

The Call

Unitarian Universalist Congregation
of the Upper Valley

Spring 2014 March-May

In This Issue

Minister's Message	1
Notes From the Board	2
Annual Meeting 2014	3
"Path to the Future" Update	4-5
Seasonal Services.....	6
Life Passages.....	6
Religious Educator's Message	7
OWL.....	8
Annual Pledge Drive.....	9
Membership Update	10
Social Action Report.....	11
Library Notes and Book Review	12
Partner Church.....	13-15
NNED Spring Conference 2014	15
General Assembly 2014	16
Ways to Get Involved.....	17-19
About UUCUV/ Contacts.....	20

Sunday Services

9 & 11 AM at the Meeting House, with a social hour and children's religious education at 10 AM. Sermon topics may be found on our website, www.uucuv.org, as well as in the Sunday bulletins.

Child care is available during services.

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

The Divine Seed

Rev. Patience Stoddard



Recently in a Sunday service a few choir members and I sang the song "The Rose." This love song recognizes how fears and old hurts can get in the way of our attempts to love and be loved. Rather than seeing love as an unquenchable need or overwhelming emotion that can wound, the writer of the song says:

"...love is a flower, and you its only seed."

Spring is on the way. Yes, despite freezing night temperatures and a few feet of snow, the buds and seeds are in-waiting, ready to burst forth. What might this song and this season have to teach us about the purpose and promise of this congregation?

I have recently re-read a book by the UU minister Roy Phillips called *Transforming Liberal Congregations*. Phillips speaks of the reasons why most people come to church. Along with coming in search of community, people come seeking deeper relationships with themselves and the world. They come "to find help with the life of the spirit – to deepen it and live it."

From the early years of their inception, Unitarians and Universalists have said that religion should not be about doctrine, what one believes; it should be about spiritual growth, how one lives. Ralph Waldo Emerson often referred to *the divine seed* that was a part of every individual. Phillips writes that a congregation's role is to provide a home and an environment where people can grow and develop.

"The environment the congregation provides is that of a fertile and cultivated field in which the uniqueness, preciousness, and power of the divine seed people bring can send roots into the rich ground of culture, tradition, and community and can unfold from within, reaching outward and upward, actualizing their potential, coming gloriously to flower, and bearing fruit for serving the needs of the world."

I am seeing signs of this fertile environment in many aspects of the current life of this congregation. From the inspiring justice work and community involvement shared in a recent service to the teamwork of greeting and welcoming newcomers; from the many people who have volunteered to serve on various task forces to the depth of the sharing in discussion groups, this congregation is alive with energy and hopefulness. As we consider the possibility of a new building and continue to grow and deepen in community, may we go forward with faith in that which is greater than ourselves and be willing "to trust the daring that shapes the world." (Karin Boye)

Notes from the UUCUV Board

Bill Brawley, Vice President

So much has happened in the life of the congregation in the past year. Last February, our interim minister, Lee Devoe, was undergoing chemotherapy. Our Sunday Services crew, led by the indomitable Marty Shaw, was working overtime to fill the pulpit each and every Sunday evening. Am I the only person who feels like it's been years since we were meeting at the Lebanon United Methodist Church, with potluck dinners and dishwashing crews?

It was in the midst of this upheaval that **we met the Rev. Patience Stoddard**, and we began a conversation that led to her agreeing to serve as our minister. We realized back then that we weren't ready for a settled minister, nor did we want another short-term relationship with an interim minister that would prepare us for a settled minister. We looked at the timelines involved with searches for the different kinds of ministers available to us via the standard paths, and we realized that **what we wanted was what Patience could offer**: more than an "interim" ministry (one or two years), less formal and more flexible than a "developmental" ministry, we instead opted to blaze a trail that seemed better suited to our needs.

Call her a consulting minister, if you will — someone who could stick with us for the mid-term, who was capable of helping us calm and solidify our membership after a chaotic couple of years, and who could prepare us for growth and yes, maybe even a new building and eventually a new minister. The ministerial search process is a lengthy one that requires a lot of advance work, which we haven't initiated. **We are blessed and grateful to be working with Patience for at least another two years.**

You can rest assured that Cappy earned her long-anticipated tour Down Under by leading the board through the process of developing a **proposed budget for 2014-2015**. With the dedicated support of our treasurer, Lucy Taylor, we have a proposal in hand for discussion well in advance of the Annual Meeting (to be held May 31, 2014).

We aren't doing a traditional stewardship drive this year; we opted instead to distribute the load among the congregational teams, which will be having gatherings during the next month or two. A board member will attend each meeting to present and answer questions about the budget. **When you attend your gathering, please come prepared to fill out a pledge envelope on the spot.** We need to nail

down pledge commitments and feedback in plenty of time to finalize a budget for the Annual Meeting.

Hats off to all of the teams following up on the punch lists created at the Path to the Future retreat in October. Elsewhere in this issue of *The Call* is an amazing interim report on social action. At our February meeting, the board accepted a report summarizing our current status with a potential building project. Gerry Tolman, Kathy McKee-Stern and Colin High pulled together all of the existing documentation— site maps, committee reports, even board meeting minutes that referenced a project — along with a punch list of regulatory considerations (review boards, wetlands studies, etc.).

The board has commissioned a new group (Gerry, Dave Nierenberg, and Mary Layton) with the task of following up on that report, including an evaluation of design-build firms, **with a goal of bringing this discussion to the Annual Meeting** (mark your calendars!). And let's not forget the work of the fall committee that organized the clearing-out of the basement in preparation for the new heating system (among other things) — kudos to Mary Layton, Carl Tracy, and Gerry.

