



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, January, 2015

Mind*Body*Spiritual Wellness Support Group meets Fridays, January 9 and 16 at 7 pm in the Murray Room.

“A Year to Live” Study Groups will meet Sunday, January 4 at 12 pm, and Tuesday, January 6 at 7 pm.

Choir Schedule: All who like to sing are welcome to join the choir. Rehearsals are approximately twice a month on Sunday mornings at 9:15, and the choir sings at least once a month. Rehearsals this month are on January 4 and 11.

Ladies Circle Meets on January 10 at 1 pm. for a pot luck luncheon and book discussion. All women of the church are welcome to attend. Hostesses are Trudy Blyth and Maureen Schofield.

Our “Soup on Sundays” Fundraiser begins January 11. Following coffee hour, purchase your soup to go. There will be at least two varieties available each week, including vegetarian and gluten-free.

Myths, Movies and Minestrone (“M3”) will present the second film in this PBS series on Sunday, January 11 at 12:15. This installment is called *The Message of the Myth*, and it deals with the beginnings of myths and the value they have today. A light lunch will be served.

February Communicator Deadline is January 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.

Martin Luther King Sunday is January 18. It begins with breakfast at 8 am in our downstairs dining room. We join with our neighbors across the street at Calvary Baptist Church in this popular annual remembrance. Our regular worship service follows at 10:30 am.

Game Night for all ages on Saturday, January 31 from 4-8 pm. Bring your favorite game(s) and have fun!



Basanta and Binita Rai, refugees from Bhutan
See Intern Insights article on p.2



The Bhutanese Flag

Things Seen and Unseen

by Rev. Frank Clarkson

These widely-quoted words by the Rev. Howard Thurman, are just right for these days:

"When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:
To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among people,
To make music in the heart."

The work of Christmas is the work we are about in this church. And not just us, of course, it is the work of people of faith and good will the world over--to help those in need, to increase peace and understanding, to promote healing and reconciliation, to make our world more just.

As we begin a new year, it's a good time to ask yourself, "What can I do to help someone else? How am I called to serve?"

The seminary I attended had as its purpose to form leaders "to serve and advance God's mission of justice, compassion and reconciliation." The assertion is that God is on the side of justice. Our Unitarian forebear, Theodore Parker put it this way: "I do not pretend to understand the moral universe; the arc is a long one, my eye reaches but little ways; I cannot calculate the curve and complete the figure by the experience of sight; I can divine it by conscience. And from what I see I am sure it bends towards justice."

Our worship theme for January is "justice." We celebrate the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s life and ministry because of the ways he served the cause of justice. Though things are better than they were when Dr. King was alive, is there any doubt that, when it comes to racial justice, we still have a long way to go? "The time is always ripe to do right," Dr. King wrote from Birmingham Jail. How might we carry on his work, in this place and time?

Intern Insights

by Julie Lombard

In January, I welcome the arrival of Justice as our worship theme. There are many ways to explore justice and the perspective I will be sharing will be from my years of work resettling refugees. Welcoming immigrants is one way we can answer the call for justice. Insiders seldom know the challenges immigrants have upon their arrival. Refugees come with special needs; sometimes with little education and few belongings.

On Sunday, January 4 I welcome you to hear Binita's immigration story at 12:15 pm. Binita is a junior at Colby Sawyer College who became a U.S. citizen this September. Hear how she was born without a country of origin and how she relocated to NH from a Bhutanese Refugee Camp in Nepal. Hear how a church helped her family feel welcomed in this strange new land and gave her the hope to be the first in her family to graduate from high school and go off to college. Her spirit is contagious and that she continues to find joy in her new life is inspirational.

On Sunday, January 11th Binita's younger sister, Basanta, will come and perform dancing from their culture during our time for all ages and I will preach about how working with their family changed my life. As immigration reform is being debated across our country, hear how immigration impacted one community outside of Washington. President Barack Obama said, "What makes someone American isn't just blood or birth but allegiance to our founding principles and faith in the idea that anyone- from anywhere- can write the next chapter of our story."

If Binita and Basanta are examples of the authors of the next chapter of our story, they will surely make you one proud American. These sisters are leaders for their family and for us. They prove anything is possible. Please join us, brave the cold of January to hear their warm story which could thaw a frozen heart. Their journey is miraculous and soon it will lead them to your church door. Welcome these sisters and prepare yourself for the beauty of Binita and Basanta.

