

# The Communicator

the monthly newsletter of the

UNIVERSALIST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF HAVERHILL

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## What's Happening this Month, November 2013

### **Special Congregational Meeting**

All voting members of UUCH please attend a congregational meeting Sunday, Nov. 3 at 12 pm, to vote on the financing of a major roof repair project. Non-voting members are welcome to participate in the discussion. Feel free to stay to hear reports from the Leap of Faith and Sabbatical Teams.

### **UUCH Book Series**

This year's book series continues with Part Two of A House for Hope: The Promise of Progressive Religion for the Twenty-first Century, by UU's John A. Buehrens and Rebecca Ann Parker. The Book Group meets second Sundays at 9 am.

### **UU 102 Film Series**

This year, we explore a diversity of spiritual and religious traditions. These films will be shown on the second Fridays of the month at 7 pm. On Nov. 8 we will see a film about Earth-based religions. As always, discussion will follow.

### **Ladies Circle Program**

The Ladies Circle meets on Nov. 9 at 1 pm. Authors Marise Fraser and Lindsay Cavanaugh will speak about their book *Where We Stood: A New England Church and the American Revolution 1764-1783*. Everyone is welcome to attend.

### **New Moon Coffeehouse, Nov. 16, 8 pm**

This month features Garnet Rogers, a Canadian folk musician, singer, and composer. He plays guitar, mandolin, violin and flute. Tickets are \$20 per adult, and \$10 for 18 and under. UUCH members receive a 10% discount! Tickets are available on line at [www.newmooncoffeehouse.org](http://www.newmooncoffeehouse.org), or at the door.

### **Election Day**

UUCH will be a polling place from 7 am-11 pm on Tuesday, Nov. 5. The Golden Hill Elementary School PTO will hold a bake sale on the lawn from 3-6 pm.

### **Winter Farmer's Market**

The Winter Farmer's Market will be held Saturdays in the Murray Room from 9:30 am-12:30 pm beginning Nov. 2, and running through Dec. 21! Get fresh winter vegetables, craft items, honey, jam, jellies, and more.

### **UU 101, Nov. 3, 17 & 24, 9 to 10:15 am**

If you want to learn more about this church and our UU tradition, this class is for you! Led by Rev. Frank, UU 101 is a great way to meet interesting people, get answers to your religious and spiritual questions, and feel more at home at UUCH. Contact Frank if you plan to attend: [frank@uuhaverhill.org](mailto:frank@uuhaverhill.org)

### **Embracing the Darkness Nov. 6, 6:30 pm**

Join Sally Liebermann for reflection and sharing as we note the fading light and long shadows of fall. At this time of year, people across the ages have welcomed the invitation to return to the hearth; the physical shelter of warm space and a retreat to deep inner space. Bring a treasure from the natural world that symbolizes the mystery/gifts of our changing seasons.

### **Memorial Service for Doris Liebermann**

Please join the Liebermann family on Sunday, Nov. 17 at 2 pm for this celebration of the life of UUCH member Doris Liebermann, with a collation to follow in the Murray Room.

### **Fair Trade Holiday Gift Bags on Sale**

Give the gift of Fair Trade this holiday season: bags include 12 oz. ground coffee (regular or decaf), a package of Irish Breakfast tea, 12 oz. hot cocoa mix, and a 3.5 oz. chocolate bar (dark or milk). Order your gift bag after church on Nov. 10, 17, or 24. Contact: Richard Smyth at 978-469-7085 or [rsmyth64@yahoo.com](mailto:rsmyth64@yahoo.com).

## Things Seen and Unseen

by Rev. Frank Clarkson

One thing that's largely unseen around here, much of the time anyway, is our system of congregational governance. Our Board of Trustees meets on the second Wednesday of the month at 7 pm. You're always welcome to attend these meetings--but the truth is, we don't get a lot of visitors! And this makes sense to me--most of you, most of the time, would rather be involved in the ministries of the church, whether that's serving as a greeter or providing food for coffee hour, preparing a Community Meal or working on a social justice project. The good work of our governance folks helps us to be a healthy and vital church that fosters the kinds of ministries we want to have more of here.

At our annual meeting, you elect these Board members, who volunteer to serve for three years. They're responsible for setting goals and establishing policies, supporting and monitoring committees and other groups, and working with and directing the staff, so we live into our mission of being a church that transforms lives and the world.

