

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 / May 2013

Annual Meeting Saturday, May 19, 10 AM Meeting House



Thank You!

The Sunday Services Committee wishes once again to thank those who have contributed their time, energy and talents to our services. We are grateful for our speakers and music makers and also for our “behind the scene” support with our sound system and setting up/putting away crew.

This month our greatest sense of gratitude comes from the news that Reverend Lee has regained her health enough to return to her work with the UUCUV. She was back in her office April 16 and back in the pulpit on April 21.

Welcome longer days and milder temperatures but most of all...

Welcome back, Lee!

Marty Shaw, Sunday Services Committee

Sunday Morning Reflections

Please join us on May 12th and 26th 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.

May 5.....Marmots and Mosquitos Are Adapting, How Can We?

Ginger Wallis

Inspired by scientific studies in the past twenty years documenting species adapting to changes in their climate and inspired by climate adaptation plans in other countries and in some major U.S. cities, Ginger Wallis began an exploration into adaptation. She and a ninth grade student began Climate Listening Sessions to interview folks ages 9 – 90 about their worries for the future, their visions for a better world, and ideas of what we can do to get there. Come hear their voices, hers, and those of authors as she explores the concept of adaptation.

No Potluck May 5

May 12.....On the Road to Wisdom

Rev. Lee Devoe

A consideration of communities that have built beyond themselves, with Rev. Lee Devoe and the UUCUV Choir

May 19.....Body Journeys, Spirit Journeys

Rev. Lee Devoe

An exploration of the spiritual dimension of our choices and how physical realities affect our understanding of ethics, with Rev. Lee Devoe and the UUCUV Choir

May 26.....TBA

A Letter from Lee

by Rev. Lee Devoe

I have missed church. I have missed the weekly gathering to sing songs, to speak words of covenant, to see the smiling . . . or strained . . . faces of community. The Sunday Service is a mere hour of time, considered from a linear perspective, yet it creates space in my life - a holding space for spirit and imagination, for the capacity to dream and evolve.

Over the last several weeks, in preparation for my return to our ministry, I reviewed the materials that I created last summer in preparation for this second year of interim ministry. It was with sorrow that I considered the Worship Calendar - a year of dates with only broad strokes of what that year might actually contain, the Newsletter - descriptions of services never given and monthly themes not even started as I went on leave in the first days of September. I have missed so much of your life this year.

It is an odd energy to be saying hello and good-bye at the same time! The next months together will be about bring-

ing closure to our interim ministry. I hope that I can offer some perspective that is useful to you as you move forward. We will, of course, consider the developmental tasks of interim ministry - how great is a list that begins with "history" and makes its way through "identity", "leadership", "resources", to "zest". Yet, I want more. There were so many things that I was looking forward to sharing with you. As I wrote in the newsletter last September: you sincerely engaged the rigorous work of the first year of interim ministry, may the second year be "marked by a refreshing spirit of creativity and collaboration." I hope we can find our way through these last months in that spirit.

Thank you for such a warm welcome on my first Sunday back. It was amazing to feel your energy embrace me so enthusiastically.

In faith,

Lee

The Developmental Tasks of Interim Ministry



- Claiming and honoring the congregation's past and engaging and acknowledging its griefs and conflicts
- Recognizing its unique identity and its strengths, needs, and challenges
- Understanding the appropriate leadership roles of minister(s), church staff, and lay leaders and navigating the shifts in leadership that may accompany times of transition
- Making appropriate use of District, UUA, and other outside resources
- Renewing its vision, strengthening its stewardship, preparing for new growth and new professional leadership, ready to embrace the future with anticipation and zest

President's Message

It's been a tough year. And sometimes it feels like we're working really hard just to survive. Many of you are tired and discouraged. But I'd like you to look back and see just what you have accomplished in this year of crisis. In the October Call, I listed the Board's goals for the year and asked for your help. Below is the list. Look how well we have done!