Thank you all for your ongoing support of this congregation!

Bill Brawley, Vice President, on behalf of the Board: Cappy Nunlist, Karen Kluge, Lucy Taylor, Anne Alford, Dan Mendelsohn, and Mary Shain



Save the Date!
Annual Meeting:
May 31, 2014

On Saturday, May 31st, we will gather at the Meeting House for our annual meeting. We will enjoy a wonderful UUCUV-style pot luck dinner, review the accomplishments of the past year (there have been many) and share our dreams for the future. This is an opportunity for our community to review the budget proposed by the Board and supported by annual pledges, ask questions, make changes, and ultimately vote on a budget that reflects our shared vision for the coming year.

BJ Shabel, Margo Nutt and Karen Kluge, our nominating team, will bring forward a proposed slate of officers and three members of a Nominating Committee for the 2014-15 year for your consideration. And we will take time to thank one another for the contributions in time and effort we each have made to the congregation this year.

The annual meeting will be “warned” via both email and snail mail at least 30 days in advance. At least 14 days prior to the meeting, members will receive the proposed budget and slate of officers to review. Please remember that although only members of the congregation are allowed to vote, all are invited to participate in the festivities and discussion.

We will also be discussing the findings of the 2nd Building Task Force (Dave Nierenburg, Mary Layton and Gerry Tolman) who will be working on site approval issues for a possible new building on this property as well as interviewing some potential Design-Build firms in order to present the best candidate to the congregation for review. This could be a very important meeting for the future of this congregation, so please plan to be there if you can.

See you there!

Cappy Nunlist and Rev. Patience Stoddard



Steps Along the Path to the Future

Rev. Patience Stoddard

On October 26, 2013 41 members and friends of this congregation met for a daylong conversation on our desired direction and goals. The participants created a timeline, looked at the past trends, and named particular successes and regrets. They then created a large vision map of key aspects of a thriving UUCUV and voted on priorities for this congregation for the its near (1-2 years) and somewhat longer (3-5 years) future. Just three months later we are well on our way to achieving some of those goals. Here are a few of the themes that were identified in the order of votes received and the work being done to achieve specific goals.



Theme: Engaged Community dealt with the quality of the community experienced here and included:

- Encouraging and welcoming visitors,
- Getting to know one another, and
- Fully integrating children/ youth into the life of the congregation.

Thus far efforts to develop a more engaged community have included:

- Two New UU sessions for newcomers and a young adult lunch
- Well-attended discussion groups on *Life Transitions* and *The Case for God*
- The success of Sunday Morning Teams in providing an opportunity for all members and friends to contribute and to get to know one another
- An OWL Program for junior high teens shared with the Meridan Church
- A Youth Team who fulfilled the challenging task of being the first team to manage the set up and hospitality for two-service Sundays
- A communications task force (Bill Brawley, Margo Nutt, and Mardy High) are working with Sparrow and Rachel to improve communication through the website, the Weekly Blast, the seasonal newsletter, and monthly pastoral letters to members who can no longer attend.

Theme: Adequate Physical Space focused both on the best use of our current space and beginning to plan for a new building.

Thus far efforts to improve use of the Meeting House space have entailed:

- Moving to two services on Sunday mornings with a common coffee hour
- Having RE meet upstairs during coffee/social hour
- Using the minister's office for childcare during services
- Re-organizing and simplifying space in the kitchen

(continued next page)

Steps Along the Path to the Future (Cont'd)

Progress toward new space has also begun:

- Task force 1--Colin High, Gerry Tolman and Kathy McKee-Stern-- summarized all past plans and presented a report to the Board on what still needs to be done.
- Task force 2--David Nierenberg, Mary Layton, and Gerry Tolman--are working on site-approval issues for a possible new building on this property, as well as interviewing some potential Design-Build firms in order to present the best candidate to the congregation for review.

Theme: A Commitment to Fostering Spiritual Growth dealt primarily with high quality and diverse Sunday services, the important role of music in the life of the congregation, and the need to work to maintain right relationships among members.

This commitment can be seen in:

- The plan to offer more contemplation/meditation-centered services
- Quarter-day pagan ritual-inspired gatherings led by Sparrow
- A willingness to utilize different types of music in services
- Opportunities through Sunday services, discussions, and the development of new and revised policies to enhance our abilities to sustain healthy relationships with one another

Theme: Work To Promote And Extend Justice Those who suggested this spoke primarily about advocating for protecting the environment, maintaining a “green sanctuary” and the Spirit in Nature Trail, and expanding our involvement as individuals and as a community in community service.

To this date:

- A task force (Phil Kern, Lonnie Larrow and Mare Wallace) has surveyed the congregation on what individuals are already doing and presented a service and a report to the congregation.
- The Sunday Services Committee is planning social justice and environmental themes and guest speakers for lay-led services.
- The congregation is continuing to support the Haven and LISTEN through the “food offering” on Sunday mornings, monetary support from the Pods for the Pulpit craft sale and the minister’s discretionary fund, and LISTEN dinners.

Additional themes which emerged were:

Opportunities for Learning for Both Adults and Children

Effective Leadership and Organizational Structure

Planning for Long-term Professional Ministry and Lay Pastoral Care

A Different Approach to Stewardship, and

Participation in the Wider UU Community

As you can see a great deal has been going on lately. It was hoped that the *Path to the Future* event would provide an opportunity to set clear goals and involve the membership in working to achieve them. That has clearly happened. It is exciting to consider what this congregation might be able to achieve if this commitment and energy continues.

