

#### 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 <a href="mailto:frank@uuhaverhill.org">frank@uuhaverhill.org</a>.

I'm so grateful to those who led worship and offered music on Sundays this summer. Our worship services were good and well-attended, and it makes me glad that our vibrant community continues to thrive and extend its ministry in the summer.

Some of you have asked, "Did you do any fishing this summer?" The answer is "Yes--a lot." I fished with my son and daughter, with my best friend and, much of the time, all by myself. Around home, I like to get up early and fish before the sun is high. Out west, I like to pack a knapsack hike away from the road, and spend the whole day under that big sky. What I've learned is that fishing takes time. It's not something you want to do in between appointments, or while watching the clock. It's a blessing to have the time to do something you enjoy, that feeds your soul. For me, fishing is one of those things, but it's not the only one.

I hope our church helps you to be in touch with what your soul longs for, and that we can help you to follow those longings where they lead. Starting this fall, we're going to be more intentional and organized about offering ways to explore spirituality and religion. Sally Liebermann will be devoting some of her increased hours to this effort, I'll be focusing on it too, and Nancy Rusk is helping us. Let me know if you'd like to be involved. We're organizing our different offerings under the heading "Spiritual Exploration." Our intention is to offer a diverse and exciting program of ways to learn, connect and go deeper on your spiritual journey. Look for our Spiritual Exploration brochure in early September and for information about upcoming offerings in the weekly e-news.

I'm pleased and excited about what is coming up, and I expect you will be too. One focus will be spiritual direction, a practice of spiritual companionship and listening. Kimberly Cloutier Green, a UU spiritual director, will lead worship with me on September 23 and our sermon will introduce you to spiritual direction. The following Saturday, September 29, we'll offer a retreat day from 10 am to 3 pm for those who want to explore the practices of contemplative prayer and spiritual direction. The retreat will include time for worship, reflection, sharing, and, of course, lunch!

Starting in October, Kimberly and I will offer a five-session series of spiritual direction, called "Tending the Sacred: Holy Longing, Holy Listening." One group will meet on Tuesday evenings and the other, on Wednesday mornings; each will be limited to seven participants. In the meantime, if you'd like to learn more about spiritual direction, check out the article that appeared this past spring in the Boston *Globe*. The link is <a href="here">here</a>, (http://articles.boston.com/2012-05-06/metro/31587511\_1\_spiritual-directors-international-spiritual-books-christianity) and you'll find printed copies in the Murray Room.

Please remember that we begin our new church year with our water service at 10:30 am on September 9. Bring a bit of water from a place you find sacred, and join us for what promises to be an exciting and spirit-filled fall. I'll see you in church!

Yours in faith, Frank

#### **Notes from the Music Director**

This past July, I was privileged to attend my second UUMN (Unitarian Universalist Musicians Network) conference, which was held in Tulsa, Oklahoma. It is difficult to put into words how thrilling and wonderful it is to be in the company of my UU music colleagues who come from all over the U.S. and Canada. Amazing! Our host church, All Souls Unitarian Church, is the biggest church in the UUA. An African American Pentecostal Bishop, Carlton Pearson, befriended a UU minister, Rev. Marlin Lavanhar, and a radically diverse and inclusive UU Church was born. Pearson, who had formerly preached that many of the world's people were going to hell, (including, but not limited to, gays) experienced a self-described "divine revelation" and wholeheartedly accepted Universalism. Lavanhar and his predominantly white upper middle class UU congregation had been seeking ways to create racial and ethnic diversity in their congregation. On the Sunday I was there, All Souls openly gay Associate Minister, Tamara Lebak, was in the pulpit while Carlton Pearson was assisting in leading worship. Universalism in practice. WOW!

At the opening ceremony, the UUMN president Sarah Dan Jones opened with the words, "Welcome home." To be in the company of so many wonderful musicians who also share my liberal religious views is, indeed, a homecoming like no other. And amidst all of the wonderful and informative workshops, rehearsals and concerts, there was a supreme sense of love and care for each other that is difficult to describe in words. Conference attendees were continually making sure that the needs of all were met. I couldn't help but wonder how different the world would be if we all did that for each other, all the time.

