, I think you'll agree that it's been a very enlightening experience and, most certainly, we must be grateful to First Universalist and its members for their gracious hospitality. They have been truly wonderful hosts and we have been extremely lucky during this whole period. Naturally, it's very normal to miss home and as our return to FC seems to be regularly protracted yet another month and another, it will also be wonderful to be back in our own meeting house as well. As we now begin to see regular progress inside and outside our building, it's kind of exciting to look forward to a finished product (whenever that will be??) which promises to be quite spectacular.

In the meantime, we continue to plan and execute regular services and activities and, on the music front, our last choir Sunday went off very well and now we look forward to a new experience, 'Music Sunday', which will take place on February 26th. We have talked about having music Sunday at FC and we hope it will become a reality very soon in the next couple of years. To explain, music Sunday is basically a musical service from beginning to end. It can take many forms, but all in all it's a great experience and the FC's choir is looking forward to sharing it with FUSS.

Michael and I continue to get along very nicely as we share services and occasionally give each other breathing time. FUSS, being a very lay oriented ministry, has a monthly music committee meeting which one or more members of our music committee attend. These meetings essentially lay out a service plan for each Sunday of the month. It has been extremely interesting to see how another congregation operates and a true learning experience. I am very grateful to Lynn Taggart and Richard Hannah for their help in this continuing venture.

I guess that's all I have to say and I look forward to seeing many of you in our church wherever that will be in the months to come.

Paul Madore

ACKNOWLEDG -

Fellowship

Thanks to all those who hosted Fellowship in January:

Tommy Leon, Don Glover, William Henning, Thomas MacDonald, and Tricia Pini.



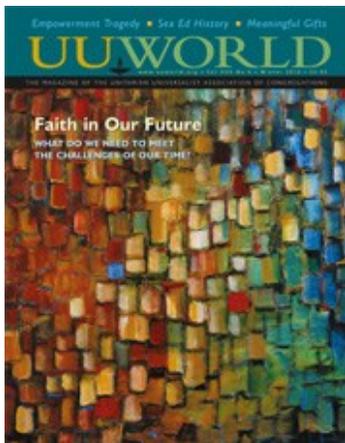
Hosts are still needed for February and beyond. Sign ups available at the FUSS. Feel free to team up with another individual, couple, or family.

Lifefridge

Thanks to the following who signed up to volunteer to shop or to serve at Lifefridge in January :

Ellen Brandenburg, George Brandenburg, Alan Hanscom, Richard L'heureux, Russell Lane, Sara Massari, and Lynn Taggart

For the last several years, First Church has served two meals a month at Lifefridge, Salem's homeless shelter. In 2012 First Church will be surrendering our second-Wednesday spot to another church. We will continue to prepare and serve dinners on the fourth Saturdays of every month. If you are interested in helping with this work on an occasional or routine basis, contact Duncan Cox at coxes3@verizon.net, 978-745-6207. First Church could particularly use more shopper volunteers. These volunteers drive their own vehicles to the grocery store and purchase ingredients from a list. The ingredients are delivered to the Lifefridge, and First Church reimburses the shopping expense.



You've got the whole World in your hands, (if you subscribe!)

Did you know that as a member of the First Church, you can receive The UU World for free? The UU World is the UUA's magazine that is published ten times per year. It's a great way to keep up with the actions and thinking of our larger Association and national community. Plus it's full of great ideas and good writing. To place your name on the subscription list, simply call or email the Church Office. We update the list twice a year.

THE HERALD



A Publication of
The First Church in Salem, Unitarian
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Director of Henny Penny: Kerry Martin
Director of Religious Education: Deb DiGiulio
Chair of the Standing Committee: Lynn Taggart
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

ONE OF THE OLDEST PROTESTANT CHURCHES
GATHERED IN NORTH AMERICA, SINCE 1629

Be Sure to Join Us for These Upcoming Events!!!

Chocolate Sunday

February 12 will be our much loved annual Chocolate Sunday, an event that enables our First Church Religious Education students to raise funds for their chosen social justice cause. This year it is no coincidence that Chocolate Sunday falls just two days before Valentines Day, so plan to participate by baking an item to donate and by purchasing a delicious treat for your some one special. As part of their "40 days of Social Justice" project during lent, the students will be researching and choosing a worthy cause to support. Stay tuned for the announcement of the winning social justice cause soon. You may be surprised and amazed by the passion and dedication our young people have for a worthy cause. So please show your support by participating before heading over to the First Church Open House!

First Church Open House and Tour

Sunday, February 12, 12:30 to 2:00 pm.

Guided tours of the First Church to see the progress made on our renovation and construction project. Seeing in believing. Hosted by the Project Management Team and the Capital Campaign Committee of the First



Music Sunday

Announcing Music Sunday at FUSS on **Sunday, February 26th**. We invite any and all members of First Church who may have a musical talent, be it vocal, instrumental or dance to come share this talent with us. If you feel you would like to participate, please contact Paul Madore (paulmadore@comcast.net) or Lynn Taggart (l.taggart@comcast.net) or Richard Hannah (rjhannah@massmed.org) It will be a joyful experience.

