



# The Communicator

the monthly newsletter of the

UNIVERSALIST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF HAVERHILL

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## What's Happening this Month

### **Parish Council Fair**

All **task groups, committees, and event groups** are invited to host a table at the Parish Fair, **Sunday Sept. 15 during Coffee hour**. Please consider having written materials and pictures of events, as well as a snack for your table. It would also be helpful to have a list of current members and chair, and a sign-up sheet so those interested may leave their name and contact information. This will be a time where members can sign up to join or find out when the committee meets so that they can come and find out more about your group. For more information, contact Nancy Rusk at 857-998-2788.

### **Ladies Circle Meets September 14 at 1 pm**

The Ladies Circle is a dynamic group of women who meet to make connections and to find ways to serve the church. All women are welcome to join us.

### **Parish Council Meets September 18**

The Parish Council will convene at **6:30 pm on September 18**. All task groups, committees, and event groups are invited to be present to discuss plans for the upcoming church year. Please bring a list of your members and chair(s) to the council. We will continue to address the development of the Committee Charters and materials will be made available for those committees who have yet to develop theirs. For further information contact Nancy Rusk at 857-998-2788.

### **Calling all Artists**

We would like to open a new season of the UUCH Art Gallery (in the vestibule). We would like to extend an invitation to artists in our community to display our work. Those of you who have a small ready to hang framed piece (photography, oil, acrylic, water color, pencil, pen and ink, mixed media, no large murals please), please contact Nancy Rusk (857-998-2788 to arrange a drop-off time.

### **Haverhill Harmony Drummers**

This church year's first circle meets Sunday, September 8 after coffee hour (12:45 pm) upstairs in the Meditation Room. All ages and levels of experience are welcome. Bring drums and other percussion instruments if you wish. After September, we'll meet on the first Sunday of the month. Andrea Sweeney and Richard Smyth are co-facilitators of the group. For more information, contact Andrea at [artenvirons@mac.com](mailto:artenvirons@mac.com).

### **New Moon Coffeehouse September 21, 8 pm**

This month features the trio "Brother Sun," known for their powerful harmonies. Tickets are \$20.

### **UUCH Book Series**

This year's book series will begin with the reading of "A House for Hope: The Promise of Progressive Religion for the Twenty-first Century" by UUs John A. Buehrens and Rebecca Ann Parker. The Book Group will meet 2nd Sundays at 9 am, beginning Oct. 13. We will take 3 months to read and discuss this important book (covering approximately 60 pages per month). The book is available used on [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com), or see Nancy Rusk, who has 4 copies to loan out.

### **UU 102 Film Series**

Many of you have enjoyed our monthly Friday night film series. This year we're calling the series "UU 102," and using it to explore a diversity of spiritual and religious traditions. We'll show these films on the second Friday of the month at 7 PM. On October 11 we'll screen the documentary "Making a Case for Unitarian Universalism." As always, a discussion will follow. On November 8, we will offer a film about Earth centered traditions.

**For the latest happenings at UUCH, view the church calendar online:**

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

**September 2013**

## Things Seen and Unseen

by Rev. Frank Clarkson

Last year we started to sense that many of you were not reading our monthly newsletter, so we tried an experiment--we suspended publication for a while. While some of you didn't miss it, others told us they wanted and needed more information from their church, more ways to be aware of what is going on in our community. So in August the Board decided to relaunch our newsletter, and here it is! The plan is to produce a concise and useful newsletter that you'll want to read. Please let us know what you think about this new format, and sent submissions to Office Administrator Lisa Compton.

This summer I heard someone say, "The three most religious words are 'I see you.'" This rings true for me. We come to church, don't we, to see one another, and to be seen? To behold one another, and to be open to that unseen Spirit in our midst. I hope our church is a community where we see one another in our wholeness, in our light and our shadow. I hope this is a place where you feel invited to bring your whole self, trusting this is a community that will help you to become more fully who you were born to be.

Much of the good work of the church goes unseen. Encounters when two or three are gathered together, a changed heart or a renewed spirit--these are not things we are easily able to record or quantify. But if we're lucky, we get enough glimpses of these often unseen moments of grace, so we can carry on in faith that our efforts are for something, our lives do matter. And we are made different by this awareness.

As your parish minister, my job is to be attentive and present to the life of this community and to the life of the Spirit. I hope to help you become more aware of both what is seen, and what is unseen, in our midst. In this space every month I will try to lift up the what I am noticing. Not church business, but what is moving in our midst. I hope this will spark new connections, and that you will speak to me about what you see and sense, in your life and in this community.