-Completing the goals of this interim period – developing our unique covenant, mission and vision. (Thanks to Joani Neirenberg, Paul Schmidt, BJ Shabel, Mugs Johnon --and formerly Kevin Brown, Libby Vesilind and Rich Greenlee--this was done at a well-attended congregational meeting on April 7th).

-Offer weekly, meaningful Sunday services. (Done -- thanks to Marty Shaw, Ginger Wallis and ministers from throughout the Northern New England District).

-Acknowledge our need for our own sacred space by searching for temporary rental venues while planning for a permanent home. (Thanks to all of those who helped to make our move to LUMC a successful experiment, whether or not we decide to return in September).

-Enhance thoughtful, informative, clear and inspired communication using a broad range of modes. (We have the Call, Weekly Blasts, congregational meetings and pot-lucks. We can always do better, but we're trying).

-Initiate conversations about our beloved community, acknowledging our sorrow and healing our pain from the recent loss of so many of our members due to death, moves, or mandate and using the opportunity to explore our values with intention, honesty, and depth. (We have had wonderful conversations about our covenant, mission and vision, our worship space and our past).

-Fulfill our legal and moral obligations to Lee during her illness. (Rev. Lee, the District and the UUA have all expressed their appreciation for our balancing the needs of our congregation with fairness and compassion for Lee).

-Ensure that there is a full slate of board members and committee chairs by the annual meeting. (Thanks to Lori Fortini and her team for working to accomplish this task).

-Practice Joy with intentionality. (Have you noticed the big smiles and lots of laughter that attend our every gathering)?

Our last goal was to ensure our financial stability by supporting fundraising efforts and providing support and guidance to the Stewardship Campaign. Sally Page, Lori Fortini, Rich Greenlee, Mary Layton and many others have raised \$16,000 this year with fun events. Claudia Kern and Suzanne Simon have created an annual campaign that married pie, conversation and requests for financial support of our community in the spirit of true stewardship. We will report the results at our annual meeting on May 19th.

All of your hard work is, in fact, moving us forward. Our numbers are not yet growing, but a deeper understanding of our community is. Thank you!

Cappy Nunlist, President

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!

Great appreciation for Sparrow's double duty in shepherding the database temporarily, until the office computer can handle it again.

Kudos to Joan and Dave Nierenberg who have gone up at least twice to North Haverill to visit Arnold Shields, and David even took his cello and played for him.

Thank you to Mardy High, Jenny Tolman, Frank Laske, and Lori Fortini for speaking eloquently from their hearts to give testimonials during our Stewardship Campaign.

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.

Sunday School News



Dear Friends,

Welcome, May! That first weekend always surprises me with Green! I look forward to seeing all of you at our planned May RE events:

Sunday, May 5th - Family Time at 10 at the Meeting House. Time to play, talk, connect. I'm certain we'll be outdoors and in motion!

Sunday, May 5th - Sunday School at 5PM at the Lebanon United Methodist Church: our lesson will be on the holiday of Beltane and May Day traditions handed down across centuries.

Sunday May 12th - Morning REflections at 10 AM at the Meeting House. Sparrow will continue the second-and-fourth Sunday practice of meeting in a small group ministry to reflect on the afternoon's sermon topic, together with a Youth leader. We'll have age-appropriate learning materials for kids and conversations for adults so that the group can engage at the right level for the day.

Sunday May 12th - Sunday School at 5PM at the LUMC. Youth group with Katharine Fisher Britton (bring your writing!) and a Mother's Day lesson for younger kids with Sparrow.

Sunday, May 19th - Sunday School at 5 PM at the LUMC. Our lesson will explore what it means to have congregational polity, and we'll practice voting on what to do with our collection that day.

Sunday, May 26th - Morning REflections at 10 AM at the Meeting House. Sparrow and a Youth leader will host a small group to reflect on Memorial Day with kids and adults welcome to join in the way that is best for them.

Sunday, May 26th - Sunday School at 5 PM at the LUMC. It's our annual Memorial Day ceremony. Today we will hold our ceremony of gratitude in the School Street Cemetery adjacent to the LUMC.

