

# The Call



*The mission of The Call is to inform, inspire, and build community.*

*Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the Upper Valley -Different People, Different Beliefs, One Faith / April 2013*

## President's Message

*By Cappy Nunlist*

In mid-March, my entire family came from New Hampshire, Miami, Seattle and the island of Kauai for a week of skiing in Colorado. It wasn't easy for us to get together. Cabot and Eva brought 16-month old Ethan who was not particular fond of planes, high altitude or snow. Kimberly flew through several time zones and Corey was only able to come for two days. We all came for the skiing – but we mostly came for family, because emails and phone calls are a poor substitute for hugs and shared play, food, and laughter. There were moments of stress – it was a very small, two-bedroom condo. What would we do for dinner? Who would cook, do dishes? Who would watch Ethan while the others skied? And while we are politically almost completely compatible, we could turn the slightest shade of disagreement into an argument. But that is what families do, who they are. And when we parted, we were already making plans for our next reunion.

In the next two months, our church family will have numerous opportunities to get together to do what families do – and no one has to get on a plane. At the numerous Pie and Coffee events sponsored by our Stewardship Committee, we will discuss our budget for next year and the choices we will have depending on the financial commitment we are able and willing to make to this family. And don't forget the Stewardship Dinner on May 4th where we will celebrate the success of the campaign and share a delectable dinner prepared by our gourmet hosts. Sunday worship services and potlucks provide a time of serenity in our busy lives when we can reflect upon our past, present, and future and engage in fellowship. At the congregational meeting on April 7th, we will have an opportunity to practice listening and talking respectfully to the members of our family while we discuss our mission, vision and covenant to each other. Differences of opinion among truth-seekers

*(continued on page 2)*

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## Sunday Morning Reflections

Please join us on the April 14th and 28th Sunday mornings, 10 AM at the Meeting House. We'll share some worshipful time and reflections on the theme of the week. All ages are welcome; this special time will enhance but not recapitulate the evening's Sunday service.

## Month of Sundays

Services are held at 5 PM at the Lebanon United Methodist Church, with potluck following unless otherwise notified.

### **April 7.....Just Care: Addressing the Crisis in Mental Health Care**

*Rev. Patience Stoddard*

There is a crisis in mental health care across the country. As a recent chaplain at New Hampshire State Hospital I have first hand knowledge of what recent decisions in policy and funding mean and have thoughts about what we might be able to do to bring about a system that is more just and effective.

**Congregational Meeting at 3:30 PM at the same location. Childcare provided.**

### **April 14.....Here and Back Again**

*Rev. Patience Stoddard*

Bilbo Baggins titled the journal of his journey with the dwarves "There and Back Again." It seems to me that this congregation is also on a journey which is full of unanticipated events, new challenges and the opportunity for growth and learning. With my last sermon before a three and a half month hiatus, and in anticipation of Rev. Lee Devoe's return to complete the important work of her interim ministry, I would like to take this opportunity to share some of my thoughts and impressions as I have sojourned with you briefly on this journey.

### **April 21 & 28**

*Rev. Lee Devoe will lead these services. Please check the website and weekly blasts as we get nearer, for sermon topics.*

# Sunday School News



*Dear Friends,*

Sunday Mornings at the UUCUV Meeting House have been pretty fun lately!

Second Sunday April 14th at 10: Sunday Morning Reflections with Rev. Patience Stoddard. Sparrow's at a professional development event that morning, so please come to support Rev. Patience and enjoy sharing in a small, multi-generational setting.

Fourth Sunday April 28th at 10: We'll have Sunday Morning REflections with Sparrow. As of this writing of the Call, I hope Rev. Lee will join us, yet I haven't seen her to talk with. Therefore we're calling it REflections, to affirm that Sparrow will happily facilitate our conversation and use multiple learning modalities to work with on our topic of the day.