The end of the conference is always tearful. It is so hard to say goodbye to our UUMN family, knowing that we won't be together as a group until next July. (Dallas, here we come!) I commented to John Kramer, Music Director of the UU Church in Winchester, MA, that it is difficult to put the conference experience into words. His response, "It's all about the love, Baby."

September is rapidly approaching. And to all of you at the UUCH, who share that divine love with me, I say, "Welcome home."

Claudia Keyian

#### **Greetings from Religious Education**

As you receive this article, days will likely be renewed with school and sports activities. Our church year parallels a school year and September often marks milestone moments for our youngest friends who may be entering preschool or beginning college. It is a lovely time of year in our part of the world where natural cycles of change are so strikingly visible. As leaves change color and the daylight hours fade, I hope we are all able to take moments to note the changes and growth in our lives and in those that we love so dearly.

Very often parents share that they wish they had been given a UU Religious Education experience as children and that they are grateful for this opportunity for their own families. Grand parents ask for information for their grandkids, and often bring them to classes and special events like the Living Nativity here at UUCH as do aunts and uncles escort their young relatives here for visits. I am pleasantly reminded that our programming for children and youth is unique and cherished by our families. Our Religious Education program is non-creedal. We strive to find common wisdom and inspiration for humanity in many world religions, including the roots of our religious ancestry in Judeo-Christian heritage. We enhance the development of critical thinking skills when we wonder about how and why people search for answers to life's big questions. We explore ancient stories and learn about contemporary spiritual practices. With our children we wonder about prophets, inspiration and purpose. With our youth, we explore belief systems, welcoming the use of reason and the acquisition of knowledge. Together we acknowledge that there may always be grey areas, where there are no definitive answers- "that there are more things in heaven and on earth than are dreamt of in our philosophy" so to speak.

Our church gathers for our Multigenerational Water Communion Service on Sunday September 9. All children and youth are invited to attend worship with their families. There will be quiet activities for children in the Ladies Parlor and parents may escort restless children there at any time during worship. Children can play while parents hear the remainder of the service through the speakers in the Murray Room. Thank you to Katherine and Nick Rand for offering Nursery Care on our first Sunday for our infants and toddlers. We hope to begin R.E. classes on Sunday September 16 and ask that you complete your registrations asap.

I am writing to you on behalf of the R.E. Committee and myself. We hope that you are excited and inspired by the following piece and look forward to seeing you soon!

Sally Liebermann, D.R.E., and Erika Lowrey, Chris Shramko, Kristie Colton, MaryLou Johnson, Valerie Walton and Carolyn Hart, R.E. Committee 2012-2013

Ours is a cooperative church school model. Our program is coordinated by one paid staff person (the Director of Religious Education) and a team of volunteers. This model assumes that the path of adult leaders and young people are complementary and mutually beneficial. We invite our adult leaders to explore their own beliefs and to expand their own knowledge as they present curriculum to our children and youth. In our congregation, most families are new to UU'ism and parents and caregivers were raised in other traditions. Occasionally adults are reluctant to work with our children because they do not "know enough" about Unitarian Universalism. They are heartened to hear that R.E. gives them an opportunity to learn about religion and spirituality through a different lens, just as their children do.

- Imagine learning the story of Adam and Eve: a story of first peoples and a first garden. Imagine wondering what it was like to see the first sunset, to lie awake through a first night, waiting and wondering if the light would return. Imagine exploring fear and faith, hope and gratitude in this one familiar story about the beginning of times.
- Imagine studying the tenets of the Baptist faith before visiting our friends during worship at Calvary
  Baptist Church across the street. Imagine the discussions that follow back in the classroom that acknowledge ways that people worship and how different beliefs can inspire people in similar ways.
- Imagine exploring concepts of good and evil, personal and social responsibility and purpose with teenagers as they experience the world in a more personal and profound way.