Sunday, November 3, brings an opportunity to see our governance in action and be part of it. At noon we'll convene a congregational meeting to hear from the Building and Grounds Committee about our old slate roof. You may remember the report Cil Dullea gave at our annual meeting in June. Every year we spend good money repairing the roof, and B&G has come to the conclusion that it's time to stop applying band-aids and undertake a major roof project.

In our system of congregational governance, you entrust the Board and staff to make many of the day-to-day decisions. But when larger questions come up, it's up to you, the congregation, to deliberate and decide. And this is how it should be--it's your church!

On November 3, you're being asked to decide if you share the Building and Grounds Committee's assessment of the roof problem. And if you do, then you'll need to decide how we'll pay for it. I trust and cherish our system of congregational governance. I hope you'll plan to stay after church on November 3, and be part of this important conversation.

## Intern Insights

By Julie Lombard

I would like to take this occasion to introduce the members who are serving on the Intern Committee for the next two years. These dedicated people are Chair: Joanna Fortna, Di Kinsman, Tom Ellis, Barbara Gove, and Diane Itasaka. Their role will be to meet with me monthly and review my learning and guide me towards becoming a minister. In addition to meeting with the Intern Committee, I meet weekly with my supervisor, Rev. Frank Clarkson. I am extremely grateful to be in such good hands. If you have any questions or concerns about my learning, I invite you to reach out to either these folks or me.

While I am here you may see me working with lay and professional leadership to plan and implement worship, lifespan religious education, do multicultural and interfaith work, and furthering my knowledge of governance of a church through attending various committee meetings: Board, Finance, Music, and Building and Grounds/Gardens.

I bring some resources: experience as a teacher, parent, and spouse, where I've learned to work in groups of varying sizes and age groups and to deeply listen to people's needs and feelings. Through these roles I have gained patience, humility regarding my influence, an appreciation for the power of unconditional love and the potential impact it can have on lives. I bring ability to speak with ease in crowds, experience gained as a lay leader, and leader in non-profit organizations. These social laboratories have given me opportunities to engage in conflict resolution and community building with all ages. I share a sense of humor and love of laughter, exuberance for life, faith in love, and experience with tragedy, grief and loss, since my life's trials have tested me with struggles and with ease. It is my aim to share compassion and show empathy for any and all who are in need of spiritual care.

I have an abundance of gratitude for this community that is graciously hosting my learning for the final stages of my journey to becoming a minister. I feel at home in this warm sanctuary, a community full of caring and progressively-minded people. Thank you for opening your doors and your hearts to me.

# Building & Grounds Committee Proposed Roof Replacement

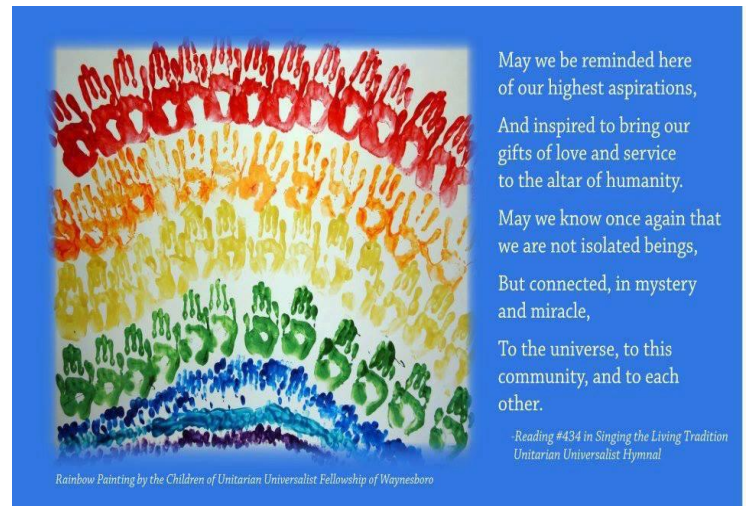
by Doug Rosene

Our beautiful building has a slate roof that is now 120 years old. As slate roofs have a life expectancy of only 100 years, each year slates crack and loosen and each winter they sustain major damage as snow plummets down the two “chutes” in the center of the roof. The Committee usually spends \$2000 each Fall to have a roofer replace damaged tiles in preparation for Winter. Then each Spring we spend another \$2000 to \$4000 to repair the winter damage. Frequently, roof damage causes water to leak into the building damaging walls and ceilings that also must be repaired. Given the steady increase in these costs as the roof ages, we concluded that replacing slate with “synthetic” tiles is the best way to reduce damage and control our repair costs.

