

UNIVERSALIST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF HAVERHILL

Volume 8, Issue 5

January 1, 2012

THE COMMUNICATOR

From the Minister

Rev. Frank Clarkson is generally in the church office on Tuesdays, Wednesday and Thursdays. Friday is his sermon writing day and Monday is his day off. You can reach him by phone at 978-372-5173 or by e-mail at frank@uuhaverhill.org.

I'm not usually one for New Year's resolutions. They are so easy to break! Like the vow I made, while at the gym on New Year's Eve, to stay away from cookies in the new year. That didn't even last until noon on January 1, because of those cookies someone brought to coffee hour!

I do begin this new year with some hopes, for myself and for our church community. For myself, I want to do better at balancing busy-ness with time for quiet. I want to temper my tendency to be so earnest with humor and playfulness. I want to give up trying to fix things that are beyond my control. I want to read more novels and spend less time on e-mail.

For our church, I hope we will continue to do what we have been doing—finding new and creative ways to live our faith, welcoming new people into our midst, and serving those in need. As we grow, I'm becoming more and more aware of how important it is that we be pay better attention to each other; that we practice being open and appreciative of our different needs, desires and perspectives. My hope for our community is that we will practice seeing the world through each other's eyes. I hope that we will listen more deeply to one other, and that we will try on perspectives and ideas that we might be inclined to reject.

Like some of you, I can make assumptions and jump to conclusions, often with inadequate data. One of the blessings of community is that I find my assumptions are regularly challenged and modified by the encounters I have with real people. What a blessing that we have this church community, this diverse gathering of unique individuals. In this new year, may we all try to see and cherish and celebrate one another.

I am grateful and glad to be your minister. Thank you for all that you bring to this community. Blessings and peace to you in this new year!

Yours in faith,
Frank



Greetings from Religious Education

“The arc of the moral universe is long but it bends toward justice.”

—Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Happy New Year from Religious Education! I hope this finds you well and rested and looking forward to a wonderful year! As we return from our holiday break, children and youth will be back in classes on Sunday January 8. During the month of January we will explore themes of peace and justice as we prepare for our annual Martin Luther King, Jr. breakfast celebration (Sunday January 15). Children and youth will reflect upon fairness and equity in relationships while considering their own ideas and attitudes. While learning about the life and work of Dr. King, our younger children will work on art projects that will grace our dining hall and tables. Our older youth will choose ways that they may represent UUCH at the MLK breakfast.

R.E. will publish teaching schedules and volunteer assignments for January-May early this month. Families are asked to watch for communications regarding volunteer opportunities and ways to support our cooperative program.

Our R.E. Committee is planning a retreat to reflect, re-energize and begin a visioning process for our present and future programming. Our committee members are Erika Lowrey (Chair), Colleen McKenna, Chris Shramko, Kristie Colton, MaryLou Johnson and Valerie Walton. If you would like to learn more about this committee and its role at UUCH, kindly contact me or any committee member for more information. Our world is busy (sometimes delightfully or sometimes dangerously so, depending on your perspective and daily experience). In this busy world, it is the work of the church, and our R.E. program, to offer our children and youth a spiritual home where they may seek, find and develop a spiritual center. Our children are busy (sometimes delightfully, sometimes distractedly so, depending on your daily experience). It is the work of the R.E. program to offer opportunities that are accessible, inviting and meaningful. The R.E. Committee will explore the many successes of our program at UUCH and look forward for ways to enrich our programming to meet the spiritual needs of our children and families in this new year. Please watch for communications regarding this process and be in touch if you would like to be part of this exciting work!

In peace and friendship,
Sally Liebermann
Director of Religious Education



Notes from the Music Director

We have had a wonderfully eclectic musical life here at the UUCH this past fall! Thanks to Pam Pearson, Jen Barter, Rick Baillargeon, Peter Cameron, Tad Hitchcock, Jeremy Spears, and Jessica Woodard for singing solos during the worship services. Connor and Aidan Wertz blessed us with their beautiful string music on several different occasions and Ed Zaleski provided music during the worship service on January 1, giving me a much-appreciated day off.