Reminder to Youth! April 14th is the day you're reporting briefly on your Bible story and we're going to make a time line. If you don't remember, or don't have a story to

read yet, just email Sparrow (education@uucuv.org).

So, just what is up with the Children's Garden? Colin High and Sparrow have been making some plans! You don't want to miss a single evening of regular Sunday School - coming soon: Voting on Veggies!



*Peace,  
Sparrow*

## Sunday Services News

*By Marty Shaw, Sunday Services Chair*

Sunday Services Committee once again extends a thank you to all those who have contributed to our gatherings. We are grateful for the folks who have provided thoughtful, thought-provoking readings and homilies. We also appreciated the music makers, both singers and instrumentalists. And last, but not least, thank goodness for the helping hands of the "setters-up" and the "takers-down".

Looking back at all our services since September certainly fires up the feelings of gratitude but it is exciting that we have reached a point where we can be looking ahead with heart-stirring anticipation. It is wonderful news that Reverend Lee has recovered enough to schedule her return. She is planning to be back in the pulpit starting the last two Sundays in April and will be finishing out this year with us. And good news, Part 2, Reverend Patience Stoddard will be coming on board as our consulting minister in August.

The long, dark days of winter are over in more ways than one!

### UUCUV COOKBOOK

Our Youth have stepped up to organize a UUCUV Cookbook. Submit your recipe using the link below, or hand your paper copies to any high-school-aged person in our congregation.

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/10UxupO2PCY2d1DT3tPw06uDc3BWzoKOjpSmB8mLVvME/viewform>

## President's Message

*(Continued from front page)*

are part of the process, but we should remember that that which binds us is stronger than whatever tries to pull us apart. Finally, our annual meeting will be held on May 18th (details to be announced). Please put this one on your calendar as we hope to have as many people possible there to celebrate the year gone by and set the agenda for the year to come.

E-mails and telephone calls are not enough. A family needs to be together – to hug, play, think, laugh, plan – and, of course, eat. I hope to see you several times in the next couple of months. You, too, are my family.

## Stewardship Events

Don't Miss the Delicious Stewardship Events Coming Up Soon!

Because YOU definitely are a special ingredient in our congregational pie; we hope that you have RSVP'd to join us for a Pie and Coffee Event on one of the following dates:

April 13, Saturday, 11:00 AM, UUCUV Meeting House

April 14, Sunday, 3:30 PM, Lebanon Methodist Church

AND to attend the Annual Stewardship Dinner at the Lebanon Methodist Church May 4.

If you have not received your Stewardship packet in the mail, please contact the office. You may RSVP using the card and envelope enclosed in your mailing, or you may email the UUCUV office, [office@uucuv.org](mailto:office@uucuv.org)

Your quick reply will help our planning! In addition, we would be very happy to visit you in your home, if you prefer. Just email [claudia.anne.kern@gmail.com](mailto:claudia.anne.kern@gmail.com) or [knitRmom@gmail.com](mailto:knitRmom@gmail.com) or call the UUCUV Office (802-649-8828) and we will be in touch to schedule a visit.

Thank you!

Claudia Kern and Suzanne Simon

Your Stewardship Team



## Kula

The Trobriand Islanders have an economic system they called *kula* or circle. Among their islands, gifts of precious necklaces flow in one direction from island to island, and bracelets in the other direction. A system of gift-through-exchange permeates all the economic, tribal and moral life of the islanders. Through this ritual exchange, there is a constant flow in all directions of presents given, accepted, and reciprocated.

We could think of the annual pledges we give to our church as a similar gift network. The gifts we give flow in circles. I give a gift to the church and it flows to you and others and your gifts flow back to me. We might call this "sacred economics".

Sacred economics is different than a modern monetary transaction that is closed and leaves no obligation. A gift is open-ended and creates an ongoing tie between partici-

pants. When we give a gift, we give something of ourselves and thus some quality of spirit circulates with the gift. Gifts have the power to expand the circle of self to include the whole community that we are lovingly trying to create.

