

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 / January 2013

We're Moving!

Beginning Sunday, January 6th, our services will be held at 5:00 pm at the Lebanon United Methodist Church located at 18 School Street, just off the Lebanon Green. Services will be followed each week with an informal potluck for those who wish to stay and share their Sunday supper with friends. There will be coffee and finger food for those who just want to chat for a short time.

Please e-mail Suzanne Simon at knitRmom@gmail.com if you would like a ride. We know that some of you are uncomfortable driving in the dark, but we still want your company! (If you do not use e-mail, you can call Rachel at the UUCUV office at 802-649-8828 and leave a message if she is not there).

We are grateful for the warm welcome we have received from the Methodist congregation and excited about holding services in this beautiful space. Change is both challenging and uplifting. We hope that you will embrace this change. A meeting will be held after services on January 27th so you can let us know how it's working (or not) for you. The plan is to continue in Lebanon at least through February.

Cappy Nunlist, President

Sunday Services

Please Note:

Services will be held at 5 PM at the Lebanon United Methodist Church, with an informal potluck dinner following each service.

Service topics and speakers for January are still being arranged. They will be posted to the website at as soon as available. www.uucvu.org



BEGINNING ANEW:

After-Church Evening Potluck, January 6
6:00 PM, Lebanon Methodist Church

Beginning Anew is the theme for the first Stewardship-hosted potluck of the New Year in our new meeting space. Poised on the lip of the New Year we invite you to consider these words from Goethe:

Whatever you do or dream you can do – begin it. Boldness has genius and power and magic in it.

After our first worship in our new space, we will gather to share a potluck meal. As we celebrate and enjoy the company of one another, what can we boldly imagine for UUCUV in this New Year, what can we dream?

All are welcome to gather for this meal. Always the food is abundant; so stay even if you didn't bring a dish to share. Hosted by Suzanne Simon and Claudia Kern, Stewardship Committee co-chairs.

Sunday School News



Dear Friends,

I am *very* excited to begin our experiment as the guests of the Lebanon United Methodist Church in January. Our Sunday School plans will feel very familiar. We will begin at 5PM, all together in the beautiful sanctuary and move to our Sunday School space after a Time for All Ages.

We're going to be learning on January 6th about sacred space and how to be good guests of the LUMC. After that, the Sunday School will return to our regular curriculum: Tapestry of Faith's Faithful Journeys program. Our lessons are about asking good questions, speaking out, and seeking truth. I'm eager to try on "just plain" Sunday school in January, to feel how nice it is to have such a dedicated and respectful space.

The LILAC youth group will meet on January 13th to discuss and learn about their selected topic - BodyMind Wholeness. Grace Alden, an experienced student of aikido, kinaesthetics, and nonverbal communication, will be the leader today. Wear your comfy clothing!

Drive carefully, all, and let's have fun with our new space!



*Peace,
Sparrow*

"NEWS" from the Sunday Services Committee

Joyous New Year! Merry New Place! Happy New Time! There's a lot of "new" happening at UUCUV. Undoubtedly, folks in our congregation are experiencing a wide variety of feelings. Some are excited. Some are anxious. Some are fearful. And some of us, perhaps most of us, are a little of all three. But the important thing to remember is, we are okay. We are trying out this new situation as a community. Together we'll test the location and the space and the time for meeting and then, together we'll evaluate our experience. If you are heavy into the trepidation or fear, try to soak in a little of the excitement. After all, it is possible that this will a wonderful match for us at this time. There's only one way to find out!

What a lot of team effort goes into planning and providing our Sunday services. The Sunday Services Committee is so grateful for our staff and members and friends who have contributed their time and talent. We have been treated to thoughtful and inspiring preparations, ideas, sermons, music, and more. Our committee continues to welcome your suggestions and your participation.

Thank you!

Marty Shaw, Sunday Services Chair

New Members

The Membership Committee is happy to announce that two new members signed our book during the New Member Sunday, December 2, 2012. They are Barbara Tolman's husband Gerry and their daughter, Jenny. Below are two short autobiographies. Look for them and you'll immediately be in a wonderful conversation!

Kathy Christie, Membership Chair

Gerry Tolman

Gerry Tolman's life and religious history comprises three periods.

Gerry grew up in Nashua, New Hampshire, the son of loving and caring parents who provided wonderful opportunities for him and his younger sister to question and learn about science and nature through education and travel. His childhood religion provided a framework for ethical development and Sunday school teachers who showed remarkable tolerance for Gerry's skeptical questioning of the Church's doctrines which he found to be inconsistent with his scientific knowledge.