A special thanks to Berklee graduate, Tad Hitchcock, for accompanying the choir on his guitar on numerous Sundays over these last few months. It was especially fun for me to sing some *Peter, Paul and Mary* tunes with Tad and Pam Pearson.

Welcome to new choir members: Jessica Woodard, Laura Christoffels, Suzanne Spaihts-Mohns and Scott Leary. It is a joy to have you sing with us.

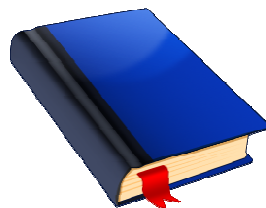
On Christmas Eve, we were blessed to be joined by internationally acclaimed soprano Jayne West. Jayne and her husband enjoyed spending Christmas Eve with us, and commented on how friendly the congregation was.

We have a **new choir rehearsal schedule** this year. The choir will rehearse most Sunday mornings at 9 and will rehearse once a month on a Sunday after the worship service. We will no longer be holding Wednesday evening rehearsals, except for special events (for example, in preparation for the Christmas Eve service). If you are interested in joining the choir, please let me know. No previous musical experience is necessary.

All best wishes for a joyful 2012!

Claudia Keyian

claudia@claudiamusic.com



A Reading Suggestion

The Rev. Edwin Lynn, Minister Emeritus of the Northshore Unitarian Universalist Church in Danvers, where he served as minister for 33 years, has recently published a book entitled *SHORE LINES: Life Lessons From The Sea*. His book is based on years of living in the seaside town of Ipswich and his 40 years in the ministry. William Schulz, past president of the UUA, writes about the book: "What could be better than wisdom lyrically expressed when it is derived from an appreciation of Nature's abundance combined with the distillation of a lifetime's savvy? That's exactly what Ed Lynn has given us and it is a precious gift worth seeking out and savoring." Ed's book is available through Amazon.com.



Office Outreach



Happy New Year! In the spirit of New Year's resolutions, may I put forth some housekeeping matters? Even the great J.S. Bach wrote a cantata based on the Isaiah 38 passage, "Set in order thy house!"

- I have cleared the back entry hall of the coats, gloves, scarves and other assorted clothing that has been there for many months. It will be donated to Ruth's House if these items are not claimed by February 1. Already, "new" items have appeared to take their place!
- Please remember to write "pledge" on your pledge payment check. As I am still new and do not know everyone's giving habits, when I receive a check with nothing on the memo line, I am not sure to which account I should post it. For that matter, if your check is not a pledge but is for something else, please note that on the Memo line as well. This will help me tremendously.
- I have quite an assortment of eyeglasses (all of the drug store reading variety) in the lost-and-found. There are also keys and some jewelry (earrings and rings). One ring in particular is of some value—please call to identify it, and I will return it to you!

Many thanks to those of you who responded generously with letter openers and offers of folding/collating help. Wish List items this month are:

- Four pairs of strong arms/backs to move an unused office desk from an upstairs classroom down to the office, and take the current office desk upstairs. The current desk is really too large for the space, and the "new" one has a more efficient drawer configuration.
- Cassette player or radio/cassette player in working condition for the RE department.
- A couple of saucepans with lids for use in the kitchenette. We will save energy while heating our lunches!

For your information, future Communicator deadlines always fall on the 25th of the month, with the exception of December. You will find this deadline on the website calendar. For anyone who is submitting articles/announcements for the monthly Communicator or the weekly e-News, please e-mail them to me as a Word document attachment, and not embedded in an e-mail. This will avoid my having to type them again. Unfortunately, our e-mail program refuses to communicate with our website, but Word will. Thank you!

Weekly deadline for the e-News is always Tuesday of each week, preferably early in the day.

