



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, March, 2015

Choir Schedule: All who like to sing are welcome! Rehearsals are about twice a month on Sunday mornings at 9:15. Rehearsals this month are on March 1 and 8 at the piano. Lisa Zaleski will be directing.

Nicaragua Lunch Sunday, March 1, 12 – 4 pm. The delegation traveling to Nicaragua is hosting a fundraising lunch with a traditional Nicaraguan menu; Take-out will also be available. Prices are \$8/adults and \$4/children, \$1 for drinks. It will be a wonderful meal and a worthy cause, so we hope to see you there!

Green Sanctuary Committee Seed Sale continues through March. Get your spring seeds! Flower, herb and vegetable seeds are available. Our young people have lovingly decorated the packets.

Mind*Body*Spiritual Wellness Support Group meets Fridays, March 6 and 20 at 7 pm.

Our Church Auction is Coming! Saturday, March 7 at 6 pm. See p. 3.

Green Sanctuary Committee Film Sunday, March 8 at 12:15 pm. The Green Sanctuary Committee will present an environmental film called “Chasing Ice” after coffee hour on Sunday, March 8. Gourmet hot chocolate will be served. See p. 3.

UU101 Class March 8, 15, & 22, 9 am. Led by Rev. Frank, this introduction to the church and our UU tradition is a great way to meet folks and make connections here.

Vespers continues Wednesdays at 6 pm, and runs through April 1. This quiet, candle lit, meditative service lasts half an hour and is followed by a light supper. All are welcome.

The League of Women Voters will show the film “Not for Ourselves Alone” Tuesday, March 10 at 6:30 pm. It chronicles the 50 year friendship between Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony as they struggles to bring women the vote. The movie lasts three hours; refreshments will be served.

Our “30Hour Fast” will take place overnight from Friday, March 13 at noon until Saturday at 6 pm. Please look for ways to support this event!

Ladies Circle Meets on March 14 at 1 pm. for a program (rescheduled from February) about chocolate, provided by the NECC Speaker Series. See p. 3.

April Communicator Deadline is March 15 by 9 am. Submissions from committees, groups or individuals are welcome (350 word limit—less if you include a graphic). Articles should be of some spiritual or intellectual depth, and should be sent as Word attachments, with no formatting or colors, please.

March is Stewardship month! There will be an informational coffee hour with members of the Stewardship Team on March 15. The following Sunday, March 22, is “Celebration” Sunday, when we celebrate the gifts we bring to this community.

“M3” Movies, Myths and Minestrone Episode Three will be screened on Sunday, March 15 at 12:15 pm. This installment is called “The First Storytellers.” A light lunch will be served.

UU Class Conversations Saturday, March 28, 10 am – 4 pm This interactive workshop explores class and classism. See p. 4.

Things Seen and Unseen

by Rev. Frank Clarkson

Over the past couple of years, my idea and image of our church community has expanded. I used to think that “the church” was the congregation of folks who regularly came to worship on Sunday morning. But as much as I love Sunday worship, and as important as it is, I’ve come to see our church as broader than that. It includes folks who only occasionally are with us, but are still part of our UUCH community.

They are folks who want and need us to be strong and vital, who appreciate knowing that this welcoming, caring faith community is here when they need it. They may listen to our sermon podcasts (uuhaberhill.podbean.com) or follow us on Facebook; they may come on Christmas Eve or to Mindful Meditation Practice, they may plan to bless their child or have their memorial service here. I’m grateful for everyone who is part of this community, both regular and infrequent participants.

And I hope everyone in this community knows that we need them if we are going to be a healthy and thriving church. There are times to show up, and a couple of these times are coming in March. Our church auction is a major fundraiser, and it’s a party! The more people who come, the better it is! So plan on being here at 6 pm on Saturday, March 7!