If you are raising our little seedlings for the Children's Garden, here's your advanced notice: we'll be planting on June 23d!

Happy Spring,

*Peace,
Sparrow*



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

Reflections

By Lori Fortini

What do I value about the UUCUV? You, and you, and you....all of you.

It is you who feed my spirit and inspire me.

You inspire me

To be a better mother – you were a community of mothers, fathers, elders surrounding me and my daughter with love and encouragement for both of us to grow with confidence. I absorbed all of your examples like a sponge and Haley benefited greatly by being in your presence. And you continue to teach me how to let go as Haley graduates and moves on.

You inspire me

To be a steward of the earth - you have taught me that what we do and what we eat and how we act have grave consequences and that our planet needs protecting.

You inspire me

To show compassion to humanity and all living things: you have taught me that all of us are needy. We feed people at LISTEN dinners or the children in the summer, but we are all needy. Many people are oppressed and we need to join the fights for social justice and equality for all.

You inspire me

To find joy in the beauty all around us: Through our music and poetry, readings and sermons, I remember to look around with awe.

You inspire me

To find peace within myself: In the midst of a chaotic and violent world, it is sometimes the hardest thing of all for me to be still. To close my eyes, listen to my breathing, and just be. The world is moving so fast, my brain is moving so fast. I need reminders to take time to reflect and recharge.

And you inspire me

To forgive myself: If you all still love me with all my faults I guess I will learn to love myself.

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And I gained all of this just by stepping in the door. A bargain at any price! But there is a slight catch. To gain all of these benefits, it takes work. To make this community

survive and thrive I feel strongly that I need to do my share and, when I am able, to give my share.

But we are hurting right now. We are trying new things that may or may not work. Recently dear members and friends have died or have become ill and are no longer able to be with us. We are struggling with who we are and we may be discouraged.

But when I look out, I still see amazing individuals striving to be a community. Striving to be relevant outside of ourselves, yet seemingly not able to get out of our own way.

But I have hope. We are like the moon. At times we have been full and bright and reflecting the light of our UU values into the world for all to see. Right now we are new --dark and cold and turned inward. But with faith in the natural order of things, I know that we will wax again and move into the fullness that we all want. We will again be full.

The good news is that I find the more I give and the more I am around, the more I receive. An upward spiral. A turning toward the sun.

So, please stay. Work together. Trust in each other. And it will be so.

In faith and with deep gratitude,

Lori





## Marmots and Mosquitos Are Adapting, How Can We? --A Five-Part Program

Please join Ginger Wallis at the Meeting House for five Wednesday evenings from 7 – 9:15 PM starting June 12th. The sessions include:

1) Active Hope: share worries for the future and visions for a better future. 2) Climate Adaptation: hear stories of other species' adaptation strategies and explore highlights of climate adaptation plans from other places in a small group activity to understand the concept of adaptation. 3) Energy: play Lose 5,000 Pounds of Carbon in Twenty Turns, a board game, which reminds us of energy saving habits, dispels myths, and conveys the actions that make the most impact. 4) Indirect Use of Energy: move in small groups through stations that convey concepts related to the products we purchase as well as ideas for alternative gifting and shopping. 5) Vulnerabilities: explore ways to lessen risks from heat exhaustion, heat stroke, Lyme disease for examples and gain tips for home emergency planning.

Each session includes time to share what we can do and how we can be role models, and each session includes time

to share ideas for playful things we can do with youth to be mentors to them.

Please call the UUCUV office at (802) 649-8828 or email Rachel at office@uucuv.org to register. The sessions build upon each other, but if you need to miss one for summer vacation please still come to the others.

## Library Update

Polly Gould, Margo Nutt, and Olive MacGregor met at the Meeting House on April 11. We added the following four books to the library collection:

1.Friedman, Lenore - *Meetings with Remarkable Women: Buddhist Teachers in America*, c2000. 2.Merkel, Jim - *Radical Simplicity*, c2003 (for the Sustainability Collection from Claudia Kern). 3.Salzberg, Sharon - *Real Happiness: the Power of Meditation, a 28-Day Program*, c2011. 4.Tucker, Cynthia Grant - *No Silent Witness: The Eliot Parsonage Women and Their Unitarian World*, c2010 (for the UU Collection from Sheila Paget).