A Look Ahead to Spring Services

Rev. Patience Stoddard

For a list of upcoming services please check on the website, read the weekly email Blast or look in the insert in the Sunday order of service. While we will not be giving full listings of specific services in the new quarterly Call, here is a brief look ahead to some of the services in April which will center around the theme of stories of faith.

In his book *The Crow and the Weasel*, Barry Lopez writes about the importance of stories.

“Remember on this one thing,” said Badger. “The stories people tell have a way of taking care of them. If stories come to you, care for them. And learn to give them away where they are needed. Sometimes a person needs a story more than food to stay alive. That is why we put these stories in each other’s memories. This is how people care for themselves.”

On the second Sunday in April, I will focus on the seminal Jewish story of Passover. As a universal story it has much to teach us about our own struggles to live in community and journey toward freedom. The following week I

will be offering a Tenebrae service on the Friday before Easter. Tenebrae, which means Shadow, is a meditative service of readings, poetry and music which invites participants to focus on the experience and meaning of suffering in our lives. A powerful service, it helps deepen and re-shape the meaning of Easter and its promise of transformation. Two days later we will celebrate that promise with an Easter service full of music and poetry.

In religious education classes, Sparrow will be sharing several creation stories with children and youth. From Uranus and Gaia to the Big Bang, kids will explore what each story brings us, and why different people have developed different stories about the same beautiful truth.

As April leads into May we will honor Earth Day through stories and activities that remind us how important it is to take care of our planet, and through ritual in an evening celebration of Beltane, the pre-Christian Celtic holiday that celebrates the annual re-emergence of new life.



Life Passages

Priscilla Brooks, wife of Rev. George Brooks and former member of our congregation, passed away this January.

A memorial at the Meeting House is planned for sometime in May.

Cards may be sent to Rev. Brooks at:

2100 Kings Highway, #347
Port Charlotte, FL 33980

Every spring is the only spring - a perpetual astonishment. ~Ellis Peters

Spring has returned. The Earth is like a child that knows poems. ~Rainer Maria Rilke

From Our Religious Educator

Spiritual Discipline: March Hares and May Poles

Sparrow F. Alden, CRE

Dear Friends,

I know that to write good stories, I must write every day. My scribblings are generally chaff, but when I stick to my discipline, the ratio of grain to chaff slowly rises. Over time, even flashes of brilliance become possible, but only by laying the groundwork with discipline.

So with spirituality. A practice - a daily, intentional spiritual practice - disciplines my heart and mind to be more open, more aware of the wonder and grace and beauty which help me feel Spirit. For me, daily spiritual practice includes breath-work, gratitude, and a time of attentiveness which combats frenetic modern living. What is your daily spiritual practice? I would love to hear about it, or about your search to develop one.

Our sixth source of wisdom is: Spiritual teachings of earth-centered traditions which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature. Well, I clearly was not on that committee. I would cut that right down to “the sacred circle of life and the rhythms of nature.” Or would I? All you dear folks know that most of my inspiration comes from the natural world. I’m sure you wouldn’t be surprised to learn that I have a weekly spiritual practice, practices which are timed with the lunar month, and practices which celebrate the movement of our beautiful spinning planet around the Wheel of the Year. The rhythms of nature teach me hope.

Yet where do my spiritual practices come from? Many of them are from the neo-pagan movement and writings and music by leaders in the earth-centered traditions. I enjoy celebrating the solstices, equinoxes, and in-between days with ideas I have collected from others in person or in writing. As a lifelong UU, of course, I don’t accept someone else’s ritual directly in its entirety! Only three out of my last ninety-three knitting projects have followed the pattern exactly, as well. First, one size does not fit all and second, we do not accept someone else’s conclusions without examination.

Why have we celebrated Yule and Imbolc at the UUCUV lately? Patience has helped me take the risk of sharing my Wheel-turning spiritual disciplines with this congregation. Will you please bring your rituals and wisdom to the circle? Shall we blend our practices to help one another toward fulfilling spiritual disciplines? Come with traditions, come without. Come seeking, come sharing. Keep your eye on the Weekly Blast, the order of service bulletins, and the web site calendar <http://uucuv.org/calendar> to find our Spring Equinox celebration.

Come tell the story with me: the wheel turns, the Earth warms, the land greens, the people dance, the god and goddess love, abundance thrives, life is sacrificed, darkness comes, hope hangs on under the snow, the wheel turns.

*First a howling blizzard woke us,
Then the rain came down to soak us,
And now before the eye can focus —
Crocus.*

~Lilja Rogers



*Peace,
Sparrow*

“I Want You to Love Your Life.”

The “OWL” Sex Education Program

Sparrow F. Alden, CRE

When Leslie MacGregor, nurse practitioner, nurse midwife, and OWL leader finds herself sounding like a lecture with her teen sons, she stops herself. “I want you to love your life,” she reminds herself and them. That’s why she is a devoted teacher of OWL - Our Whole Lives, the comprehensive sexuality education program for multiple age levels, developed and published by the Unitarian Universalist Association and the United Church of Christ.