The middle period of his life, his "single days," were spent developing a successful career in computer consulting. The flexible time requirements of that career allowed Gerry to become heavily involved in his more rewarding interests of environmental activism and electoral politics. During this period, while not practicing any organized religion, Gerry's philosophy was informed through extensive explorations of nature's wonders throughout the U.S.A. and other countries.

His current period began when he met, fell in love with and married his wife, Barb. Not surprisingly, their first encounters had an environmental theme occurring at a wildlife refuge and at the recycle center of their local town dump. During this period, Gerry has been dedicated to helping provide support and education for two academically accomplished and socially aware daughters, Jenny and Libby. Barb and Gerry became UUs at the First Parish in Concord, Massachusetts in 1995. Barb previously signed as a member of UUCUV and Jenny also became a member on Dec. 2, 1212.

Gerry joins with an increasing appreciation for UUCUV as a welcoming environment where he can hold his personal philosophy without being judged, where he is not told what to think or how to think about it, where he can be exposed to new ideas and his own ideas can be challenged, though always with respect.

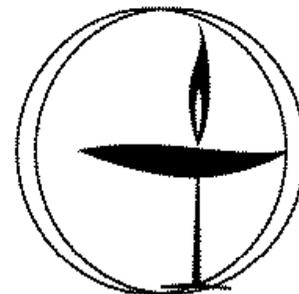
Jenny Tolman

Jenny Tolman spent the earliest years of her life in Concord, Massachusetts. There, Jenny and her parents, Barb and Gerry, and her older sister Libby attended First Parish, the UU church in Concord. Jenny and her family moved north to Norwich, Vermont as she entered second grade.

Jenny is currently a sophomore at Hanover High School and is actively involved in Amnesty International and Model United Nations. She is also a regular volunteer at the River Road Veterinary Clinic which is helping to further her love and respect for animals. That love and respect, along with environmental concerns, is the basis for her practice of vegetarianism. Jenny is an avid photographer who enjoys documenting her family gatherings, travel, nature, and her cat, Fiona.

Jenny is a prolific baker whose contributions can often be found at the UUCUV coffee hour. She also enjoys supporting the congregation by providing childcare during the services and special events.

Jenny is joining the UUCUV because she wishes to become an even greater part of the welcoming and accepting congregation.



Asking Forgiveness and Commitments

By Mugs Johnston

On September 26, 2012 I was at Yom Kippur services at the synagogue in Concord, NH. What was unique about this Yom Kippur was that my husband and two daughters were not able to join me at the service, so I went with my brother-in-law and sister-in-law. I was feeling lonely for my family since this is the holiest day of the year for the Jewish people, and my Jewish people were not there with me.

Yom Kippur is a Jewish holiday that I really appreciate. The idea is to ask for forgiveness for the “mis-deeds” of the previous year, and to speak directly with the individuals about forgiveness. Also, it is important to forgive others for how they may have treated you. This is so that everyone can start the new year with a fresh start, and can let go of what may have happened during the past year.

During the service I had moments of real sadness missing my family, while enjoying the company of my sister -in-law and brother-in-law. Then the Rabbi read the following story:

The Nobleman's Legacy

The story is told: In a mountain village in Europe many centuries ago, there was a nobleman who was concerned about the legacy he would leave to the people of his town. The man spent a great deal of time contemplating his dilemma, and at last, decided to build a synagogue. In the course of his planning, he decided that no one would see the plans for the building until it was finished. The construction took quite a long time – much longer than he anticipated.

But at long last, the project was completed. The townspeople were excited and curious about what they would find upon entering their new synagogue. When the people came for the first time they marveled at the synagogue's magnificence. No one could ever remember so beautiful a synagogue anywhere in the world.

Then, noticing a seemingly obvious flaw in the design, one of the townspeople asked, “Where are the lamps? What will provide the lighting?”

The proud nobleman pointed to brackets, which were strategically placed all along the walls throughout the synagogue. He then gave each family a lamp as he explained, “Whenever you come to the synagogue, I want you to bring your lamp, and light it. But, each time you are not here,” he said, “a part of the synagogue will be dark. This lamp will remind you that whenever you are absent, some part of God's house will be dark. Your community is relying on you for light.”

We come this day, the holiest day of the year and our collective light shines brightly. In the days, weeks, and months ahead, how bright or how dark it is inside of these walls depends solely on each one of us.