Under John Osborne’s leadership we identified a synthetic tile that matches our current slate and should resist damage. It is similar to the synthetic tiles on the tower over Rev Frank’s office. These were installed a decade ago when the cell transmitter was installed, are cosmetically indistinguishable from the original slate and have not leaked.

After considering several approaches, we propose replacing the roof in stages, targeting first the two trapezoidal “chutes” in the center. We obtained four bids ranging from \$31,000 to \$66,000 and recommend selecting a local roofer that bid \$33,000 and will provide a 5 year workmanship guarantee. The synthetic tiles come with a 50 year manufacturer warranty. We estimate this replacement will reduce yearly roof repairs from \$4000 to \$6000 to less than \$2000, saving up to \$4000 annually and paying for itself in 8 to 10 years. Once installed, we would closely monitor the new sections to determine how and when to proceed with replacing other sections of the roof.

The Board of Trustees and the Permanent Funds Committee have both endorsed this proposal. It will be presented to the congregation for consideration at the Congregational Meeting on Sunday Nov. 3 after Church. We hope you will attend.



May we be reminded here  
of our highest aspirations,  
And inspired to bring our  
gifts of love and service  
to the altar of humanity.  
May we know once again that  
we are not isolated beings,  
But connected, in mystery  
and miracle,  
To the universe, to this  
community, and to each  
other.

*Reading #434 in Singing the Living Tradition  
Unitarian Universalist Hymnal*

## Testimonial: “Coming Out”

by Cil Dullea

For me, every day can be coming out day, because in chatting up anyone, my conversation is apt to include words that become a catalyst for the realization of my back story. I can see, “Oh, she’s a lesbian,” cross the person’s eyes. So what? Why bother, or be bothered, in raising an eyebrow here or there?

Let me tell you about my first coming out, more than sixty years ago. I was ten years old when I asked my mother to explain why I was attracted to girls, for this was contrary to how I expected things to happen. I appreciate now how difficult this was for her, and that her fear informed the cruelty of her response. Her eyes flashed with a terrifying anger, and she said, “No. You are mistaken. Those people are defective. We’ve never had anyone like that in our family and we never will. Do you understand what I’m saying to you?”

Yes, I did. I understood I’d been a fool, that I’d asked the wrong person my question, and that my relationship with my mother was irreconcilably changed. I would learn to connect my mother’s attitude with her faith’s insistence that I was sinful and damned. I learned her Church knew how God himself felt about homosexuality, the label for my defect.

No wonder my mother couldn’t afford to be on my side. With one question I’d become an embarrassing liability. My chance for family seemed to be, to that ten-year-old, to deny who she was, even to herself. I

was nineteen years older before I came out to anyone else. Then, taking responsibility for who I am was a matter of survival. Since then I've come out over and over again; to my children, family members, friends, co-workers, grandchildren, and acquaintances. The process was gradual because I was unsure how to do it, how to do it safely, and in a way that minimized hurting those I love.

Hiding my identity retarded the development of my personal integrity. Periodically, I still deepen my understanding of how I am different. Still, there are surprises in how individuals react. Now, I know that it is their business, more than mine. A hero of mine, and fellow defective, Dag Hammarskjöld, UN Secretary General and Nobel Peace Prize recipient, said, "It is when we all play safe that we create a world of utmost insecurity."

Within these walls, the process of becoming who we are goes on, nurtured by love. I thank each of you for that. I believe our acceptance of differences, along with the other six UU principles, is the hope of the world; that won't be fully realized until we can celebrate each other for who we are.

Some people question why LGBTQ folk still group won. Everyone who came out [on Coming Out Day] was not accepted. Some felt the wrath of family members, or lost friends. Not all are safe. For some it will be challenging to maintain their self respect.

My coming out, as with all my LGBTQ peers, is about having a sense of rights, freedom, and justice; learning to use our voice and finding the energy to do so. It's not about the past, except to honor the struggle, it's about how to act in the present, to leave a legacy of hope for the children who'll be responsible for the future. It's about not flinching at raising eyebrows, if that's what might help.



**Don't Forget! Set your clocks back Saturday night, Nov. !!!**

## Sabbatical Team Update

by Kate Drouin

We are pleased to announce that each Sunday of Rev. Frank's sabbatical will have either Julie Lombard or a guest preacher to lead the service. Our team is hard at work on a sabbatical "handbook," which is designed to answer some frequently asked questions. We anticipate that the handbook will be available to everyone on December 1. If you have any questions for the Sabbatical Team, please contact a team member: DeAnna Tashjian, Trudy Blyth, Hal Fortna, Kate Drouin, Valerie Osborne, or Joan Shaw.