As you consider your annual gift to our congregation, I hope you will reflect upon how you are making it possible for your generosity to flow among us, and, reciprocally, you are opening yourself to receiving the gifts of others.

Thank you for your gift to UUCUV.

*Claudia Kern and Suzanne Simon, the Stewardship Team*

*The inspiration for these thoughts comes from the book Sacred Economics, by Charles Eisenstein.*

# Cares & Concerns Needs Volunteers

By Mugs Johnston, Cares & Concerns Chair

After discussions with Patience Stoddard and Elaine Backus, I have decided to step up and take on the responsibility of Chair of Cares & Concerns. Per a scenario presented to me by Patience, I would like to ask for the following help.

1) I would like two people to join me on the committee. We would meet monthly, or every other month, and correspond by email in between times. I would like at least one person who has been in the congregation longer than I (more than 5 years), and if I can get one of the longer term members, that would be great. It would also help if the individuals complemented my connection with the congregation so that they would have knowledge of individuals with whom I do not have regular contact.

2) I would like anyone who is willing to do any of the following to send me an email so that I can develop a list of

these individuals that Cares & Concerns can call on when there is a need. In your email please let me know ALL the functions that you would be willing to give. C&C would work to not knock on the same doors too often, especially if we can get a good sized list!

- **Drivers** (to appointments, grocery shopping, etc)
- **Cooks** (provide food/meals to people in need)
- Occasional and/or 'crisis' **visitors** (to homes, nursing homes)
- **Regular visitors** (monthly basis)

Elaine Backus has handled Cares & Concerns very well for the last few years, so she will be a tough act to follow.

Thank you for your time and consideration for Cares & Concerns,

Mugs

## Book Review



By Margo Nutt

### *The Earth Speaks*

Edited by Steven Van Matre and Bill Weiler  
(With illustrations by Gwen Frostic)

Although it was published in 1983, this book is timeless, because it contains the timeless wisdom from some of our most eloquent naturalists, like John Muir, Rachel Carson and Henry David Thoreau, but also less familiar names like Lakota writer Chief Luther Standing Bear, artist Alan Gussow and poet Lawrence Collins.

The selections can be used to inspire, to motivate or for meditation. The author urges readers to "set aside some time each week to get to know your place in space." The Earth speaks to everyone, but not everyone responds. We need to get away from artificial nonsense and distractions and let these teachers remind us of the Earth's voice.

## Random Acts of Stewardship

*One of the ways in which we can nurture one another is with appreciation and gratitude. Here is a place to say thank you for the large or small acts that sometimes go unsung. Good stewardship cultivates gratitude!*

Gratitude to the member (who wishes to remain anonymous) who made contributions to the Music Fund in memory of Debbie Aliber, Christine Howe, and Adele Edgerton.

Gratitude to all who helped with the Book & Music Sale!

Thank you, Cappy Nulist for leading the Youth on March 24th!

*Have you spotted a random act of Stewardship? Send your entries for "random acts" to office@uucuv.org, and it will appear in next month's CALL.*

# Regular Events

## Elder Luncheon

***Life is a Journey--Beginning to End***  
**April 16, 12:30pm**  
**at the Meeting House**

This is a regular luncheon on **third Tuesdays** to talk about what needs exist for those of us who spend our later years living in the Upper Valley. Let us come together to share lunch and discuss what brings us and others joy as well as concerns. The fun is in the interesting conversation and fellowship. We never know where the talk will take us!

Lunch will be provided. Please let Babette Hansen know if you are planning to attend. (603) 727-9663 or schussbh@gmail.com



## Knitting Night

Do you like to knit? Crochet? Bead? Work with Sculpey? Bring your hand crafts and your neighbor and enjoy some tea, gabbing, and great company. Please check the calendar for the date; this usually happens once a month.