I look forward to working with you all in the New Year.
Lisa Compton
Office Administrator

Solar Panel Info Night

Solar Panel Info Night Friday, Jan. 13 at 7:00 pm (snow date Jan. 14 at 7:00 pm). Are you curious about solar or other types of alternative energy for your home or business? Representatives from Solar City will be here to educate us about leasing solar panels with no money down. City Councilor Sven Amirian will be on hand to discuss Green Reality, as well as ways to promote solar panel use on local institutions like Haverhill High School. Free and open to the public. Sponsored by the Green Sanctuary Committee. For more information, contact Renay at info@nhgoddess.com.

Rev. Martin Luther King Memorial Events

Annual Service in Memory of the Rev. Martin Luther King will be held **Friday, Jan. 13** at 7:30 pm at Temple Emanu-El, 514 Main St., Haverhill. The Rev. Dr. Gregory Thomas of Cavalry Baptist Church will preach. The service will follow the liturgy of the Jewish Sabbath and will be conducted by Rabbi Ira Korinow and Cantorial Soloist Mindy Harris. Music will be provided by the joint choirs of Calvary Baptist Church and Temple Emanu-El, singing together for the first time. A social hour with refreshments will follow the service. All are welcome.

UUCh Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Breakfast begins at 8:00am next Sunday, **Jan. 15th**. We hope you will join us for this traditional celebration with our neighbors from Calvary Baptist church. Pat Bowe and Megan Shea are coordinating set-up and clean-up for this event. Kindly see the signup sheet in the Murray Room or either Pat or Megan if you are able to help.

Merrimack Valley Branch NAACP Martin Luther King Day Breakfast will be held Monday, **Jan. 16** at 8:30 am at the Wyndham Hotel, 123 Old River Rd., in Andover. The keynote speaker is the Rev. Dr. Gregory G. Groover, Jr., Chair of the Boston School Committee. The church has purchased some tickets for this event; if you would like to attend, please see Rev. Clarkson.

UU101 Class Begins

This three-session class for newcomers will meet Sundays before worship (9:00—10:15) on **Jan. 22, 29 and Feb. 4** in the Minister's Study. Come learn about UU history, theology and this particular congregation, and meet others seeking to understand more about our denomination and faith! If you plan to attend, please see Rev. Clarkson.

Social Justice Committee Event

Corporate Personhood, Campaign Finance Reform and Move to Amend: Saturday, Jan. 21 1pm-4pm

On January 21, 2010, with its ruling in *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission*, the Supreme Court ruled that corporations are persons and opened the flood gates for corporate control of elections. Please join the Social Justice Committee on Saturday Jan. 21 on the second anniversary of this ruling to discuss the role of money in politics, how we can help to change campaign finance and be a part of the movement to amend the Constitution across the country. We will first view Harvard University Professor Lawrence Lessig's lecture (50 minutes) on "How Money Corrupts Congress and a Plan to Stop it" from his book *Republic, Lost*, followed by discussion and action on "Move to Amend and Campaign Finance Reform" proposals. This topic was voted the number one issue of interest by our Congregation on the Social Justice survey last Spring. Snow date for this event is Saturday, Jan. 28. Please contact Demet Haksever (dhaksev@comcast.net) or Richard Smyth (rsmyth64@yahoo.com) for any questions.

Thank You!

Many thanks to everyone who participated in our lovely Living Nativity Service! Thanks go to Colleen McKenna, Phyllis Lauria, MaryLou Johnson and Erika Lowrey for costuming and directing our wonderful cast of characters!



We send a wink and a hug to our friend Jeremy Spears for his wonderful and loving role at coffee hour on December 18th~ he was the guy in the red suit!! Thank you, Jeremy, for making Santa's visit fun and friendly for our children and youth of all ages!



Thanks go to Phoebe Johnson, Rebecca Baillargeon, Noah Zaleski, Abby Katz, Jason Katz, Connor Wertz, Jess Liebermann, Abby Wasserman, Delia Zaleski and Aidan Wertz for sharing their voices, collective spirit and light during our Christmas Eve service. You each participated in such lovely ways~ we are grateful for your participation and so glad that you are part of our church family!