Religions have opinions about sexuality. UUs value sexual health, inclusivity, self worth, joy, responsibility, and justice. These religious opinions don’t really make headlines or flashy turning points of Hollywood movies, so we’ve chosen to be deliberate about delivering the message! OWL is one way for whole congregations to make sure kids know *our* opinions: we trust that, given clear information and an opportunity to work out their ethics on sexual topics, our kids are going to reach good conclusions which work for them; everyone’s values and beliefs are works in progress which will continue to develop over a lifespan of free and responsible search.

The OWL approach to sexuality begins in the Kindergarten/First grade module by strengthening kids’ connection to their bodies (can you name five healthy things to eat?) and talking about families (from new siblings to the wide and beautiful variety of families there can be). With modules in elementary grades, junior high, high school, young adulthood, and adulthood (take the time to reflect on your sexuality over your whole life!), this excellent curriculum affirms that we are whole beings, capable of making decisions, learning, and finding joy.

Leslie MacGregor and Steve Jameson (trauma nurse with DHART) are my co-leaders of the junior high OWL class presented jointly by the Meriden Congregational Church and the UUCUV. We tell our ten students, “We want you to love your life.” We believe that we can help them toward that goal by providing the place to figure out their values about sexuality and by encouraging them to live their ethical choices.

I’ve heard one of our parents opine that after OWL, her daughter knew more about sexuality than she did! Yes, our kids need to know more now. We have more dangers to avoid - and we know about more dangers which were always there. When I grew up, a kid who felt same-sex affection or who was transgender might not even have had the words to describe themselves and certainly, given prejudice of the time, would not expect acceptance or a life free from danger; suicide risk was huge (it’s dropping, we still have a long way to go). We know now that young people should be empowered by knowledge instead of insulated by ignorance: our kids learn more than we did.

I teach OWL to save lives. I teach OWL because I want my daughter to love her life. The UUCUV supports OWL because we believe in taking the time to develop our ethics, discuss them in community, and support each other on our paths.

Our OWL students are going to know that they are accepted, protected, and respected as who they are.



A New Approach to the Annual Pledge Drive

Cappy Nunlist, President

Dear Members and Friends,

Necessity has required us to make many changes over the past couple of years. Not all of these were successful, but some of them have actually enhanced our congregational lives.

For instance, the monthly “teams” were created because we did not have functioning membership or hospitality committees to do the tasks necessary for Sunday morning services. The resulting team concept has become a successful model that we hope to continue. People assigned to a team have made new friends and felt the sense of satisfaction that comes from doing a job that needs doing – and doing it well. And the rest of the congregation is grateful for those who have served.

When the board faced the next challenge - no Stewardship Committee and no one in a position to take over this enormous task - we looked to an idea that first arose at last year’s annual meeting and again at October’s Pathway to the Future: use the teams as the basis of our annual pledge drive. We believe that every member of the congregation is already aware of their obligation to help support the church financially – in whatever amount they are able – and need only be asked. But they also have legitimate questions about how their money has been spent in the past year and how the board intends to spend it in the coming year before making their pledge. And everyone loves a good meal and companionship when they are being asked to contribute.

Therefore, each team leader has agreed to convene their team in friendship again (or for the first time, as the case may be) before April 1st for a meal and a solicitation. A board member will be present at every event to present a proposed budget and answer questions. Pledge envelopes will be provided and it is hoped that guests will come prepared to pledge before leaving.

A word to non-members: While non-members are not expected to pledge, many do. We hope you will attend the stewardship gatherings whether you intend to pledge or not. (If you do not already belong to a team, please contact Karen Kluge (Karen.kluge@dartmouth.edu) and she will give you the dates of the gatherings so you can choose one.) Many friends ultimately become members of our congregation, and for some the opportunity to understand the financial obligations of membership and the budgeting process is an important factor in their consideration of

membership.

Please remember that the proposed budget depends on the amount pledged in the annual fund drive. If we do not meet our goal, the budget presented for a vote at the annual meeting in May will need to be amended. Many people have made major contributions of time and energy over the past year – but that does not replace the need for cold, hard cash! Many also contribute to the offering on days that they attend services, but a separate amount has been budgeted for that. Pledges are the commitments that allow us to plan for our future.

Please look for an email (or other contact) from your team leader with the subject line “Stewardship” and respond promptly. You will have a good time – and hopefully we will have 100% participation in our pledge drive. That would be a fantastic accomplishment and vivid proof of hope for the future.

Thank you so much for everything you have done for our community this year and what you are able to do in the future.

With hope!

Cappy Nunlist

Many Hands Do Make Light (and Impressive) Work

Recently I mentioned in a Board Meeting that in my 27 years of ministry that I have never worked with a congregation that has, in such a brief time, successfully and enthusiastically taken on so many goals. From the Meeting House Workday to the many people who participated in the Path to the Future Day, from the astounding and growing list of community services in which this congregation and its members take part to the growing interest in contemplative and ritual-rich services, from the many Task Forces to the new role of Teams, this is a congregation alive with energy and commitment. What a great time to show your commitment to the health and promising future of this congregation through a generous pledge!

I am so grateful to be sharing this exciting time with you,

Patience

From Visitor to Friend to Member—Welcome!

Sparrow F. Alden

What keeps you coming back to the UUCUV? Is it the warm welcome you received on your first Sunday? Is it the peals of laughter emanating from the kitchen? Is it the strong sense of justice you can feel humming behind everything we do?

Just how do people deepen their connections with this congregation? On the beautiful and mysterious hand, of course, each individual finds their unique niche of activity perfectly suited to their own gifts and circumstances - serving coffee at fellowship hour, sharing in a group discussion, counseling with the minister. On the practical hand, there is a little process we follow in the office to give folks a chance to make those personal connections.

