



The Communicator

the monthly newsletter of the

UNIVERSALIST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF HAVERHILL

What's Happening This Month, May, 2014

UUCH: a faith community transforming lives and the world.

Welcome Back, Rev. Frank!!!! May 1, 2014.



Brown Bag Lunch every Thursday at Noon.

Come join us in the Minister's Study for an hour of conversation and fellowship. No reservations needed!

Sharing Our Stories every Sunday at 12:15 pm Beginning May 12

This new program will give people a chance to share sabbatical stories with Rev. Frank, and to hear about his adventures. Each Sunday's session will last one hour and is limited to 10 people. The series will continue as long as there is interest.

The Rose Tea on Saturday, May 3 at 1-3 pm

The Ladies Circle hosts this wonderful springtime event as their sole fundraiser for the year. Tickets are still available; see Pat Feller.

The Merrimack Valley String Orchestra Spring Recital on Sunday, May 4 at 2:30 pm

Come enjoy some great music by this group that rehearses weekly at UUCH, and includes some of our own string players.

Second Sunday Donation on May 11

May's Second Sunday donation will go to Groundwork Lawrence's Share-a-Share program which subsidizes the cost of fresh, locally grown produce for Greater Lawrence's low-income community. UUCH's contribution will help to buy a CSA share. For more information, see below.

Annual Mother's Day Plant Sale on Saturday, May 10 from 8am-12pm

For more information, see below.

Celebration of Irma Pasquale's Life Saturday, May 10 at 2 pm

All are welcome to join us for the celebration of a remarkable life. Irma died on April 21 following a brief illness.

UU 102 Film Night Friday, May 16 at 7 pm

The film will cover Part Two of our study of Buddhism. Discussion will follow.

Celebration of Cindy Armstrong's Life Saturday, May 17 at 11 am

Join the family and friends of Cindy Armstrong to remember her life, with reception to follow in the Murray Room. Cindy died unexpectedly during surgery on Friday, April 25.

New Moon Coffeehouse on May 17 at 8 pm

Double billing with folk/blues/jazz singer songwriters Danielle Miraglia and Stephanie Corby. Tickets available at the door.

June Communicator deadline May 21 by 9 am

Articles (limit 350 words) 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.

Keyian Piano Recital on Sunday, May 18 at 3 pm

All are welcome to attend to hear Director of Music Claudia Keyian's students perform. Several of our young people will be featured.

We extend congratulations and best wishes to UUCH member Judy Hastings on her marriage to Randy Allen on Sunday, May 25!

Things Seen and Unseen

by Rev. Frank Clarkson

We've been apart these four months, while I was on sabbatical, and I'm looking forward to seeing you and connecting with you again. You must have stories to tell—stories of your individual lives, and stories of our congregational life, and stories of the wider community too. You've seen things and experienced things, and I want to hear about them. In these weeks following my return, connecting with you is my highest priority.

To that end, on Sundays in May, beginning May 12, I invite you to gather in my office at 12:15 pm, for a time of sharing your stories. We will limit the size of these gatherings to be sure that everyone has a chance to be heard, and we will hold open this space as long as there is interest.

Another chance to connect is the brown bag lunch that Julie has been hosting on Thursdays at noon. I'm going to continue that practice, and hope you'll come, if you're free at that time, and share a meal and conversation.

If you'd like to have a one on one meeting with me, I'm generally available on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. You can reach me by e-mail at frank@uuhaverhill.org or by phone at 978-372-5173 x2. Please note that I didn't read any emails during my sabbatical, so if you sent one that you need me to see, please resend it!

My sabbatical was wonderful, and I'm grateful to all of you who are the church, and who make it a healthy, thriving community. In particular, let's thanks the Sabbatical Team, the Board, the staff, and all leaders here for what they do.

One gift of my sabbatical was the change of perspective that comes with a change of pace. I learned to slow down, and pay better attention, and this brought all kinds of blessings. Isn't this what church is about? Offering a space for encouragement, renewal, enlightenment, liberation? I'm glad to be back in this warm, welcoming faith community, and I am so looking forward to seeing you!

Intern Insights

by Julie Lombard



As I am writing I am thinking of the first anniversary of the Boston Marathon bombings, and this year's marathon has not yet happened, but its right around the corner. Many runners who were not able to finish their race last year are eager to finish this year's race and prove that Boston is indeed Strong.

Have you heard the various stories from that tragic day? These stories have been flooding the news, often telling a sad tale of the people who lost their lives or limbs. When I've listened to the stories from the folks who are healing and learning to walk on new limbs, I am struck with the hope and gratitude that I hear within their stories. A dancer who lost a leg has found new purpose in her life; she now speaks to others who have lost limbs. This woman is proof that life goes on past our tragedies.

