



The Communicator

the monthly newsletter of the

UNIVERSALIST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF HAVERHILL

UUCH: a faith community transforming lives and the world

What's Happening This Month, October, 2014

Green Sanctuary Committee Movie Night, Friday, October 3, 7 pm. Join the Green Sanctuary Committee for a movie night to build appreciation for the endangered species we are focusing on this year, the African Elephant. The movie, *Elephant Nomads of the Namib Desert* is part of the BBC Planet Earth series. Discussion will follow, and refreshments will be served.

Choir Rehearsal will be held at 9:15 am on Sundays, October 5 and 19. Come sing with us!

Ladies Circle Meets Twice This Month, on October 11 at 1 pm and October 12 at 12 pm. The project involves making mosaics.

November Communicator Deadline is October 15 by 9 am. Articles (limit 350 words, less if you include graphics or photos) are welcome from groups, committees, task forces, and individuals. Articles should be of some spiritual or intellectual depth. Reports on group activities are also welcome.

New Moon Coffeehouse, Saturday October 18, 8 pm. Jon Pousette-Dart performs, and Thea Hopkins opens the evening. Admission to the show is \$20; \$10 for those age 18 and under. Church members receive a \$2.00 discount, in the form of a free dessert. Tickets for this show are available at the door starting around 6:30; concert doors open at 7:30. Tickets may be reserved prior to the show by visiting www.newmooncoffeehouse.org, or by calling 978-459-5134.

The Ladies Circle Hosts Its Annual Blind Guild Luncheon, Saturday, October 18, 12 pm.

MoonPool Coven's Annual Witches' Ball and Dumb Supper, Saturday, October 25, 6 pm.

Day of the Dead (Dia de los Muertos), Sunday, October 26, 10:30 am. The Religious Education program will offer a themed Children's Chapel Service honoring this time of year when the veil between the worlds is at its thinnest.

Pumpkin Potluck, Sunday, October 26, 11:30 am. Join us after worship for this fun traditional pot luck lunch in the Murray Room! Bring a dish to share and a pumpkin to carve. Extra pumpkins and carving supplies will be on hand as well.



Rise Up! is a New Singing Opportunity. The Music Committee offers a half-hour session on non-choir Sundays in the Ladies Parlor at 9:45 am, beginning Sunday, September 28. Easy songs/hymns for all ages will be sung, such as America the Beautiful. The group is modeled after the UU Church which was invaded by Fundamentalist hecklers and used singing as an expression of unity. Feel free to come whenever you wish.

Things Seen and Unseen

by Rev. Frank Clarkson

I knew a minister who would say, when the children left the sanctuary, “There goes the best part of the church!” It’s wonderful to have children and youth in our midst. In our child blessing ceremony, I say that these precious young lives will teach us, and remind us, of the zest and wonder of life.

I am grateful for every child in our community, and for the many ways they bless us with their presence. It’s a joyful sound they bring to our sanctuary, isn’t it? I’m grateful for every parent, grandparent, aunt, uncle, guardian and caring adult who makes it possible for these young people to take part in our community. I’m grateful for teachers and volunteers, for those who drive carpools to retreats and to visit other churches; who make food and spend the night here when we have sleepovers.

We see some of our young people on Sunday before they head upstairs. But there are plenty we don’t see. The littlest ones may already be up in the nursery. The youth who are meeting later on Sunday afternoon. The ones snuggled next to their parents in a pew. The families who aren’t here, because they’re taking a much-needed family day, spending Sunday at home.

This year, ministerial intern Julie Lombard or I will spend some Sunday mornings in Religious Education. I look forward to participating with our children and their teachers in their religious and spiritual exploration, and, of course, getting to know them better. My own spirituality will surely be enriched by these experiences.

When my children were young, I needed a quiet Sunday in church. Many of our parents spend much of their time upstairs teaching, rather than in worship. If you don’t have young children, would you consider giving some time to help out in Religious Education, so these young parents can come to church more often? We’re always in need of volunteers; please speak to Sally Liebermann or me if you can help. It’s a way to nourish your spirit and help others, at the same time. Thanks!

Intern Insights

by Julie Lombard



I went for a walk this morning with my husband down our rural road. If you drive far enough on my road it eventually turns to dirt. This time of year the sounds of chain saws mark time to the coming of cooler weather. Some folks have cord wood delivered while others cut the wood they need to heat their homes from their own property. I love the smell of fresh cut wood and the singing of the saws as they carve up what will keep them warm. It brings to mind a hymn called *The Fire of Commitment*.

Another church year has begun here with the annual Water Communion and the Religious Education’s Covenant Sunday. It’s good to be together again, seeing many familiar faces and some new ones! I hope the newest folks are finding UUCH a welcoming, caring, faith community because it’s what we strive to be and share with the wider world.

As we return to our favorite sacred rituals, I will also be offering a new way to shine in our community-- a multigenerational opportunity called “Chalice Lighters.” We rejoice in seeing our youth light the chalice during worship although truly it is a meaningful ritual that can be done by anyone of any age. My aim is to gather those interested in learning more about our chalice and the sacred role it plays in worship in hopes of becoming our church’s future Chalice Lighters. Would you like to be one of the many Chalice Lighters at UUCH? In October, I will offer a workshop for all ages to explore this topic more. So, please keep an eye on the church calendar to see when this workshop will be happening and all the other events going on in this busy church. Please, come and let your little light shine!