### Church Events Calendar

Our up-to-date online calendar can be found by clicking on "Calendar of Events" on our home page at

**www.uucuv.org**

## Women's Group

Women's Group has met since 2005 and our goal has remained the same – to relax, get to know each other better, and to keep it simple!

We gather at Sally Page's (visit the church website or contact the office for directions) on the **third Thursday** of each month. For those who want to sup together we meet by 5:30 (eat at 6) for a simple pot luck salad meal. Just bring some ingredient(s) to add to a pot luck salad. Peppers? Sunflower seeds? Lettuce? Cukes? Tomatoes? Bread? Salad dressing? Not a lot. Just enough.

Those not choosing to eat will come at 6:30.

Once we are fed, and others have arrived, we move to the living room and take time for brief check ins to share how our lives are going. Here, and throughout the evening, the right to reticence will be honored and confidentiality respected. We then have a discussion generated from suggestions from the group. The evening generally includes a good belly laugh, and though we don't try to resolve each other's problems they seem lightened by sharing.

We will be mindful of those coming from a distance and break up by 8:30.

The next Call newsletter deadline will be  
**April 15, for the May issue.**  
Please send your submissions to  
**Rachel at office@uucuv.org**

*Thank you to all who helped  
with the Book & Music Sale!*

## Partner Church News

Hehbok Sonroy Shadap, our email correspondent in Mukhap, India, sends us greetings about once a month. In his latest email he answers our questions about the future educational plans of the three Mukhap students we are sponsoring this year, along with a fourth student who lives in another village. He also thanks us for a small package of cards, decorations and information about how we celebrate Christmas. Certainly it is comforting to know that Unitarians far away are concerned about our minister and congregation and send us their encouragement.

*Polly Gould*

February 25, 2013

Dear Polly and all friends of UUCUV,

Thank you all, dear brothers and sisters. I am so sorry for being late to reply to your emails, but I do hope by the blessing of almighty God all of you are in a good health. The Unitarian Church Mukhap wish you a happy New Year, although we are in the second month and the coming spring season. The temperature in our place at this time starts to rise during daytime and little bit cold at the night time, and this year we already received two times of rainfall which relieves the face of our farmers.

Regarding the student sponsorship, last Sunday we had a meeting and if it is possible kindly continue to provide them for their further studies and to increase the number of our students in our church, and we request you also to let us know the persons who sponsor our students and their mailing address. Just to remind you that Rangdajied Lapasam is an orphan and he is in Eleventh position i.e. he is study in the college. Lumbiangki Suchiang and Pynbhamiki lamare both are in the Tenth position.

We had received the gift which you sent through Rev H. H. Mohrmen. I shared them with the number of the church and especially the Sunday school students. They are so beautiful to us. We are really appreciate to each one of you.

Sharing information is very important for the partnership. It is good to know that you had moved to the building of the Methodist church. May the blessing of God present in your church at all the time. We are inspired by the words of Rev Devoe, and we know that life is full of challenges and we must accept it.

I have four brothers and three sisters and last year I got married to a girl from Unitarian Church Nong-talang. I am working in Meghalaya Energy Corporation Limited (MeECL) Umjarain which is 110KM from Mukhap, and all the time I have to be on my job which is difficult for me to travel to Mukhap. I have a lots of friends. Last but not the least the camera is having lens problem for the last three months and I send it for trouble shooting.