Thank you to Maggie Reeve, Delight Reese and Di Kinsman, who did such a beautiful job of decorating our sanctuary for Christmas. Thanks to the choir for their beautiful music on Christmas Eve. Thanks to Dawn Fortune and Claudia Keyian for leading a lovely service on Christmas Day, and to Kevin Backman for organizing a lovely luncheon following the service. Thanks to Bill Garlington for getting all the candles ready for the candlelight service!

Condolences to the Wight Family

Long-time church member Tom Wight died on Christmas Eve in Boulder, Colorado. Tom and his wife Ginny moved to Boulder several years ago to be near several of their children, but Ginny says "UUCH will always be our spiritual home." We extend our condolences to Ginny and their extended family in this time of loss. You can write Ginny at 930 228th Street, Apt. #359, Boulder, CO 80303.

Greetings from the US Virgin Islands

Dear Friends and Members of UUCH,

I attended a service at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of St John, USVI last month and I not only want to bring greetings and good wishes from them (many of whom live in New England for the "good" part of the year) but also share their efforts to become a Green Sanctuary in the form of a booklet they put together, including the art work, called "Island Housekeeping". Check it out at:

<http://www.uufstjohn.org/smartguide-pg1.html>

Vicki MacLean

January 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10:30-Worship 5-Meditation Group	2	3 12-Lunch with the Minister 7-Mindful Meditation Practice	4 11-Mindful Meditation Practice	5 7-Green Sanctuary	6	7 1-Private Baptism 2:30-Community Meals
8 9-Book Group 10:30-Worship 12-SJC Meeting 12-Choir Rehearsal 5-Meditation Group 6-MoonPool Coven	9	10 12-Lunch with the Minister 7-Mindful Meditation Practice	11 11-Mindful Meditation Practice 7-Board of Trustees Meeting	12 5:45-MSVO 7:30-Permanent Funds Committee	13 7-SJC Solar Info Night 7:30-MLK Sabbath Service	14 1-Ladies Circle 7-Solar Info Night Snow Date
15 8-MLK Breakfast 10:30-Worship 5-Meditation Group	16	17 12-Lunch with the Minister 7-Mindful Meditation Practice	18 11-Mindful Meditation Practice	19 12-INC 5:45-MVSO 7-Worship Committee	20	21 1-SJC Event: Corporate Personhood, Campaign Finance Reform and Move to
22 9-UU101 10:30-Worship 12-Parish Nurses 5-Meditation Group	23	24 12-Lunch with the Minister 7-Welcoming Faith Coalition GLBTQ 7-Mindful Meditation Practice	25 11-Mindful Meditation Practice 7-B&G Committee	26 5:45-MVSO	27	28 1-SJC Event Snow Date
29 9-UU101 10:30-Worship 12-Parish Nurses Program on end-of-life care issues 5-Meditation Group	30	31 12-Lunch with the Minister 7-Mindful Meditation Practice				

**Universalist Unitarian
Church**

16 Ashland Street
Haverhill, MA 01830
Phone: 978/372-5173
Fax: 978-372-3445

Minister: Rev. Frank Clarkson
frank@uuhaverhill.org

Minister Emerita Rev. Janet Bowering

Director of Religious Education:

Sally Liebermann
dre@uuhaverhill.org

Music Director Claudia Keyian
Claudia@ClaudiaMusic.com

Student Minister Dawn Fortune

Office Administrator Lisa Compton
office@uuhaverhill.org

Office Hours: Tue, Wed, Thurs 9:00-2:00

Web Site: www.uuhaverhill.org

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If you no longer wish to receive the Communicator please check this box and return to 16 Ashland Street, Haverhill, MA 01830. Or email us at office@uuhaverhill.org. Thank you!

New Moon Coffeehouse Presents

Paul Rishell & Annie Raines

Saturday, January 21st at 8 PM



Paul Rishell & Annie Raines are a dynamic blues duo known nationally and internationally, with six albums out.

\$20 admission at the door, 18 and under half price.

UUCH members receive a \$2 discount. More info: newmooncoffeehouse.org