Coffee Hour is Going Green!!

by Libby Jensen

By the potluck coffee hour on October 5, we will no longer be using paper products for coffee hour. This will benefit the church in several ways:

- We will be able to further show that we are worthy of the Green Sanctuary designation that the church earned a few years ago.
- We'll put out less trash.
- The money spent on paper products will be used to help the church in other ways.

How can you help?

- Bring only finger food as goodies for coffee hour (e.g. cupcakes vs. a cake that needs a fork and plate to eat)
- Use your saucer as your plate. China plates will be available, but using them will create more work for the kitchen.
- Do you have any cloth napkins that you don't use? We'd welcome your donation.
- Napkins will need to be washed and returned the following week. Perhaps we can take turns with this.
- We need reusable (8-9 oz.) plastic cups (no glass please) for the children's juice if you have any extra that you aren't using.

Thank you in advance for your assistance in making these few, simple changes.

Join Our New Choir!

All are welcome! We rehearse two Sundays each month at 9:45 am and sing at least one Sunday per month. The fall rehearsal schedule is as follows:

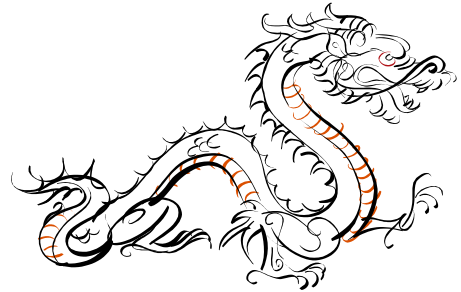
October 5
October 19
November 9
November 16
December 7
December 14

Any extra holiday rehearsals will be announced—so please watch the e-News for further information.

The Power of the Myth

by Diane Brokvist

Adult Spiritual Exploration is sponsoring the series, "ThePower of the Myth," a PBS television documentary, first aired in 1988. This is a six part "adventure." In lively and expansive dialogues, the narrators discuss how myths hold the key to understanding human experience. Myths vary superficially from culture to culture, but at their deepest level they all reveal the path to self-fulfillment, social integration, and ultimately, transcendence.



Episode 1: The Hero's Adventure is about Joseph Campbell, hero types, hero deeds, Jesus Christ, the Buddha, movie heroes, Star Wars as a metaphor, an Iroquois story: the refusal of suitors, dragons, dreams, and Jungian psychology, "follow your bliss," consciousness in plants, Gaia, Chartres cathedral ,spirituality vs. economics, emerging myths, and "Earthrise" as a symbol.

We hope you will join us on November 16 at 12:30 for Myths, Movies, and Minestrone! (called "M3" on the calendar.) A light lunch of soup, bread and dessert will be provided.

From Habitat for Humanity

by Jennifer Hilton

Merrimack Valley Habitat for Humanity would like to thank the Universalist Unitarian Church of Haverhill for its generous support this past August. A dedicated group of volunteers made sure that members of the Centre Congregational Church of Lynnfield, who came to build with us at 100 Parker Street (South Lawrence) August 19-22nd, had a lovely meal on Tuesday and Friday of that week! It was delicious and most welcoming.

October's Second Sunday Donation

by Abbe Wertz

This month's Second Sunday donation will go to Merrimack Valley Habitat for Humanity, the local affiliate of Habitat For Humanity International (located in Lawrence). Established in 1985, Merrimack Valley Habitat for Humanity is part of a global nonprofit housing ministry that works in partnership with people in need to build or renovate simple, decent homes. Habitat for Humanity is founded on the conviction that everyone should have a safe and decent place to live. By donating our Second Sunday collection to this organization UUCH helps good folks in need to build high quality, affordable homes, not only strengthening our community of faith, but helping the greater local faith community strengthen as well. Thank you for your generosity on the Second Sunday of this month.

Caring Ministries Update

by Sandra DeVellis

Our congregation's generosity of spirit has not diminished. Since we have returned from our summer wanderings, it is clear we have not forgotten our responsibilities to each other and the wider world. Eight folks from our church helped out Habitat for Humanity for 2 days by providing the workers with a meal. Their efforts were greatly appreciated. A group also provided desert and served meals at the Haverhill Citizens Center in September. Money for the meal was supported by our own Second Sunday collection. Closer to home, members of the Caring Ministry have driven to 3 medical appointments, visited the ill, picked up medications, done errands and shopping, sent out over two dozen cards for important occasions. Many of you sent good wishes to Peter Cameron on the card which was passed around at coffee hour last month and many more sought out addresses of the ill and housebound. Thank you all for being part of the Wider Community of Care...with both your actions and your prayers.



Welcoming Congregation Committee

The WCC will be observing National Coming Out Day (NCOD) on October 12 during and after worship with Intern Julie Lombard. We hope to see you there.