Khublei

Hehbok Sonroy Shadap



# About the UUCUV

## Board of Directors

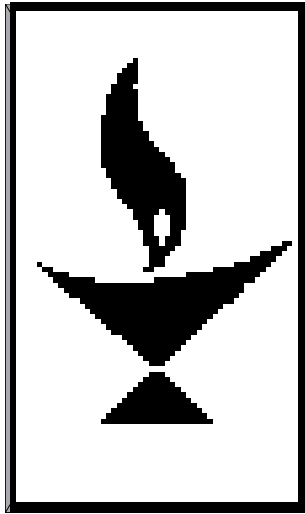
*Cappy Nunlist, President*  
*Bill Brawley, Vice President*  
*Christine McDonough, Secretary*  
*Lucy Taylor, Treasurer*  
*Karen Kluge, Member-at-Large*  
*Dan Mendelsohn, Member-at-Large*  
*Jamie Gibson, Member-at-Large*

## Staff

*The Rev. Lee Devoe, Interim Minister*  
*The Rev. Patience Stoddard,*  
*Consulting Minister*  
*Sparrow F. Alden,*  
*Credentialed Religious Educator*  
*Linda Hoover, Choir Director*  
*Rachel Clark, Office Admin.*

## UUCUV Committee Chairs

*Cares & Concerns: Mugs Johnston*  
*Communications: Bill Brawley*  
*Finance: Mark Laser*  
*Hospitality: Babette Hansen*  
*Investment: Peter Christie*  
*Leadership Development:*  
*Lori Fortini*  
*Librarian: Olive MacGregor*  
*Meeting House: Colin High*  
*Membership: Kathy Christie*  
*Partner Church: Polly Gould*  
*Stewardship Canvass: Claudia Kern*  
*and Suzanne Simon*  
*Sunday Services: Marty Shaw*  
*Ways and Means: Lori Fortini*



**OUR MISSION:** The UUCUV is a liberal religious community that:

- Welcomes and supports all who search for meaning and truth.
- Celebrates and respects life in all its diversity.
- Nurtures honesty, love, and freedom in people of all ages.
- Fosters spiritual growth and promotes compassionate social action; and
- Expresses Unitarian Universalist ideals, views and heritage to the community at large.

The UUCUV is a part of the Unitarian Universalist Association. The UUA is a religious organization that combines two traditions: the Universalists, organized in 1793, and the Unitarians, organized in 1825. The two denominations merged in 1961, but both trace their roots back hundreds of years, to the Unitarian view of the unity (as opposed to trinity) of God, and the Universalist belief that everyone is eligible for heaven and salvation.

**SUNDAY SERVICES:** Services will continue to be held at the Lebanon United Methodist Church in Lebanon, NH at 5 p.m. every Sunday until June, when services move to the Meeting House.

**MINISTER:** Rev. Lee Devoe is on an extended sick leave. We look forward to welcoming her back in April 2013. Rev. Patience Stoddard is currently providing pastoral services for our congregation. You may contact her at (603) 313-1169 (cell), (603) 756-9260 (home), or [patiencestoddard@gmail.com](mailto:patiencestoddard@gmail.com).

**TO CONTACT THE DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:** Call Sparrow F. S. Alden at (603) 359-8426, or e-mail her at [education@uucuv.org](mailto:education@uucuv.org)

**MEETING HOUSE:** Located on Route 5 South in Norwich opposite The Family Place, the Greek Revival farmhouse contains our offices and meeting spaces. Office hours at the Meeting House are Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 9-12, unless otherwise posted.

**CARES AND CONCERNS:** With cares and concerns, please contact the office and Rachel will find the appropriate contact.

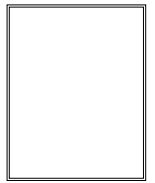
**NEWSLETTER:** The Call, our monthly e-newsletter, is available upon request. Contact the office at (802) 649-8828, or e-mail [office@uucuv.org](mailto:office@uucuv.org) with the usual details, including a phone number.



Unitarian-Universalist Congregation  
of the Upper Valley

PO Box 1110

Norwich, VT 05055



**We are**

**A Green Sanctuary,  
A Welcoming Congregation,  
and A Partner Church**



## **Stewardship Events**

***UUCUV Phone: (802) 649-8828***

***Web: <http://www.uucuv.org>***

***E-mail: [office@uucuv.org](mailto:office@uucuv.org)***

# **Congregational Meeting April 7**