We withdrew fifteen outdated books from the Sustainability Collection (approved by the Highs and Kerns) and reshelfed some books they advised us to keep.

Olive MacGregor, Library Committee Chair

### Book Review



By Margo Nutt

***Waking Up in Time : Finding Inner Peace in a Time of Accelerating Change***

By Peter Russell

Visionary scientist Peter Russell updates his classic manifesto for awakening to the mounting planetary crisis even while deepening our connection to inner tranquility. Russell powerfully demonstrates the need for a spiritual renaissance in the face of the dangers of ever-accelerating change.

The first part of the book talks about the increasing pace of life. The second part explores our inner needs and the way society has seduced us into false assumptions about what we really want. The third part addresses how we can wake up and be more in the present. The fourth section looks at where we may be headed if we don't change.

He feels that any change in this world can only come from change from within our own selves. (An aside: I am reminded of this when I see a store window sign: "Help wanted: Inquire within." That says it all.)

We may be accelerating ourselves toward annihilation or toward the climax of evolution. The answer is within us. Russell feels it will be our success or failure to develop inwardly that will determine which path we take.

## Looking on the Bright Side

We all know that little tune, “Always Look on the Bright Side of Life” with its little whistle rip. Perhaps ironic, but nonetheless cheery. The Membership Committee has been out talking with lots of UUCUV folks, and armed with what we have gleaned, we’d like to help you look on the bright side of our congregation.

A starter list of what we do well (please add to it whatever more belongs there!):

- Choir and special music
- Youth group which is thriving
- Elder luncheons
- Women’s Group
- Adjustment to new surroundings
- Bringing beauty to our sanctuary and to the world
- Pot lucks
- Sunday Morning Reflections
- LISTEN Community Dinners
- Through many individuals, advocacy for mitigation of climate change

- In our congregation, in the community and in VT/NH, advocacy for LGBT rights and integrity
- Through numerous individuals, support for people who are home-bound or differently-abled in the UUCUV and the community

Some of our work is unsung and might seem invisible, but the truth is that we UUs from the UUCUV are out there in the trenches, standing on our principles and doing a lot of good for the community, our two states, and the world. Strike up a conversation with almost anyone and you will quickly realize how we walk the talk. So in times when the UUCUV is in transition and may not seem like a rock to cling to, take heart that we really are quite a good rock, actually a springboard to affecting change in the world, person by person, in small groups, and as a congregation. Kudos to each of us for finding deeper meaning in our lives and for helping our congregation do the work of this interim period, holding up the mirror, taking stock, and moving forward.

*Kathy Christie and the Membership Committee*

## Cares & Concerns Update

PLEASE REMEMBER:

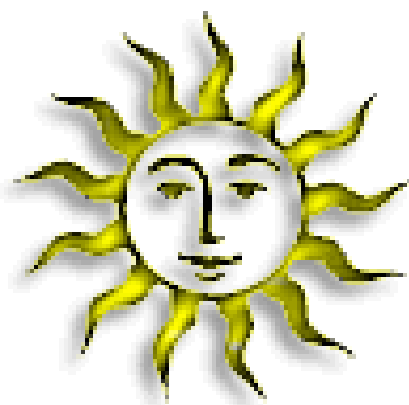
Marjorie Hybels, who is living at Outreach House in Hanover, would welcome visitors, cards and notes.

Arnold Shields, who is living at Grafton County Nursing Home in Haverill, would welcome notes, cards, visits, or calls at 603-787-6971.

Remember with your thoughts and prayers those in our midst who have had recent problems.

Contact me at [mugs514@earthlink.net](mailto:mugs514@earthlink.net) or 603-795-4553 when you know of someone who needs the support of UUCUV.