[Editor's note: See a photograph of Binita and Basanta on p.1]

Note from the Board of Trustees Chair

by Abbe Wertz

January marks the half way point for this year's Board of Trustees term and it's time to pause for thanks. First off, I'd like to thank Tom Ellis who spent the last year and a half on the BOT and last month chose to step off which he did in a loving, responsible and honest way. I also want to thank all the BOT members who have been quietly working behind the scenes this year to keep the church running smoothly. We have four new members this year and they have brought a wonderful new energy to the BOT and to the church. I am very grateful for all of the BOT members' willingness to serve. They take time out of busy lives to dig in to the sometimes not-so-glamorous details of church life, and I am so amazed at how this group embraces all issues with love and care. UUCH is blessed to have a joyful, dedicated and loving group of people leading us each year.

As this church year goes on it has become clear that this year is one of "clarification." We spent the first few years of Rev. Frank's time here healing and growing spiritually which has been wonderful and necessary. Last year, a large focus of the BOT was to facilitate a smooth sabbatical experience for Frank and for the church, which was also wonderful and necessary. Last year's Leap of Faith initiative encouraged us to focus on where we are going and what we want to look like. Part of that work brought us to this year's clarification work- what do we need financially, physically, spiritually and how can we get there. It's good work, done by many, and necessary to allow UUCH to continue to flourish: we are preparing the soil in order to have future seasons of growth and beauty.

I have always felt blessed to be a part of this church; now after spending almost three years on the BOT, I realize that the blessing comes with a large amount of gratitude. Gratitude for the work that was done and for the work yet to be done. This is a blessed building, a blessed group of people, and a blessed community. Thank you to all those who are part of it.

THANK YOU!

Green Sanctuary Committee News

by Emily Hitchcock

The Green Sanctuary Committee is having its second annual Seed Sale Fundraiser! We have created beautiful decorations for the seed packets with the youth! Sales will begin February 1 after the service. We have added many new types of seeds this year. We will sell herbs, flowers, and vegetables, including two varieties of tomatoes! If anyone would like to participate with the seed sale project, the Green Sanctuary Committee is always looking to welcome new members. Our next official meeting is on January 11 right after the service. Please contact Tad Hitchcock at tadhitchcock55@gmail.com with any questions or suggestions.



Martin Luther King Breakfast News

by Pat Bowe and Tom Ellis

The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Annual Breakfast Committee is in need of volunteers to help make this breakfast with our friends from Calvary Baptist Church a success. The breakfast is held on January 18th at 8:00 am. We need people on Saturday, the night before, for set up. Also, we are looking for folks to be greeters, to serve the food and finally, to help with the cleanup after the breakfast. Look for a sign up sheet in the Murray Room, or you can contact Pat Bowe or Tom Ellis at (978) 372-2284.

New Moon Coffeehouse

Joe Crookston & The BlueBird Jubilee perform at the New Moon Coffeehouse on Saturday, January 17 at 8:00 pm. Haverhill native Ari Jacobson opens the evening. Admission to is \$20; \$10 for those ages 18 and under. Tickets for this show are available at the door starting around 6:30; doors open at 7:30. Tickets may be reserved prior to the show by visiting www.newmooncoffeehouse.org, or by calling 978-459-5134. UU members receive one free dessert (a \$2.00 value) when they purchase a ticket to the show.

From Ithaca, NY, Joe Crookston & The BlueBird Jubilee, with guitarist Peter Glanville, pick and twist their way through sonically lush sets of Joe Crookston originals. It's a high energy show full of story songs, fingerpicking stomping rhythms and a deep well of musical tradition and creativity. Crookston was awarded Album of the Year by the International Folk Alliance and received a songwriting grant from the Rockefeller Foundation. Together Joe and Peter have wowed full houses at festivals and performing arts centers across the county.

Myths, Movies and Minestrone

by Diane Brokvist

The Message of the Myth

The second episode of the PBS series “The Power of the Myth” will be shown on Sunday, January 11 at 12:15 pm. Called “The Message of the Myth,” this episode explores how, at their deepest level, myths teach us how to live with ourselves, with others, and with the mystery at the heart of life.

“People say that we’re all seeking a meaning for life. I don’t think that’s what we’re really seeking. I think that what we’re seeking is an experience of being alive, so that our life experiences on the purely physical plane will have resonances within our own innermost being and reality, so that we actually feel the rapture of being alive.”

Come join us and listen to the discussion of two remarkable men, Joseph Campbell and Bill Moyers, talk about the beginnings of myths and the value they have today. Discussion will follow, and a light lunch will be served.



Coming of Age youth and leaders at dinner together in December.



This year our Fleece Hats Project produced 206 creative, colorful hats to keep folks warm this winter!



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, 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 on 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.

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

Church Leaders and Staff Contact Information

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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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