We also need you to show up and say an enthusiastic “yes” when we ask you to make a financial commitment to your church. You’ll be receiving a packet in the mail from our Stewardship Team. Please take the time to read it, and think about how generous you can be. Then return your pledge card to the church office by March 15, and plan to be here for worship on March 22, our “Celebration Sunday,” when we’ll celebrate the gifts and blessings we share.

There is so much good happening here and we have much to celebrate. I’m grateful for everyone who shows up—because in doing so, you bless us with many gifts!

Intern Insights

by Julie Lombard

In January, UUCH hosted a conversation on race. I’m pleased to share that there were about 30 participants. Many folks shared stories from their lives; while some were eye opening, others could make me cry. Voicing our stories is a vital way we connect with each other and build community. What a blessing to witness you gather to discuss such an important social justice concern.

The next week I attended worship at my home congregation in Concord, NH. After listening to a sermon titled “Black Lives Matter,” UUs gathered at the United Church of Christ to break bread and have a conversation. Two different faith traditions were talking about this important topic as together they built a Beloved Community. It’s hopeful to know that we’re not alone in bravely confronting the injustice in our world. This makes my heart sing.

A week later my family attended another unique opportunity. A theatre in Concord, in conjunction with NHPTV, screened “American Denial,” a documentary about Gunnar Myrdal’s 1944 study of America’s Jim Crow segregation, reflecting on racial biases still holding root. Woullard Lett, a member of the UU Church of Manchester, and social justice advocate, and President of the Manchester NAACP moderated a post-film discussion. The panel included an African-American Police Chief, an African-American Minister, and a European-American Professor of Humanities from UNH. It was an honor to be among so many courageous people of all ages and skin colors openly discussing this tender subject of racism in America.

On March 28, UUCH will continue the momentum and conversation by hosting the Boston Area UU Class Conversations Workshop. You are invited to join me in a rich conversation in this interactive, full-day, facilitated workshop meant to strengthen churches and organizations as we explore the implications of class and classism, begin the process of becoming less classist and more class inclusive, and organize more effectively across class and color lines. Contact me if you’d like to come. Your voice matters! Together, we can stand on the side of love and justice.



Caring Ministries Update

Although caring for others is a daily occurrence – there is nothing as dramatic as the last few weeks of record breaking snow to highlight what a loving community we are. Appointments needed to be kept, emergencies occurred and the home bound were even more isolated. Thank you for all you did. We know of trips to the ER, the veterinarian, doctors' appointments, rides to church and elsewhere, food shopping, checking in with those who live alone and meal prep that YOU took care of for others. One member of our congregation, who will not want to be singled out – shoveled someone out, visited one of our homebound members and assisted in getting one of us back on line and in computer communication. And that is just one person. We continue to receive gift cards which will be put to good use at Frank's discretion. We cannot know all the acts of loving kindness performed this last month but please accept THANKS on behalf of all of us.

A less obvious but nonetheless important task is making sure that the Emergency Contact Forms which were distributed the last week in January are filled out and returned. There are additional forms on the Welcome table and any member of the Caring Ministries committee will be glad to receive them. Thank you for all you do.

Green Sanctuary Committee Documentary March 8, 12:15 pm

by Tad Hitchcock

The photography in "Chasing Ice" is stunning, and the message is sobering. Acclaimed National Geographic photographer James Balog was once a skeptic about climate change. But through his Extreme Ice Survey, he discovered undeniable evidence of our changing planet. In "Chasing Ice," Balog deploys revolutionary time-lapse cameras to capture a multi-year record of the world's changing glaciers. His hauntingly beautiful videos compress years into seconds and capture ancient mountains of ice in motion as they disappear at a breathtaking rate.

Gourmet Hot Chocolate will be served and there will be opportunity for discussion after the film.

Our Church Auction is Coming! Saturday, March 7 at 6 pm!

by Erika Lowrey

Our church auction is an amusing fundraiser, a delicious potluck meal, and a great way to connect with other people! So please mark your calendar and invite your friends.