*Mugs Johnston, Cares & Concerns Chair*



# Regular Events

## Elder Luncheon

***Life is a Journey--Beginning to End***

**May 21, 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!

Please bring a brown bag lunch. We will have a dessert to share. Please RSVP to the office, and Rachel will let Babette's temporary replacement know you are coming. (802) 649-8828



## 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.

## 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  
May 15, for the May issue.  
Please send your submissions to  
Rachel at [office@uucuv.org](mailto:office@uucuv.org)**



## Partner Church News

Below are two letters from students who are sponsored by UUCUV members. We hope to find a way to continue sponsoring Rangdajied Lapasam, Lumbiangki Suchiang, and Pynbhamiki Lamare, our three students from Mukhap, as they move on to college studies.

~Polly Gould

Dear Aarne and Libby Vesilind,

I am very glad to write this letter to you. I hope that you and your family are in good health by the care of God.

First of all I would like to express my sincerest thanks to you for your generous help towards me. As my family is so poor, your kind help enables me to continue my studies.

I am studying now in class X in Sawlyngdoh Higher Secondary School, Mowkaiaw. My teachers are always hardworking and encourage me. My aim is to become Engineering. Your inspiration gives me high hope to be able to achieve my goal. I assure that I would always try my level best and work in my studies. As a member of the church I attend Church regularly and take part in Sunday School, youth as well as children programmes. I use to take part in Quiz, Debate, Extempore Speech, when were arranged by the Church.

Once again I am grateful to you for helping me in my education as it is one of the most important tools in life.

May God bless you and your family with good health and in your work, so that you could contribute for the progress of those who deserve your kind assistance.

Yours sincerely,

Pynbhamiki Lamare

Mukhap



My greeting to all my sponsors right from my sweet Patti, Barbara, and Jean. I miss you all. I am a lucky girl who had a big family as I am one of your part in the congregation. I hope that you are in a good life as I am here with the same care of the only God.

I had graduate my matriculation and now I proceed with my high school in art stream at the same school, i.e. Sawlyngdoh Higher Secondary School, Mowkaiaw, which is only 15 minutes long from my house.

I love reading books but now as I am still a student, I stress only on my school's subjects. Sometimes I used to read the other books. I like to take part in every activities at school especially in sport activities.

At school I take the subjects like History, Education, English, Khasi and Political Science. Khasi is the main language in Meghalaya (State).

I thank you all and wishing you a very good and happy life with the blessing of the heavenly God.

Your spirit love,

Miss Lumbiangki Suchiang

Khublei

# About the UUCUV

## Board of Directors

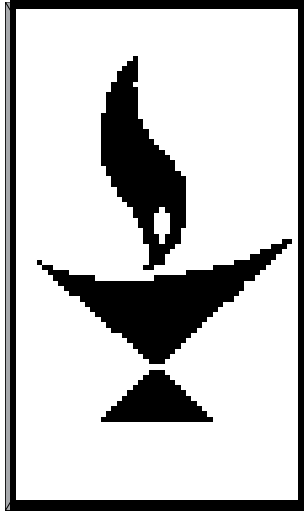
*Cappy Nunlist, President*  
*Bill Brawley, Vice President*  
*Christine McDonough, Secretary*  
*Lucy Taylor, Treasurer*  
*Karen Kluge, Member-at-Large*  
*Dan Mendelsohn, Member-at-Large*  
*Jamie Gibson, Member-at-Large*

## 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: 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 late June, when services move to the Meeting House.

**MINISTER:** Contact Rev. Lee Devoe at leedevoe@aol.com or leave a message at the office at (802) 649-8828. In case of emergency, please call Rev. Devoe's cell phone: (802) 349-2335.

**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 contact Mugs Johnston mugs514@earthlink.net or (603) 795-4553.

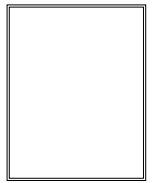
**NEWSLETTER:** The Call, our monthly e-newsletter, is available upon request. Contact the office at (802) 649-8828, or e-mail office@uucuv.org with the usual details, including a phone number.



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**



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

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

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

**Annual Meeting May 19**