Registration for Religious Education at UUCH includes a requirement for parent/caregiver volunteer commitment. Our program is designed to foster empowering relationships between trusted adults and our young people. Our experience tells us that working with children and youth in R.E. is a delightful and enriching way to support your own spiritual path. We wish that we could call this opportunity something other than "volunteerism" because we know that is a loaded word that can invite resistance! We know that parents/caregivers are asked to volunteer at every corner: at school, sports and for loads of other extra-curricular activities. We know, because we are those volunteers ourselves both here and at school, on the field, behind the stage....

We just want you to know that volunteering at UUCH on Sunday mornings (or at the Santa Parade or the Living Nativity or the 30Hour Famine) is a little different. Our core work is to find a spark in a moment— to engage in that moment and seize tiny opportunities for great discussion and reflection. We want you to know that our work here includes learning about prophets and kings, words and ideas. We want you to know that our work here includes quiet time and meditation and sometimes really fun meetings and workshops. We want you to know that we do this work because even when we're tired and the children are cranky and morning comes too early— there is a spark waiting in a moment and the juice is cold and the Cheezits are waiting. We want you to know that we've found some sparks and that we've learned a lot. We want you to know that there are sparks waiting for you too. If you have not done so already, kindly complete your R.E. Registration and deliver it to the office. Please see Sally or any member of the R.E. Committee with questions or for more information.

#### Office Outreach (office@uuhaverhill.org)

As keeper of the calendar, I am overwhelmed at what a busy place this is going to be this year! To avoid conflicts, if your committee needs to place an event on the calendar, please get it to me as far in advance as possible— we have already hit upon some conflicts. Or better still, check the calendar function on our website (<a href="www.uuhaverhill.org">www.uuhaverhill.org</a>) to see if your time frame is free. You will find it down the left hand side of the home page, under "Events at UUCH." We can often accommodate two or even three events/meetings at the same time depending on their space requirements, but not always.

There still seems to be some confusion about the purposes of our three publications, as most of the requests I receive are to "put it in the Communicator." To review: the weekly Order of Service is just that—events happening that Sunday and the following week (printed only, although it can be emailed upon request). The weekly e-News contains brief announcements about upcoming events, save the dates, deadlines, and other church news (electronic only). The monthly Communicator is intended for longer articles and reports, and not for notices of meetings (electronic and snail mail for those who wish it). I hope this helps.

Without our beloved Kevin, who faithfully helped in the office each week, I may be calling for office elves from time to time. Thank you in advance for your help! Although it was fairly quiet here this summer, there still were several elves in attendance— wait until you see Sally's new office (thanks, Charlie and Sally!), and the improved landscaping (thanks, Scott!), and hopefully you will notice some improved organization in both Frank's and my offices....

Lisa Compton
Office Administrator

#### **UUCH Staff and Board FY 2012-2013**

Sarina Ryan	Chair 2014	smrtilton@yahoo.com	603-382-3605
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Diane Brokvist	2014	thirdstep2@hotmail.com	978-374-5373
Ed Zaleski	2013	edwardazaleski@gmail.com	603-819-1665
Doris Myers	2013	JUNQERTWO@Aol.com	978-769-5245
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Sally Liebermann	Director of R. E.	dre@uuhaverhill.org	978-372-5173 x3
Claudia Keyian	Director of Music	claudia@claudiamusic.com	978-462-3405 x4

#### **UUCH Committee and Event Chairs 2012-13**

[Editor's note: This article was requested for publication by Board Chair, Sarina Ryan, to inform the congregation of changes. If any names or titles are not correct, please contact the office so we may correct our records. Thanks!]

Committees

**Board of Trustees** Sarina Ryan, Chair; Nancy Rusk, Vice Chair

Building & Grounds

Charged with keeping track of the way the building systems are functioning and the way the grounds

look. Many volunteers help with a variety of tasks.