There will be a live auction, silent auction and raffles. Some examples of previous donations are: artwork; vacation rentals; specialty foods; yard/house work; tours; sports and museum tickets; lessons; child/house/pet sitting; dinners and brunches and parties.

We need a good crew of people to volunteer for setup (during the day) and for cleanup (after the auction). Contact: Erika Lowrey (603-362-4686) or toomanysunsets@gmail.com, or Tom Ellis at tomellis.lc@gmail.com.

Ladies' Circle Meeting

by Valerie Osborne

The Ladies' Circle meeting is at 1:00 pm on Saturday, March 14 in the Murray Room. The topic "Chocolate, the Perfect Drug" is rescheduled from February, thanks to the Valentine's Day snowstorm.

Mike Cross, Ph.D, instructor of chemistry at Northern Essex Community College, will explain the chemicals that elicit biochemical reactions in the brain, making chocolate the perfect drug. You will also learn how to taste chocolate for quality - and how to eat it, too! Dr. Cross believes education should be fun and exciting, and often incorporates demonstrations and magic tricks in his teaching.

Ladies of the congregation and their invited guests are welcome to attend. For more information call Ladies' Circle president Trudy Blyth at 978 374-6660.



Second Sunday

by Abbe Wertz

March's Second Sunday donation will go to Waltham Hous.; a group home program designed to provide a safe and supportive living environment for up to 12 gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (GLBT) youth ages 14-18. The program also serves youth who may be questioning (Q) their sexual orientation and/or gender identity. The program serves GLBTQ youth who are in need of a safe and nurturing environment in order to reintegrate back into a community and/or family setting. Waltham House is the first residential group home designed specifically for GLBTQ youth in New England, and one of only three of its kind in the nation. Thank you for your generosity on the Second Sunday of this month.

WCC Introduces You to Welcoming Faiths

Our congregation, through the Welcoming Congregation Committee, has been a part of Welcoming Faiths since its inception in 2011. Its mission is “to promote equality and inclusion for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Questioning individuals and families and to reach out and assist those seeking a spiritual home.” There are now 16 congregations representing UU, UCC, Episcopal, Methodist and Jewish faiths in the Merrimack Valley. The WCC sends representatives to its meetings and has been active in developing programming and identifying resources to support faith communities in providing for LGBTQ individuals. We have learned about each other’s beliefs and visited each other’s congregations. At UUCH, we are fortunate to have a sizable LGBTQ population. At many other congregations this is not the case and our support has been helpful in providing a model of inclusion. Welcoming Faiths has sponsored panel discussions, presented at faith conferences and shared resources with individual congregations. We hope you will all check out the link to Welcoming Faiths on our church website or on Facebook and LIKE what you see and learn. All are always welcome to attend the meetings. We will host the next meeting at our church on Tuesday, March 24 at 7:00 pm. Thank you for providing such a warm community for we LGBTQ individuals to worship.



UU Class Conversations

Organizing for Change: Addressing Classism in Your Faith Community
Saturday, March 28, 2015, 10 am - 4 pm

Join the Universalist Unitarian Church of Haverhill and UU Class Conversations for a workshop exploring class and classism and the role of classism in escalating inequality. Class Conversations helps UUs get real about privilege and access by building on our faith community’s ongoing diversity and anti-oppression work – from race to gender to sexual orientation – and by exploring the little considered, almost taboo, subject of class. We infuse this exploration with our history, principles, and spiritual traditions.

This interactive, full-day workshop provides an opportunity for participants to identify their own class backgrounds and then develop language, concepts, and strategies to bridge class differences. Participants examine the practices of their groups and organize toward eliminating classism and becoming more class-inclusive. The goal of the workshop is to strengthen commitment to social justice and effectiveness in making change both within UU groups and beyond.

To register or obtain additional information, contact Julie Lombard, lombardpottery@cp.cast.net, or call 603-724-0978. Workshop fee includes lunch: \$50, more if you can, less if you can’t. Please note: the registration deadline is Mar. 23.