## Santa Parade Day Nov. 24

by Sally Liebermann

Our children and youth will host a concession stand during Haverhill's Santa Parade! Please visit them for hot chocolate and treats and enjoy prime parade viewing space on our front lawn. Remember that Route 110 (Kenoza Ave.) will close at noon time; please park behind the church if you are staying.

Our Food Ministry never rests! Join us on Parade Day as we stand by to offload the Betsy Conte Memorial Food Drive. All are welcome to help unload trucks of food donations, sort them in our Murray Room and pack for local food pantries. This is a fun, blitz of fast moving, organized chaos (beginning at about 1:30pm and wrapping up around 6)! Children are welcome to participate with a parent or adult assistant. Contact: Sally @ [dre@uuhaverhill.org](mailto:dre@uuhaverhill.org) to sign up for the off-loading fun!

## Your Communicator Wants You!

by Lisa Compton

We seek articles from committees, board members, staff members, in fact, ANY members! Testimonials and non-time sensitive items are especially welcome; although they may not be published in the very next issue, it would be helpful to have some in reserve.

For committees, an explanation of your charter (who you are and what you do) would be most welcome, especially to folks that are new to this faith community. Who knows—you just might get some new participants!



## From Your Board Chair

By Sarina Ryan

[Editor's Note: This article also appeared in last Sunday's announcement insert.]

Whenever I enter the Sanctuary, I am impressed by the beauty of the stained glass windows, the commanding height of the ceiling, the magnificent organ, and the visual warmth and smell of the old wood in this sacred space. I love to sit here and be still. I feel the presence of the old souls who attended this church many years ago. I imagine the love and pride they had for this church, and their commitment to support each other and to right injustices. I'm sure our predecessors resolved to keep this place holy and maintain the physical structure so that the generations to follow could continue to gather to worship and enjoy the beauty and peace within these walls. What a legacy they left for us!

Now it is our turn to be faithful stewards and caretakers for our beloved church. It is a huge responsibility. I for one am thankful for this and grateful for the opportunity. What happens now, inside this building both spiritually and structurally, will be the direct result of our actions and decisions. Spiritually, we are taking that "Leap of Faith" this year to help our congregation grow in many ways. We have been honored and recognized by the UUA as a healthy, vibrant "Aspiring" congregation. I think our UU ancestors are smiling!

Structurally, we are being challenged by an historic, but aging, building to make sure it stays in good repair. Right now the roof is screaming for attention! On Sunday, Nov. 3, we will come together for a Congregational Meeting to decide a course of action that will address the needs of our building. I am positive that the congregation will make the right decisions. This is a congregation that works together. It will take a spirit of generosity and a clear vision to solve our problems; but we can do it. We will make sure the legacy our predecessors left us will be intact for our children and the generations to come. I hope to see you at the Congregational Meeting at 12 Noon this Sunday, November 3!

## Food for Thought— Save the Dates

By Libby Jensen and Stacey Sherman

Libby, Jensen, our Head of coffee hour, has thought up a new twist for our annual Veteran's Day remembrance. She writes: "During the coffee hour on Nov. 10, we will remember those who have served our country in the military. If you have a family member, or know someone who serves/served in the military, or just want to recognize those who have served, please bring a goody/item (no nuts) of some kind to coffee hour. There will also be place cards available for you to honor the veteran (or active duty serviceperson) you know, along with their branch of service. These will be placed on the coffee hour table. We will also need assistance with pouring beverages and cleaning up after coffee hour."



Stacey Sherman has planned a fundraiser, called Soup on Sundays, to support the operating funds of the church, and to put good, homemade warm food in our tummies this winter! She writes: "Do you like making soup? If so, please consider signing up to make soup for our community to be sold at our Sunday coffee hour during January and February. All proceeds will benefit the church. What you need to do: make 6 quarts of your favorite soup, (containers will be supplied), supply the ingredients and bring the soup to church on the day you are assigned. Soup can be frozen or arrangements may be made to drop off earlier. We need to ensure a variety and therefore would like to offer vegetarian and/or gluten free soups as an option. One soup each Sunday will be vegetarian/gluten free. Sit at the table during Coffee Hour with another soup maker on your assigned day. If interested contact Stacey Sherman, Thesherm@ or 978-373-1227 even if you think she may have your name.