Dzhevid Mahmud, a Roma from Bulgaria, was in Boston studying non-profit businesses when he found himself in a frightened city in the days after the bombing. Dzhevid is Muslim and he knew that his name tag would scare Bostonians even more with a name that looked similar to the younger bomber's name. He asked the program he was studying with if he could be transferred out of Boston. That was easy enough, but he needed a host family. My family opened our home so he could continue his studies in NH. Dzhevid spent his days learning from the New Hampshire Organizing Project and his evenings and weekend with us. We took him for a hike in the White Mountains; he taught us about the marginalized life of the Roma; he cooked us Moussaka for dinner. The experience was a win-win situation; my family will never forget Dzhevid. We were blessed by a silver lining of a sad occasion. It offered gifts of grace because we were open to receiving them. My hope is that you receive the gifts of grace as you remain open to possibilities that await you this budding season.

From Our Board Chair

by Sarina Ryan

On January 1, 2014, in the midst of the longest, darkest, coldest winter in years, Rev. Frank began his four month sabbatical. I was thrilled that he would have this time to rest and refresh himself, but I was filled with more than a modicum of anxiety and lots of questions!

How would we, as a church, get through these four months without Frank? What would happen if the roof fell in? Was the leadership of the church prepared to handle serious governance issues, create a budget for next year, and launch a successful stewardship campaign? Would the spiritual and pastoral needs of our congregants be met?

Day by day, UUCH went about its business. We did what we do best: pull together as a strong community. The Sabbatical Handbook and the Covenant were the glue that held us together. Our staff, board of trustees, ministerial intern, committee chairs and members kept things running smoothly, and when we encountered some challenging situations, we knew where to look for guidance and how to handle things.

The roof didn't fall in (okay – a few unexpected leaks here and there). Very talented and dedicated people crafted a budget for next year, and a strong stewardship campaign took shape. Sunday services led by our ministerial intern, DRE, worship team, and guest ministers nurtured our spirituality. The Caring Ministry Team and many of our congregants worked to support and care for several members of our church who experienced health issues.

We continued to take our Leap of Faith journey and provide outreach to the broader community by serving our twice monthly Community Meals. The MLK breakfast was a huge success and our friendship with Calvary Baptist Church was strengthened. Our Service Auction was fun and profitable. Finally, the 30 Hour Fast proved once again, that we have wonderful kids here!

We carried on the good work of our church, and we did it well. On May 1, Rev. Frank will return to our beloved church- “a faith community transforming lives and the world.”

Testimonial to Caring Ministry

by Elaine Russell

I was very fortunate to benefit from the services of the Caring Ministry Team recently following a week-long stay at a local hospital capped off by another week's recuperation from a relentless virus. If it weren't for their help, I most likely would have been without food to eat, milk to drink and necessary transportation to a doctor's appointment. I found these compassionate providers from caring Ministry to be very supportive, most generous with their time, professional and trustworthy. Needless to say, their services were very welcome! I don't know what I would have done without these wonderful UU's. My heartfelt thanks to all who helped me-- who showed the active practice of the UU Doctrine.

May's Second Sunday Donation

This month's Second Sunday donation will go to Groundwork Lawrence's Share-a-Share program, which helps to subsidize the cost of fresh, locally grown produce sold to Greater Lawrence's low-income community through making the cost less prohibitive, providing "FVRx"- fruit and vegetable prescriptions - to individuals with health risks, and providing access to fresh vegetables to food pantries. UUCH's contribution will help to buy a CSA share (or shares) through Farmer Dave's Community Supported Agriculture to be delivered weekly to one of the three Groundwork Lawrence Farmer's Markets locations.

For more information about Groundwork Lawrence and their Share-a-Share program you can find them at: groundworklawrence.org/shareashare

Annual Mother's Day Plant Sale

The 13th Annual Plant Sale will be Saturday, May 10 from 8 am-12 pm. This is a great fundraiser for the church and you will be so happy with the healthy, beautiful shady and sunny perennials, herbs, trees or shrubs that you add to your gardens. So grab your garden design ideas, bring a friend and come check out this great plant sale. If you are interested in helping out at the sale or in preparation for it, contact Abbe Wertz (abbewertz@yahoo.com) or Pat Bowe (patrick.bowe@me.com).

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.

Drumming Circle gathers first Sundays at 12:15 pm in the Meditation Chapel.

Choir Rehearsals (note new schedule) are Wednesdays 6:30-7:30 pm and Thursdays 9:30-10:30 am, with Sunday warm up at 9 am. Expected attendance is one of the weekday/night rehearsals AND Sunday. All are welcome; ability to read music is a plus, but not required.

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!

UUCH Book Group meets second Sundays at 9 am. This year's book series continues with the next section 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.

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.

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.

Mindful Meditation Practice is Mondays 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 Sarina Ryan.

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.

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)

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



Church Leaders and Staff Contact Information

Board of Trustees Chair: Sarina Ryan smrtilton@yahoo.com
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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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