This story really hit me. I realized that I had not been giving my full self to UUCUV. So, as 2012 ends, I am asking forgiveness from the congregation. UUCUV is important to me and the community is important to me. So when the Jewish New Year began, I decided to make a new commitment to UUCUV.

I hope others will read this story in the spirit that it is intended, and that many of you will make a new commitment to UUCUV in 2013.

Life Passages

Grace Alden

The Alden family is thrilled to announce the public transition of Sparrow's spouse. Formerly known as Josh, she has become Grace Alden, and looks forward to contributing more voice and guitar music to the UUCUV over many years to come. All the Aldens are grateful to the UUCUV for being an explicitly welcoming congregation and to Lebanon Police Chief Jim Alexander for being a staunch ally.

Deborah Baltzly Aliber 1930-2012

Deborah Baltzly Aliber died suddenly on December 5th, 2012. Debbie was born in New York City in 1930 and was graduated from Smith College in 1952. Debbie and Robert Z. Aliber were married in 1955. Her enthusiasm for the history and cultures of the Ancient Middle East led to numerous study trips to Egypt, Syria, Turkey, Iran, and India and around the Eastern Mediterranean Sea.

In 1982 Debbie and Bob began to spend their summers on a serene Vermont hillside in the Upper Valley. Debbie soon became involved with the UUCUV and the history and the film courses of ILEAD.

Debbie is survived by her husband, three children, and six loving granddaughters. A memorial service will be planned for the Spring.

Cares and Concerns

In February, Babette Hansen will take over for Elaine Backus. She will be organizing the Elder Journey Lunches beginning that month. We look forward to Babette heading this committee.

PLEASE REMEMBER:

- Rev. Lee, who is not up to visitors, but would love to hear from you. You may send cards to her home address: 171 Campbell Rd., Bethel, VT 05032.
- Marjorie Hybels, who is now at Outreach House (11 South Park Street, Hanover) and would very much like visitors.

- Arnold Shields, who is living at Grafton County Nursing Home in Haverill, with notes, cards, visits or calls to (603) 787-6971.

We wish to express our sympathy to the husband of Debbie Alliber on her death this December.

Remember with your thoughts and prayers those in our midst who have had recent problems. Urgent needs will be on our message board at Sunday Worship.

Elaine Backus, Care & Concerns Chair

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 Linda Hoover and Margaret Robinson for help setting up the Newcomer Dinner.

Gratitude to Sparrow for help with Newcomer Dinner and for so many acts of assistance above and beyond the call of duty while Lee is away.

Gratitude to Colin High for replacing the steps and railings at the Meetinghouse

Gratitude to Claudia Kern and Suzanne Simons for hosting the wonderful after-service potlucks

Gratitude to Barb Tolman for the lovely wreath on the Meetinghouse door.

Gratitude for Lori Fortini keeping us together through her communications and spearheading so many of our fundraising activities - but mostly for her big heart.

Gratitude for Babette Hansen for making sure we are well fed at coffee hour.

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.



UUCUV Library

Olive MacGregor, Library Committee Chair

Library Committee members miss Debbie Aliber's cheerful presence. She volunteered for years when we were working on the card catalog and was always available for special projects. It was fun working with her, and we had many interesting conversations during our work sessions.

This month Margo Nutt has written a book review, and Polly Gould is on call for cataloging information. On December 11 I processed the following two books: *Growing a Beloved Community*, by Tom Owen-Towle (for the UU Collection) and *The Botany of Desire*, by Michael Pollan (for the Green Collection).

I continue to collect books for the annual book and media sale. Perhaps you have books and media to donate also. We will start collecting a week or two before the sale. The date is yet to be finalized, but it is usually near the end of March.

Book Review

By Margo Nutt

Confluence: A River, the Environment, Politics & the Fate of All Humanity

By Nathaniel Tripp

As a member of the Connecticut River Joint Commission, journalist Tripp juggles a multitude of conflicting tasks—helping oversee a disappointing salmon restoration program, monitoring pollution, negotiating with the hydroelectric dam utility that pegs river flows to the electricity spot-market, and pondering a killing spree by an antiregulatory fanatic.

Tripp's knowledge of, and fondness for, the embattled Connecticut River are more than evident in this compact book (and they're endorsed in a foreword by his canoeing buddy, former Vermont Governor Howard Dean). The root cause of trouble is common in the American experience: Dams are built to exploit rivers without regard for ultimate consequences. A concise and readable look at real-world environmental challenges, it also represents a confluence of art and science, eloquent and down to earth.