NCOD is an internationally observed civil awareness day celebrating individuals who publicly identify as a gender or sexual minority. The day is observed annually by members of the LGBT community and allies on October 11; the date was chosen because it is the anniversary of the 1987 National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights. NCOD is observed annually to celebrate coming out and to raise awareness of the LGBTQ community and civil rights movement. The holiday is observed in a wide variety of ways, from rallies and parades to information tables in public spaces. Participants often wear pride symbols such as pink triangles and rainbow flags.

New Moon Coffeehouse

by Margot Loomis

Jon Pousette-Dart performs at the New Moon Coffeehouse on Saturday, October 18 at 8:00 pm. Thea Hopkins opens the evening. Admission is \$20; (\$10 18 and under). Church members receive a \$2.00 discount, in the form of a free dessert. Bring your own mug, and Fair Trade coffee is only \$1.00! Tickets are available at the door starting around 6:30; concert doors open at 7:30. Tickets may be reserved prior to the show by visiting www.newmooncoffeehouse.org, or by calling 978-459-5134.

The Coffeehouse is a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting the creative talents of acoustic performers. We provide the best performers in a friendly, smoke and alcohol free environment, and awesome desserts!

What Happens Every Month

This is a list of recurring gatherings in our community. To make changes or add an event, or if you have a question, contact Lisa Compton at office@uuhaverhill.org.

Brown Bag Lunch every Thursday at Noon. Come join us in the Ladies Parlor for an hour of conversation and fellowship. No reservations needed!

Choir Rehearsal (note schedule above) some Sundays at 9:15 am. All are welcome!

Ladies Circle meets second Saturdays at 1 pm. All women of the church are invited to join this group that serves the church and knows how to have fun!

Lectio Divina meets fourth Sundays at 9:15 am in the Meditation Chapel. This ancient spiritual practice offers a contemplative way to engage with scripture.

MoonPool Coven gathers on first and third Sundays at 6 pm. Led by Rick Baillargeon and Marylou Johnson, teaching about and experience of pagan spirituality is offered.

Social Justice Committee meets third Sundays following coffee hour.

Finance Committee meets first Wednesdays at 7 pm.

INC (Interfaith Network of Compassion) meets at UUCH on third Thursdays at 12 pm to network about issues surrounding hunger ministries in Haverhill. Representatives from many area food pantries and other agencies attend.

Interfaith Special Needs Worship, led by Rev. Wendy Von Zirpolo, is held in the Murray Room on second Mondays at 6 pm.

Hunger Roundtable meets second Tuesdays at 10 am.

Mindful Meditation Practice is Mondays (except Monday holidays) at 7 pm, led by Betsy Robertson.

Board of Trustees meets second Wednesdays at 7 pm. Meetings are always open to visitors; if there is an item that needs discussion, it must be placed on the agenda in advance. Contact: Board Chair Abbe Wertz.

Alcoholics Anonymous meets in our downstairs hall at 7 pm on Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Merrimack Valley String Orchestra meets every Thursday at 5:45 pm while school is in session for rehearsal in the Murray Room. Two public concerts take place here every year. The orchestra is open to all string players. Contact Joy Schuetze at Joy.Strings@verizon.net

Community Meals

First and third Saturdays, volunteers shop for, cook, serve and clean up after this free meal for the entire community. This rewarding outreach program serves 50-75 folks each week. We encourage family groups or other committees to work together to produce a meal! Contact: Kristie Colton (kenozagals@mac.com) or Abbe Wertz (abbewertz@yahoo.com)

Green Sanctuary Committee meets on second Sundays at Noon.

Communicator (monthly newsletter) deadline is always the 15th of the preceding month. There is no issue in August.

New Moon Coffeehouse is on third Saturdays at 8 pm.

Membership Committee meets third Mondays at 6 pm.

Caring Ministry meets fourth Sundays at 11:30 am.

Various other committees meet periodically throughout the year. Watch e-News, Sunday announcements and the website calendar for meeting times for: Building & Grounds/Gardens, Leap of Faith, Ministry, Music, Parish Council, Parish Nurses, Permanent Funds, Religious Education, Stewardship, Welcoming Congregation and Worship Committees.

Church Leaders and Staff Contact Information

Board of Trustees Chair: Abbe Wertz: abbewertz@yahoo.com

Board of Trustees Vice Chair: Cori Thurlow: cori.thurlow@gmail.com

Rev. Frank Clarkson: frank@uuhaverhill.org

Ministerial Intern: Julie Lombard: lombardpottery@comcast.net

Director of Religious Education: Sally Liebermann: dre@uuhaverhill.org

Office Administrator: Lisa Compton: office@uuhaverhill.org

Or call us on the telephone: 978-372-5173

Website: www.uuhaverhill.org

To view the church calendar, please visit
www.uuhaverhill.org/events/calendar

Facebook folks: please visit our new church Facebook page at www.facebook.com/uuhaverhill, and “like” us so church news and pictures show up in your news feed!

And if you’re on Instagram, follow us there so you see photos of our congregational life:
<http://instagram.com/uuhaverhill>

Universalist Unitarian Church of Haverhill
16 Ashland St.
Haverhill, MA 01830