To learn more about UU Class Conversations, explore our web resources at <http://www.uuclassconversations.org/> or contact Rev. Dorothy Emerson at 781-483-3133.

Your Church Needs Your Support

From the Stewardship Team: Mike Johnson, Merry Newhall, Laura Morley, Abbe Wertz and Rev. Frank Clarkson



Sarah Clarke

This is the time of year when we ask you to pledge your financial support to our beloved church. We've mailed you a packet that we hope you will read and reflect on. It includes letters from several church members, an overview of our budget for the coming year, and a pledge card.



Robert Mohns (with Julian)

This month we'll be hearing testimonials in worship from Sarah Clarke, Robert Mohns and Yolanda Negron. They'll tell us why they believe in this congregation, and why they support it. Isn't that why we're here? Rev. John Wolf, who served as minister of All Souls UU Church in Tulsa, puts it this way:

"There is only one reason for joining a Unitarian Universalist church and that is: to support it. You want to support it because it stands against superstition and fear. Because this church points to what is noblest and best in human life. Because it is

open to women and men of whatever race, creed, color, place of origin, or sexual orientation.

"You want to support a Unitarian Universalist church because it has a free pulpit. Because you can hear ideas expressed there which would cost any other minister his or her job. You want to support it because it is a place where children come without being saddled with guilt or terrified of some celestial Peeping Tom, where they can learn that religion is for joy, for comfort, for gratitude and love.

"You want to support it because it is a place where walls between people are torn down rather than built-up. Because it is a place for the religious displaced persons of our time, the refugees from mixed marriages, the unwanted free-thinkers and those who insist against orthodoxy that they must work out their own beliefs.

"You want to support a UU church because it is more concerned with human beings than with dogmas. Because it searches for the holy, rather than dwelling upon the depraved. Because it calls no one a sinner, yet knows how deep is the struggle in each person's breast and how great is the hunger for what is good.

"You want to support a UU church because it can laugh. Because it stands for something in a day when religion is still more concerned with platitudes than with prejudice and war. You want to support it not because it buys you some insurance policy towards your funeral service, but because it insults neither your intelligence nor your conscience, and because it calls you to worship what is truly worthy of your sacrifice. There is only one reason for joining a Unitarian Universalist church: to support it!"



Yolanda Negron (with Eliot Guadalupe)

We need you, if we are to be strong and healthy. Thank you for your support!

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 on p. 1) 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 9:30 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.

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

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

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.

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 second Sundays at Noon.

New Moon Coffeehouse is on third Saturdays at 8 pm (except December).

Membership Committee meets third Mondays at 6 pm.

Caring Ministry meets fourth Sundays at 11:30 am.

Buildings & Grounds meets fourth Wednesdays at 7 pm.

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

UU Class Conversations Boston Area Workshop

Saturday, March 28, 2015

Universalist Unitarian Church

15 Kenoza Avenue

Haverhill MA

10:00 AM – 4:00 PM

\$50

(more if you can, less if you can't)

Registration deadline March 23

Contact Julie Lombard to register

lombardpottery@comcast.net

603-724-0978

Learn how Class Conversations can help your congregation or UU organization explore class. www.uuclassconversations.org

Rev. Dorothy Emerson, 781-483-3133 (Boston area)

This interactive, full-day workshop strengthens your UU congregation as you explore the implications of class and classism, begin the process of becoming less classist and more class inclusive, and organize more effectively across class lines.

- ◆ Better understand the strengths and challenges of class differences and of each class background.
- ◆ Relate our UU principles to the development of language, concepts, and strategies to understand class differences/issues.
- ◆ Consider the intersection between class and race and other issues of oppression, and the relationship between class stereotypes and escalating inequality.
- ◆ Increase our effectiveness in building strong class inclusive institutions and learn to avoid the miscommunication and distrust that can weaken our efforts to advance social justice.

UUs Get Real About Privilege and Access

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>

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