Our Sunday Hospitality Teams create that famous warm welcome - they'll learn some about our visitors, offer a chance to leave contact information on the easily identifiable Blue Sheet, and they'll note whether visitors are returning for another visit.

When there are new blue sheets, I get to write a letter to our visitors about upcoming events and inviting them to reach me for a cup of coffee. Sunday mornings are pretty busy for me, so I welcome these chances to meet folks quietly - to really listen to their stories.

After a couple of repeat visits, Rachel makes name badges for visitors and Patience makes sure to meet people personally. She and I think about who in the congregation would make a good connection - to share rides, be company at events, to talk with.

How can anyone learn more about UUism in general and the UUCUV in particular? Introducing **Lunch With Patience**—a noontime brown bag event on the first Sunday of each month. Less formal than a class, Lunch with Patience is for all who are interested, a chance to ask questions, listen to tidbits of church history, wrestle with the implications of congregational polity. Join in the conversation at any time.

When our new visitors have been around a few months, Karen Kluge will ask them if they're ready to join a Sunday Hospitality Team. There's nothing like rolling up our sleeves in a church kitchen for explicitly enacting our Universalist message of exuberant welcome - and the teams really are the center of fun right now at UUCUV. If a visitor feels ready to make that step, I will add their name to the

directory so their teammates can reach them. Sometimes you will hear about "Friends of the congregation." If someone is in that directory, know that they are our cherished friend.

Learning about history with Patience, enjoying fellowship, absorbing sermons, finding their place at the UUCUV usually leads folks to consider membership. Membership is a formal relationship between an individual and the congregation, a promise of mutual support, and a commitment by the new member of time and resources as individually appropriate. When Patience knows that someone is ready for membership - and don't hesitate to call her and find time to talk with her about it! - she will incorporate Recognition of Membership, symbolized by signing the membership book, into a Sunday service.

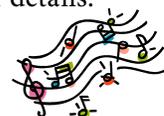
What keeps you coming back to the UUCUV? I sincerely hope that the answer is a constantly changing source of joy and surprise. See you next Sunday.



Annual Book & Music Sale Saturday, March 22 8 AM until 1 PM

Helpers are needed to receive donations before the sale (likely Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, 3/19, 20 & 21 from 5-8 PM), and of course helpers are needed on the day of the sale. We also need your donations!!! Watch the Weekly Blasts for details.

For more information or to volunteer, call Rich Greenlee: (802) 436-1150 or e-mail Hartlandvt@aol.com.



February 2014 Report on Social Action

Phil Kern, for the Assessment Team on Social Action

(Phil Kern, Mare Wallace, Lonnie Larrow)

In January the Board requested us to compile a record of the total range and extent of social action engaged in by UUCUV members and friends in recent years. We began our work by distributing paper forms of a questionnaire at several Sunday services, and the same form was sent to the membership electronically. We received some 26 responses, 5 of them delivered orally.

At both Sunday services on Feb 16 the initial results of this survey were first presented in the form of a preliminary working model of a projected permanent display for the Meeting House. This initial display consisted of two separate posterboard tabulations of social actions and activities; one of these tabulations listed engagements of individual UUCUV members with events or organizations outside the congregation (for example Dismas House, the Haven, Special Olympics), while the second tabulation listed activities of groups of UUCUV members in the outside community (such as Pods for the Pulpit Craft Fair, LISTEN dinners, Templeton Court lunches).

During the coffee hour and after these Feb 16 services the congregation engaged with energy and enthusiasm in a first round of adding data to these two compilations by writing in activities that had been omitted and by placing red and green stickers to provide a rough measure of total numbers of people who contributed either work or monetary donations to the items on the lists.

The services themselves presented an overview of our goal and methods of assessing the congregation's recent and current activities in the area of social responsibility and social action, in preparation for planning our future endeavors in this area. Also included were brief but inspiring presentations by Olive MacGregor, Mary Layton, Mare Wallace, and Mardy High (Olive and Mardy speaking for couples) on their motivations and personal experiences in their extensive engagements in a variety of social works.

Compilation of all these data thus far collected from both the questionnaires and the input of Feb 16 produced one list of 112 social agencies and social action events that had been engaged with by individual UUCUV members and friends, and a second list of 18 specific community social actions or events engaged in by groups of UUCUV folks as parts of congregational endeavors. A count of the red stickers shows 114 separate relationships between UUCUV

individuals and specific non-UUCUV social action organizations or events, and 100 separate relationships between individuals in UUCUV groups and the social actions in which these groups have been engaged. Numbers of green stickers reveal 124 separate individual monetary donations to all of these activities. In short, the data we now have record some **200 relationships of UUCUV members and friends with congregational and/or community organizations engaged in social responsibility activities, and 124 separate monetary donations to congregational and community responsibility activities.**

Two updated tabulation boards will now be available at the next few services to accommodate folks who have not yet had an opportunity to participate and to make the record as complete as possible. After this has been done we will work with the Board to create a permanent display of this information for the Meeting House.

Our Photo Policy

We would love to share more photos of church events through this newsletter and on our website, and perhaps occasionally in a local newspaper. To protect privacy where it is required or wanted, here is what we will do:

Those of us who work on the newsletter and website or submit photos to a newspaper will not include photos of people's faces without knowing they have given their permission. Children's faces will not be published.

We also generally will not print names in the photo captions unless there is a special reason to, such as introducing a new member.