## What Happens Every Month

This is a list of recurring gatherings in our community. To make changes, or to add a meeting or event, contact Lisa Compton in the office at [office@uuhaverhill.org](mailto:office@uuhaverhill.org).

**Drumming Circle** gathers the first Sunday of the month at 12:45 pm in the Meditation Chapel.

### Choir Rehearsal

The choir meets every Sunday morning at 9 am to rehearse, and sings periodically at Sunday Worship Services. All are welcome; ability to read music is a plus, but not required.

**Bag Lunch with the Minister** happens every Tuesday from noon to 1 pm in the Ladies Parlor. Join Rev. Frank and others for conversation and connection.

**Ladies Circle** meets the second Saturday of the month at 1 pm. All women of the church are invited to be part of this group that serves the church and knows how to have fun!

**UUCH Book Group** meets on the second Sunday of the month at 9 am in the Meditation Chapel.

**Lectio Divina** is offered on the fourth Sunday of the month at 9:15 am in the Meditation Chapel. This ancient spiritual practice offers a contemplative way to engage with scripture.

**Community Meals** happen on the first and third Saturdays, beginning at 2 pm. This is a primary way we serve the needy in our community. Sign up in the Murray Room or contact leaders Abbe Wertz [abbewertz@yahoo.com](mailto:abbewertz@yahoo.com) or 978-914-01015 or Kristie Colton [kenozagals@me.com](mailto:kenozagals@me.com)

**MoonPool Coven** gathers on the first and third Sundays of the month at 6 pm. Led by Rick Baillargeon [rick@lifetyme.com](mailto:rick@lifetyme.com) and Marylou Johnson [mldiz109@verizon.net](mailto:mldiz109@verizon.net), the Coven offers teaching about and experience of pagan spirituality.

**Mindful Meditation Practice** is held Mondays at 7 pm, led by Betsy Robertson. Contact: [bets.robertson04@gmail.com](mailto:bets.robertson04@gmail.com)

**Board of Trustees** meets the second Wednesday of the month at 7 pm. Meetings are always open to visitors; however if there is an item that needs discussion, it must be placed on the agenda in advance. Contact Board Chair Sarina Ryan.

**Wednesday Night Singers** meet (it's obvious, isn't it?) at 6:30 pm every week, and sing in worship about one Sunday a month. This choir depends on a steady attendance commitment. Ability to read music is desirable, but not required.

**New Moon Coffeehouse** offers traditional and new folk music and amazing baked goods on the third Saturday of the month at 8 pm. For more information, <http://www.newmooncoffeehouse.org>

**Alcoholics Anonymous** meets in our downstairs hall at 7 pm on Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday nights.

**Interfaith Special Needs Worship**, led by UU minister Rev. Wendy Von Zirpolo, is held in the Murray Room the second Monday of the month at 6 pm.

**Welcoming Congregation Committee** works to make sure our church is open to all people, especially gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender folks. Watch the e-News and Sunday announcements for meeting times.

**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 Scheutze at [Joy.Strings@verizon.net](mailto:Joy.Strings@verizon.net).

**Social Justice Committee** meets the third Sunday of the month, following coffee hour. All are welcome.

**Various other committees meet** periodically throughout the year. Watch the e-News and Sunday announcements for meeting times for the following committees: Building & Grounds/Gardens, Committee on Ministry, Green Sanctuary, Music, Membership, Parish Nurses, Permanent Funds, Stewardship, and Worship.

## Church Leaders and Staff Contact Information

Board of Trustees Chair: Sarina Ryan [smrtilton@yahoo.com](mailto:smrtilton@yahoo.com)

Board of Trustees Vice Chair: Nancy Rusk [namaste\\_1953@yahoo.com](mailto:namaste_1953@yahoo.com)

Rev. Frank Clarkson: [frank@uuhaverhill.org](mailto:frank@uuhaverhill.org)

Intern Minister Julie Lombard: [lombardpottery@comcast.net](mailto:lombardpottery@comcast.net)

Director of Religious Education Sally Liebermann: [dre@uuhaverhill.org](mailto:dre@uuhaverhill.org)

Music Director Claudia Keyian: [claudia@claudiamusic.com](mailto:claudia@claudiamusic.com)

Office Administrator Lisa Compton: [office@uuhaverhill.org](mailto:office@uuhaverhill.org)

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

Website: [www.UUhaverhill.org](http://www.UUhaverhill.org)

**To view the church calendar, please visit**

**[www.uuhaverhill.org/events/calendar](http://www.uuhaverhill.org/events/calendar)**