Although this book was written in 2005, it is still relevant—a timeless meditation on "our" local river.

The Seven Principles

We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote:

The inherent worth and dignity of every person;

Justice, equity, and compassion in human relations;

Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;

A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;

The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;

The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;

Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.



**Partner Church
Indian Dinner**

**Friday, January 11
UUCUV Meeting House
6:00 PM**

The Partner Church Committee is planning an evening of wonderful Indian food to warm up our winter days – not too spicy and all vegetarian. The menu includes:

Paneer Tikka Masala

(Grilled homemade cheese in a cashew-tomato sauce)

Sabud Garam Masala Waale Lobhia

(Cinnamon black-eyed peas with cardamon)

Farasvi Thi Bhajee

(Aromatic green beans)

**Rice,
assorted condiments,
&
Mango Sorbet**

A slideshow program on Meghalaya and our Partner Church in Mukhap, will follow the dinner. Come enjoy fellowship and celebrate our deepening connection with UUs on the other side of the world

PLEASE RSVP

office@uucuv.org by January 9
to assist us in preparing the meal.

Regular Events

Elder Luncheon

Life is a Journey--Beginning to End

**January 15, 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!

Bring your own brown bag lunch. Beverage and dessert will be provided. Please let Elaine Backus know if you are planning to attend. (802) 763-2476

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.

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



**The next Call newsletter deadline will be
January 14, for the February issue.
Please send your submissions to
Rachel at office@uucuv.org**

About the UUCUV

Board of Directors

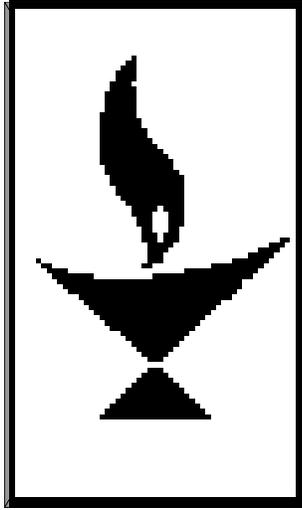
Cappy Nunlist, President
Bill Brawley, Vice President
Christine McDonough, Secretary
Lucy Taylor, Treasurer
Karen Kluge, Member-at-Large
Dan Mendelsohn, Member-at-Large
Jamie Gibson, Member-at-Large

Staff

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

UUCUV Committee Chairs

Cares & Concerns: open
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: Beginning in January, services will be held at the Lebanon United Methodist Church in Lebanon, NH at 5 p.m. every Sunday, with a potluck following each service.

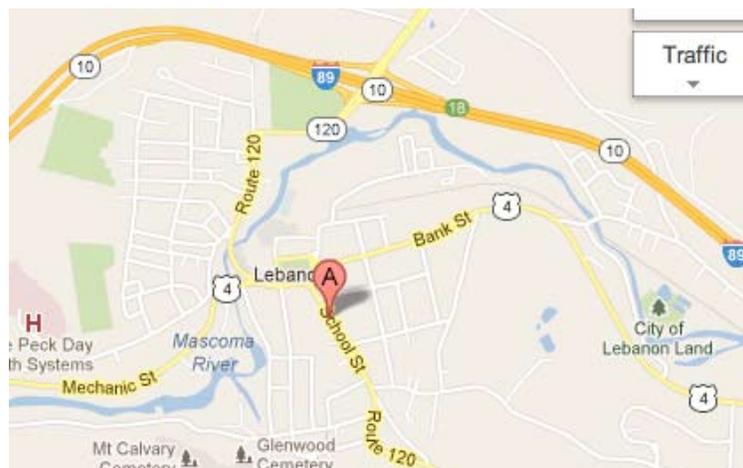
MINISTER: Rev. Lee Devoe is on an extended sick leave. We look forward to welcoming her back in March, 2013.

TO CONTACT THE DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: Call Sparrow F. S. Alden at (603) 359-8426, or e-mail her at 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 call the office and Rachel will find the appropriate contact.

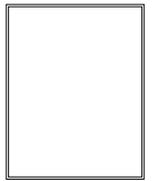
NEWSLETTER: The Call, our monthly e-newsletter, is available upon request. Contact the office at (802) 649-8828, or e-mail office@uucuv.org with the usual details, including a phone number.



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**



Indian Dinner January 11

UUCUV Phone: (802) 649-8828

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

E-mail: office@uucuv.org

Sunday Services in Lebanon, NH