If you are taking photos we might be able to use (and we hope you will!!), please take a moment to check that folks are comfortable with their faces appearing on the internet via our website and newsletter. Before using your photos we will be asking you to check with the people if you have not already. Save yourself time and ask when you click!

Rachel Clark

The UUCUV Library

Olive MacGregor, Library Chair

Some of you may not be familiar with the UUCUV library, located in the Meeting House. The library has over 650 items - mostly books, and a few DVD's and CD's.

The children's collection is located in the minister's study. The adult collection is in the main meeting room. On the back wall are books and symbols dealing with Unitarian Universalism, as well as other world religions. Materials about our partner church in India are also located there. On the side wall are found a general collection and a "Sustainability Collection," reflecting our status as a "green sanctuary." The card catalog is in the corner between the two walls with author, title, and subject cards. The books are cataloged by the Dewey Decimal system.

Before checking out library materials, please register by writing your name, address, phone number, e-mail address, and the date of registration on a 3 x 5 card and putting the card in the registration box. Directions for checking out are on the card catalog and in the minister's study. The regular loan period is one month.

The Library Committee: Olive MacGregor(chair), Polly Gould, Margo Nutt

New Books & Audio/Visuals

The most recent additions to the collection:

She Always Laughed When I Called Her Sweetheart, a memoir by Franklin F. Gould, Jr. (reviewed by Margo Nutt this page)

American Nations; A History of the Eleven Rival Regional Cultures of North America, by Colin Woodard, donated by Mary Layton

English-Khasi Dictionary, donated by the Kerns for the partner church section

A Force More Powerful, a DVD describing non-violent resistance in the world



Book Review

By Margo Nutt

She Always Laughed When I Called Her Sweetheart By Franklin F. Gould, Jr.

This is a delightful, lovingly written family memoir by our own Frank Gould's nonagenarian father. It details the courtship between a Maine Yankee of his Georgia peach and their subsequent life together. The family didn't exactly share in the post-war prosperity boom, but they certainly had enough love to keep them together. As Frank said many years later, "Dad, I don't know how Mother and you did it, but when I was growing up I never realized we were poor." His father took whatever work he could get: He worked in a Maine shipyard, as a union organizer, as a newspaperman, a teacher, finally ending up as a psychology professor. He admits (in Chapter 20) that he always wanted to be a storyteller, and so he is, recounting in astonishing detail the amusing, occasionally frightening, auspicious and charming life of the Gould family.

Such a book is not only a gift to one's immediate family, but it's a gift to future generations in its portrayal of life in a certain place and time, not to mention the importance of love and respect as the glue that holds a family together.

On Being a Partner Church

Claudia Kern

"I do not want my house to be walled in on all sides and my windows to be stuffed. I want the cultures of all the lands to be blown about my house as freely as possible." - Gandhi

UUCUV Partner Church History

For twenty years the Unitarian Universalist Partner Church Council (UUPCC) has encouraged and supported almost 200 congregational partnerships between American and Canadian Unitarian Universalists and Unitarians and Unitarian Universalists around the world. There are partnerships with Unitarians and Universalists in the Transylvania Region of Romania, Hungary, Czech Republic, India, the Philippines, Hong Kong, Uganda, Burundi and Kenya.

In the fall of 2007 UUCUV members Phil and Claudia Kern visited the predominantly Christian state of Meghalaya in northeastern India where Unitarianism has been a recognized religion for 126 years. Upon their return, Claudia and Phil presented photos and stories highlighting two villages with churches seeking partnerships. Both congregations were struggling to finish building churches, and each of those churches received \$500 from our annual Social Responsibility fund to help them complete their projects.

The congregation voted at the Annual Meeting in June 2008 for UUCUV to submit an application to become a Partner Church. In August of 2008 UUCUV entered into a partnership with the Unitarian Church of Mukhap in the Jaintia Hills of Meghalaya, and an Ad Hoc Partner Church Committee was formed calling itself "Ka Jingialang," using the Khasi (a predominant language in Meghalaya) expression for "committee."

UUCUV was fortunate to have the enthusiastic support of our minister at the time, Rev. Bruce Johnson, who was able with our help to be part of a UUPCC pilgrimage to Meghalaya in October of 2008, and subsequently became a member of the board of the UUPCC. In June of 2009 he and Claudia Kern met with a representative of the Northeast India Unitarian Union at the UUA General Assembly.

Since 2008 highlights of the Ka Jingialang have included:

- **Indian Dinners.** We have hosted one or two Indian dinners for the congregation each year since 2008,

including one featuring a performance of classical Indian dance

- **Regular communication between UUCUV and Mukhap,** including monthly emails and sending packets of drawings from our children, photos, news from our church. Sadly, packets coming from Mukhap have not reached us, although they have been sent.
- **Education.** We have had speakers and slideshows on Natural History of Northeast India, History of Northeast India, and History of Unitarianism in India.
- **UUA Office of International Relations Workshop.** "Faith Without Borders" workshop and Sunday worship service in January of 2011 with Rev. Eric Cherry, director of International Relations office.
- **Student Sponsorships.** Currently members and friends are sponsoring six high school students from the village of Mukhap. In addition, Rangdajied Lapasam is sponsored by the Ka Jingialang on behalf of the UUCUV congregation and is now attending college. This year the Youth Group has begun sponsoring a new student, and an extended family from the community who attended a recent dinner are also sponsoring a new student. This sponsorship is a commitment of \$126 annually for three years to change the life of a student and his family. It is hard for us living comfortably here in the Upper Valley to imagine how such a small amount can help to transform the direction of a stranger's life, but that is what an education can do in most parts of the non-Western world.
- **Support for the Mukhap Church's school.** 120 children's books were donated by UUCUV for the school.
- **Hosting Guests from India.** In 2011, we enjoyed a weeklong visit from Rev. Derrick Pariat, the president of the Unitarian Union of Northeast India, and his wife Dani. This time included hikes, shared meals, an ice cream social and sing-along, tours of the Upper Valley, and a Sunday worship service.