## Board Matters

by Sarina Ryan

It's hard to believe a new church year is beginning! I hope everyone had a wonderful summer. This year promises to be exciting and challenging. It's my privilege to serve again as Chair of the BOT. The other officers are Nancy Rusk (Vice-Chair), Sue Cammett (Treasurer), Bonnie Floyd (Clerk). Other Board members are Kate Drouin, Abbe Wertz, Diane Brokvist, Doris Myers, Tom Ellis, Marylou Johnson and Cori Thurlow.

Two great opportunities are going to be our focus for this year--the New England Leap of Faith initiative and Rev. Frank's sabbatical. UUCH had the honor of being selected as an "Aspiring Congregation" by the UUA. We have been paired with a "Mentoring Congregation" from All Souls Church in New London, Connecticut. Members from the Board and the congregation at large will serve on a UUCH Travel Team and Home Team. We will explore our identity and purpose as a church in depth. There are so many great things happening here, and the Leap of Faith initiative is going to help us capitalize on our strengths and identify our weaknesses in order to make our church a vibrant and inviting faith-filled community.

Rev. Frank's sabbatical will give him the time for independent study and a chance to refresh his spirit. The great thing about this is the opportunity the sabbatical presents to the church. The congregation will continue the good works of our church through lay led ministry, service, and fellowship in a very special way. Our beloved church exists because of all our gifts and talents--we are the church!

Last year, the Board studied the book "Governance and Ministry," and this year we will continue to draw on the lessons learned from the book and focus on policy-making. The Board will explore new ways to develop our ministries through committees and task forces.

The 2013-2014 year is going to be a good one! Please remember that Board meeting are open. We meet the second Wednesday of the month at 7 pm and you are always welcome. The minutes and treasurer's reports are posted each month in the Murray Room.

# Reflections

by Sally Liebermann, Director of Religious Education

It is so exciting to begin another wonderful year of adventure and spiritual exploration with our children and youth and friends of all ages! Our Religious Education program offers families opportunities to explore Unitarian Universalism with their children and teens as we study the stories and celebrations of our Jewish and Christian ancestors and look for wisdom in other traditions. Our program offers opportunities for both study and service in our classrooms and out in the wider community.

On most Sundays, children begin church in the sanctuary with their families. Sitting in the pews they will hear lovely traditional and contemporary music from our Music Director, our choir and guest musicians. They will receive a morning welcome from Reverend Frank and other worship leaders and will observe the lighting of our Chalice as they learn to recite our Unison Affirmation. Children are often invited to go forward to sit on the rug for "A Time for All Ages" where they will hear the 'message of the morning.' Then, on most Sunday mornings, children will go to classrooms with volunteers for snacks, reflection, themed games and activities.

Our Youth (those in Grades 6+) often begin their morning in their classroom with their leaders. This autumn they will continue their study of "Neighboring Faiths" and will visit other UU churches in our area. They will have opportunities to assist in RE classrooms with younger children as well as serving as worship participants and helpers on Sunday mornings.

I love the many ways that we work and play together as we practice our 7 guiding UU Principles. Ours is a rich faith tradition that values and supports the Religious Education of its young people. Our church is particularly blessed with staff and leadership that consider spiritual health and opportunity a priority for those of all ages. With such support we are able to offer vibrant programming and opportunities for children and youth to participate in the life and good works of our church. It is a great joy to work at UUCH and a privilege to walk alongside your family as your spiritual paths unfold. I look forward to seeing you soon!



## Notes from your Music Director

by Claudia Keyian

I am excited about another year of music-making at the UUCH! (My fifth year as your music director!)

One of the things that was quite successful last year was having soloists and small groups play and sing during worship. We will continue to do that this year.

There will be some changes to the choral music program in the upcoming year. Our choir, which we are now calling the **Impromptu Choir**, will rehearse and sing during worship just once a month. Dates for the fall are September 8, October 6, November 3 and December 8. All singers, ages 6th grade through adult, are invited to participate. Simply show up for rehearsal at 9 am on the dates we're singing during worship. (Please note that you must attend the rehearsal if you'd like to sing with the Impromptu Choir that day.)

**New this year! The Wednesday Night Singers** will rehearse every Wednesday (as the name implies) from 6:30 to 7:30 pm, beginning on September 18. This group is open to all singers from 6th grade through adult, and is specifically designed for those who would like to work hard, learn new music and improve their musical skills. You need not have had a great deal of training in order to participate; what is important is a desire to add to the musical life of the church. The Wednesday Night Singers will sing during worship once or twice a month.