Committee on Ministry Di Kinsman, DeAnna Tashiian

Finance & Administration TBD

Green Sanctuary Richard Smyth

> Works to institute/maintain environmentally sustainable polices/practices in the life and work of the congregation and its individual members. It creates activities in four areas of church life: worship,

religious education, social/environmental justice and sustainable living.

Music Tad Hitchcock

> Supports the Music Director in making music in all its myriad forms available to the congregation and community and, through this universal language, helping make the world more peaceful and just.

Membership **TBD** 

Parish Nurses Maggie Reeve Permanent Funds Richard Smyth

> Manages all invested funds of the church and all future property received by bequest or otherwise as a Permanent Fund, and makes a report of every investment's yearly income to the Annual Meeting.

Religious Education Erika Lowrey

> Supports the Director of R.E. to develop, provide and coordinate positive, meaningful programming for our children and youth. It also hosts numerous annual events including the Pumpkin Potluck, Living Nativity, Veggie Café, and 30Hour Famine. Many members are also classroom teachers.

Social Justice Demet Haksever

> Works to make our church a force for positive social change in our community and beyond, supporting our UU principles for a more just, equitable, peaceful and compassionate society.

Stewardship Megan Shea

**TBD** Welcoming Congregation

> An official designation of the UUA that recognizes that our congregation welcomes and affirms LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, transgender and questioning) individuals as valued members of the church and wider community. It also plans activities and educational opportunities for this purpose.

**Bob Johnson** Worship

> Supports the minister in providing meaningful worship services. It is responsible for other worshiprelated activities, including ushers, flowers, and coffee hour.

#### **Events & Task Forces**

Circle Dinners Pat Spencer Coffee Hour Libby Jensen

Community Meals Abbe Wertz, Kristie Colton

> Serves meals first and third Saturdays year round in the basement; usually 25-50 people are served. This volunteer-based program involves shopping, cooking, serving and cleaning up the meal It embodies our commitment to "Love is the doctrine of this church...and service is our prayer."

Fair Trade Coffee DeAnna Tashjian

**Ladies Circle** Trudy Blyth, President, Pat Feller, Vice President

Open to all women of the church, it has served a supporting role to the church for over 100 years, providing outreach to homebound members, providing flowers, coordinating receptions, and raising funds for maintenance and beautification needs.

MLK Breakfast Tom Ellis, Pat Bowe

Pot Luck Suppers TBD

Plant Sale Abbe Wertz, Patrick Bowe

Rose Tea Pat Feller

Plans, organizes and hosts the Rose Tea, the sole fundraiser of the Ladies Circle.

Service Auction Maureen Schofield, Erika Lowrey
Small Group Ministry Frank Clarkson, Abbe Wertz

#### **Important News from the Covenant Committee**

The UU Church of Haverhill has a covenantal tradition. We open each worship service with a unison affirmation which guides us spiritually. In that spirit the UU Church of Haverhill has created a Congregational Covenant which articulates how we intend to be in community together. The Congregational Covenant was introduced in the Spring of 2011. It has appeared at times throughout the past church year.

We are now in the process of "trying on" this covenant. The goal is to formally adopt a covenant that "fits." In that spirit the covenant will be made available for everyone to see and reflect upon. Most important we need to know if it "fits." We need your comments as we step into a new stage in our growth as UU Church of Haverhill. Please see Tom Ellis, Nancy Rusk, Betsy Robertson or Megan Shea with any comments or ideas.

#### Remember the Hungry

The UUCH does great things within our own Haverhill community and globally to fight hunger. To acknowledge this and to continue our fight against hunger we will be having occasional intentionally simple coffee hours (which would include coffee, tea, and a small amount of food) with the theme of "We Remember the Hungry." Our temporary hunger may serve as an empathy building experience and will bring awareness to the services that UUCH provides regularly to those who experience hunger on a daily basis.