(continued next page)

On Being a Partner Church (Cont'd)

- **Celebrating The Completion of the New Church In Mukhap in 2012.** In addition to the building gift of \$500, we sent along an additional gift for furnishings and a blessing from UUCUV to be read at their dedication ceremony and framed to hang in their new sanctuary (new sanctuary is below left, old church is to the right.)



Why a Partner Church: *a personal reflection by Claudia Kern*

What wonder! In the past few months we have been able to look back at Earth from Saturn and from Mars and to remember when we first saw Earth from space and realized how small and how interconnected we are. In our partnership with Mukhap, we have the gift of living that interconnection and gaining a wider view of what we share in common with the hill people of Meghalaya, India, halfway around the world. Some spark of familiarity has drawn UUCUV and Mukhap together to explore our differences and similarities and to build a bridge of connection. Our partnership reminds us in a direct way that in every heart on this “blue boat home” there is the possibility for joy and love, and a yearning for connection.

When Kong Philda Suchiang and her husband Nadurwel Khlem hosted Phil and me overnight in their home in Mukhap, it was an act of radical hospitality. Not many UUs who visit Meghalaya are able to stay in their partner village, but the people of Mukhap were willing to trust beyond our differences, to trust that we would accommodate to what they could offer – a bed, rice and vegetables grown in the village and cooked on a hearth on the ground, a pit toilet just a short jaunt beyond the pig’s pen.



We shared no common language, but we could eat together, mime together, and share with them their delight in a new granddaughter, Lakitbonlang.

Nadurwel (*at left carrying chalice into new church at dedication*) joined us as we sat with the teens of the village in his living room passing around photos of the Upper Valley and maple sugar candies. He was alight with curiosity. He said that even though he was an old man, now he must grow much turmeric so that he could come and see these things for himself – that common yearning to know more of the world, the same yearning that had brought Phil and me to India.



(continued next page)

On Being a Partner Church (Cont'd)

Four generations of Lamare women welcomed us to their home with tea and sweets as we sat on beautiful, imaginative handmade furniture in a house made with great skill and artistry by Hisberwell Suchiang, the husband of Silanda Lamare and the grandfather of Gratify Lamare. All of us were equally fascinated by four-year-old Gratify's careful consideration of these strange visitors unlike anyone she had ever seen.

We were amazed at this matriarchal clan and the new view of family they gave to us. Equally, we were inspired with how enthusiastically they engaged in their Unitarian church.

Of course, it is much easier to connect in person, and there are many challenges to maintaining and deepening our communication with our Partner Church. But perhaps what matters most is that on both sides there are the best intentions to keep trying. Together we have mourned the passing of beloved members of our two churches. In Mukhap they have offered their prayers for Rev. Lee Devoe's recovery, and here we have celebrated with them the completion of their new church and their recent baptism of 16 children. We look at the faces of the seven students we sponsor and can imagine in them the faces of our children or grandchildren, nieces and nephews. Our Partnership reminds us that a family can be as large as the world.



The Ka Jingialang, like life itself, is continually morphing. Now Polly Gould, myself, and Phil are mainly the ones that keep communications flowing and the Partnership alive and functioning. But as we regain our grounding as a congregation and consider how we are called by the larger world, we invite you to explore how to grow and deepen our partner church experience. What ideas do you have? As the UUCUV looks to its future how might this friendship transform us?

"The world in which you were born is just one model of reality. Other cultures are not failed attempts at being you: they are unique manifestations of the human spirit." - Wade Davis, anthropologist and ethnographer

2014 NNED Spring Conference & Annual Meeting

April 12, 10 AM-3 PM

Unitarian Universalist Church of Concord, NH

"Better Together"

This conference has been designed to be a dynamic multigenerational opportunity for sharing, learning, and living our faith together. While lifting up the value of shared ministry and the significance of innovation and risk, we will gather together for worship and a large group learning experience, followed by fellowship and our Northern New England District Annual Meeting. Childcare will be available for children under the age of 5. We welcome (and have planned for) participation from children, youth, and adults of all ages. There will be alternate activities available for any children and youth who choose not to participate in the Annual Meeting portion of our day.

Please register by March 31. <http://nned.uua.org/events.html>



General Assembly 2014

June 25-29, Providence, RI

Message from Rev. Patience: GA is within easy driving reach only every 7-10 years, so this is a great opportunity for many UUCUVers to attend. For those who have never been, UU General Assembly is chock full of interesting and inspiring workshops, services, and opportunities to meet other UUs from all over the country. Just the experience of singing with a thousand other UUs is worth the trip! Please feel free to ask me any questions you may have and let Sparrow or me know if you are thinking of attending. **There are \$100 scholarships available through the district, but they need to be applied for soon!**

From the UUA Website

General Assembly is the annual meeting of our Unitarian Universalist Association. Attendees worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy for the Association through democratic process. Anyone may attend; congregations must certify annually to send voting delegates. The 2014 General Assembly will be June 25-29 in Providence, RI. Most General Assembly events will be held in the Rhode Island Convention Center.