You are welcome to contact me with any questions: [claudia@claudiamusic.com](mailto:claudia@claudiamusic.com) or 879-462-3405. Here's to a great year!

## Our Administry

by Lisa Compton, Office Administrator

Excitement is mounting! About the birth of a new church year. About the incredible experiences we have already begun to share with our Leap of Faith mentoring partners, and the big ideas that are being explored for that program. About our wonderful Frank's upcoming sabbatical and the ramifications for him and for all of us. About much needed in-house projects getting accomplished. I could mention many more, and as Office Administrator I see these trends and watch them with fascination. It is wonderful that so many folks step forward to volunteer, both for leadership positions and for mundane duties. This, to me, is the mark of a healthy family, and bodes well for this upcoming year.

I have to chuckle about something we discussed, perhaps naively but with full good intention, last spring, in staff meetings, and ultimately at the board level. The gist of it was a decision that given the Leap of Faith Program and Frank's upcoming sabbatical, we would not take on any other major new projects this year. We felt that there was enough to work on, if we wanted to do our work and do it well. Little did we know that just these two programs alone, plus the general needs of church life, would involve a new staff person, a new tenant, a new newsletter, a new policy manual, a new Security Task Force and security procedures, new adult programming, and I am sure we are not done! For this seems to be truly a forward-looking community of faith that wants to DO good things. I am so happy to be a part of it.

Along with all the excitement of newness, the office work continues, especially after the "Great Attic Cleanout" this summer. Several boxes of miscellaneous but important papers still need sorting and filling, which is going to take time. However, the trash and recycling is gone, or will be going in the next week or two.

So, to paraphrase, tongue in cheek, a favorite hymn: "My work flows on in endless song..."

## From Your Intern

by Julie Lombard



I want to thank UUCH for warmly welcoming into your church community as your Intern. I am entering my third and final year of seminary at Andover Newton Theological School. Although I am due to graduate in the spring with my Master in Divinity, I will be learning with you for the next two years.

A peek at who I am beyond studying to be a minister will reflect that I am also wife of nearly 16 years to a wonderful and supportive husband, Greg Lombard. He is an Aero-Space Engineer at BAE Systems. Together we are the parents of two children; Annalee is my 12 year old daughter and Jackson is 9 year old son. You can call them Annie & Jack, we do. We live up the Merrimack River in Concord, NH where we have been members of the CUU church since 2002.

My family and I are avid lovers of the outdoors. We love to ski, whitewater kayak, camp, and romp/hike, you name it. Since I began school in 2011, I have nearly abandoned my pottery studio in my home, my husband still keeps busy building an airplane, and my kids have a long list of activities they enjoy from playing musical instruments to sports and clubs.

As the church year starts up again and UUCH returns to gather together in its own sanctuary, I invite you to consider the various locations you believe to be sacred spaces. Some of these spaces may be the space in church like the sanctuary, other spaces you may find outside walls, and yet some may consider the most sacred space is the space that interconnects all things and these differences are a beautiful reflection of our liberal faith tradition. The sunset picture above is a view from Concord, NH. This vista is one of my many personal sanctuaries where I go to be restored. As the year unfolds, I invite you to share with me where you get restored and where you find sacred space.



## What Happens Every Month

This is a list of recurring gatherings in our community. To add a meeting or event, contact Lisa Compton.

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

**Tuesday Bag Lunch** every Tuesday noon to 1 pm every Tuesday 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.

**Meditation Group** meets Sundays at 5 pm, led by John Lalumiere, [jlalu100@msn.com](mailto:jlalu100@msn.com).

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

**Board of Trustees** meets the second Wednesday of the month at 7 pm.

**Wednesday Night Singers** meet (it's obvious, isn't it?) at 6:30 pm every week.

**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, Wednesday and Thursday nights.

**Interfaith Special Needs Worship**, led by UU minister Rev. Wendy Von Zirpolo, 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. Meets the second Wednesday at 7 pm.

## What's in a Name?

With this relaunch of our church newsletter, we think it's time to consider its name. Is *The Communicator* the right fit? Do you have a better idea? Or do you prefer to stick with *The Communicator*? Please send your ideas to Lisa Compton, [office@uuhaverhill.org](mailto:office@uuhaverhill.org). We'll share your the names with the congregation, and have a vote to determine the winner!