Our first such event will be on Sunday September 30th. At this coffee hour there will be a basket to accept donations and also an area to donate canned goods for the food pantry or paper goods for use with Community Meals. We thank you in advance for your thoughtfulness and generosity every day and particularly on the "Remember the Hungry" Sunday

#### **Social Justice Committee Update**

The SJC of UU of Haverhill is pleased to announce that we achieved the goal of putting on the ballot the question regarding the personhood of corporations in politics and limiting the influence of big money. We received certification that the question will be on ballot in Haverhill (including Bradford) in the November elections. We are grateful to our congregation for the support of the SJC and would like to thank all the members and friends of our church for helping with this effort and signing the petition.

The SJC started working on the Move to Amend last January with an educational event on the second anniversary of Citizens United. In the following months, SJC members attended follow-up meetings at UU Church of Newburyport and a forum on corporate personhood. We started collecting signatures in late May from our Church members and from the residents of Haverhill at several locations, including in front of the post office, library, Farmer's Market and supermarkets. We also reached out and joined forces with several volunteers and groups, including Common Cause, the League of Women Voters and our friends from various organizations and churches in this nonpartisan effort to restore our democracy.

As a result, we jointly collected more than 500 signatures in various districts of Haverhill in about a month! We met new people, worked with other groups, and learned a lot during our discussions with people about their perspectives on this issue. More importantly, we took the first important step in order to increase awareness in our area that the election campaign system should be reformed for us to have true democracy. We believe that our work was consistent with the 5<sup>th</sup> UU Principle that asks us to affirm and promote "The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large." Thank you all very much again!

# September 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Community Meals 2:30-5:30pm
2 NO WORSHIP SERVICE TODAY Meditation Group 5pm MoonPool Coven 6pm	3 Mindful Medi- tation Prac- tice 7pm	4	5 Choir Potluck & Rehearsal 6pm Men's Spiritu- ality Group 6:30pm	6 Election Day 6:30 am-11pm Private Wedding Rehearsal 7pm	7 Private Wed- ding 6 pm	8
9 Choir 9 am Sunday Worship 10:30am Meditation Group 5pm	10 Mindful Medi- tation Prac- tice 7pm The Artists Way 7pm	11	12 Staff Meeting 10:30-12 Board Meeting 7pm	MVSO Rehearsal 5:45-8:45pm GSC Meeting 7pm	14 Film Screening 7 pm	15 Community Meals 2:30-5:30pm New Moon Coffeehouse 8pm
Choir 9 am Sunday Worship 10:30am Welcome Back Pot Luck 11:30am	17 Mindful Meditation Practice 7pm The Artists Way 7pm	18	19	20 MVSO Rehearsal 5:45-8:45pm WCC Meeting 7pm	21 Board-Staff Dinner 6 pm	22 Board Retreat All Day Ladies Circle Pot Luck 12pm
23 Choir 9am Sunday Worship 10:30am SJC 12pm Meditation Group 5pm	24 Mindful Meditation Practice 7pm The Artists Way 7pm	25 Communicator deadline 9am	26 Staff Meeting 10:30-12 B&G Meeting 7pm	27 MVSO Rehearsal 5:45-8:45pm	28	29 Spiritual Di- rection Retreat 10-3
30 Choir 9am Sunday Worship 10:30am Meditation Group 5pm						

### Universalist Unitarian Church of Haverhill

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Minister Emerita Rev. Janet Bowering

**Director of Religious Education:** 

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Music Director Claudia Keyian

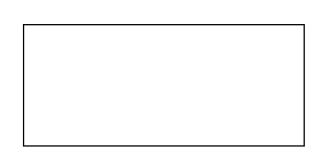
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Office Hours: Tue, Wed, Thurs 9:00-2:00

Web Site: www.uuhaverhill.org



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 The Reverend Robert Jones, Sr.

Saturday, September 15th at 8 PM





Rev. Jones is a blues singer and Baptist minister. He uses folk, blues, spirituals and other American Roots music to champion the beauty of our shared culture. Local folk legend **Geoff Bartley** opens the evening. \$20 admission at the door, 18 and under half price.

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