Theme for 2014 GA: "Love Reaches Out"

We believe that our faith provides a path for each of us to unlock our transformational capacity to serve the world with love. We will gather in 2014 to help our association live into a future where Love Reaches Out – to share our faith both within and beyond our congregations' walls.

Outstanding Programming

General Assembly will offer just shy of 200 programming choices over the 5 days of GA. The 2014 Ware lecturer will be Sister Simone Campbell, a religious leader, attorney and poet with extensive experience in public policy and advocacy for systemic change. In 2012, she was instrumental in organizing the "Nuns on the Bus" tour.

Providence is a Fitting Place for UUs to Gather

Known as "The Creative Capital," Providence is a vibrant Renaissance city. UUs will essentially take over the compact downtown, where you'll find history, natural beauty and vibrant culture wherever you turn.

WaterFire Providence®

On Saturday, June 28, the UUA will co-sponsor this community event and public art phenomenon. This is an amazing opportunity for us to participate in the local culture of our host city while simultaneously witnessing our faith.

Multigenerational and Inclusive

There is an active youth and young adult contingent at GA. Scholarship and Volunteer Opportunities, Childcare, and Accessibility Services are available.

Learn more: www.uua.org/ga



"We have a very clear vision of Unitarian Universalism, and it comes up from the people. In the form of polity used by Unitarian Universalists, authority comes ultimately from all the people in the religious group. In our polity, congregational polity, there is no higher authority, there's only deeper down. This is what sets us apart from most of the religious movements in the world."

~Former UUA Moderator Gini Courter

"It felt like we were part of a living faith - it gave me energy to keep going in my own community."

Ways to Get Involved! In Our Church...

Sing in the Choir

If you think that group singing for a friendly congregation looks like fun, you're right. It's also a deeply satisfying way to connect with our souls, each other, and according to some--the universe.

Join us for a rehearsal--especially the Friday potlucks. You don't have to be able to read music, and no audition is required. We are especially in need of tenors and basses. I often make music and listening links available ahead of time to help singers prepare. While you don't have to commit to each and every date, some music will require being at more than one rehearsal. To get on the mailing list, e-mail me at Linda.Hoover@dartmouth.edu.

Here is our (slightly irregular) schedule through June. We rehearse on a Friday night before the first Sunday in the month that we sing--but not always the Friday just before, as you see below. On Sunday morning, we begin rehearsal at 8:00 AM, preparing for the 9:00 AM service.

March 9 Choir Sunday

March 23 Choir Sunday

April 4 Rehearsal Potluck

April 13 Choir Sunday

April 20 Choir Sunday (Easter)

May 2 Rehearsal Potluck

May 4 Choir Sunday

May 11 Choir Sunday (Mother's Day)

May 30 Rehearsal Potluck

June 1 Choir Sunday

June 22 Choir Sunday

Linda Hoover, Choir Director

Share Your Reflections

Share your spiritual reflections in this seasonal newsletter, or at a lay-led service. Watch the Weekly Blasts for opportunities—the Sunday Services committee looks for speakers on certain themes at various times through the year, and especially in summer. Ask Rev. Patience for the current contact person for this committee.

Join a Sunday Team

Anyone who would like to participate in hosting Sunday Services as part of a team, who has not already been assigned to one, please e-mail Karen Kluge at karen.kluge@dartmouth.edu. This is a good way to meet people and have a lot of fun --and help the congregation as well. The teams take responsibility for one month of services. They set up for the service, provide refreshments, welcome people as they arrive, and put things back in order afterwards.

If you have been assigned to a team, but are willing to be put on a "call" list if there is a need on a particular day, please let Karen know.

Provide Music & Readings

The Sunday Services committee is always looking for people to share special music or read for the chalice lighting or opening words during a service. They are very interested in adding other voices and diversity to our music offerings.

Volunteer at a Special Event

Watch for opportunities in the Weekly Blasts. This spring we have an annual Book & Music Sale fundraiser (see notice on page 10), and more events will likely crop up before summer! The church has numerous events throughout the year, and volunteers are hugely appreciated for set up, cooking and baking, planning, manning tables, sorting donated items, cleaning up, crafting, helping with children's activities, carpentry, taking pictures, gardening...you never know what might be needed!

Join a Committee or Work Group

Talk to any board member if you are interested in contributing some of your time and talents to the behind-the-scenes work involved to maintain this vibrant church community. Tell them about your interests and skills and let's see what could be a good fit! Some current possibilities: Sunday Services committee, Partner Church, Ways & Means, Caring Teams, Meeting House tasks. (And of course we have many other practical needs you might be able to fill.)

(continued next page)

Ways to Get Involved! In Our Church... (Cont'd)

Come to Elder Journey Lunches

When did you start your Elder Journey?

I started mine the day I was born.

Once a month a group of us meet for lunch and exchange stories and observations about the processes of change as we age. The group, as a whole, has always met these changes as a challenge not a burden. This allows us to learn coping skills from the wisdom of others while chatting and eating.

Please plan to join us wherever you are on your Journey. We meet the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 12:30 at the Meeting House.

Babette Hansen

Join Pastoral Visitors and Caring Teams

While most of the caring for each other happens quietly and spontaneously, there are times when a coordinated effort can be most helpful. This spring Rev. Patience will be encouraging members and friends to identify the ways in which they would like to be of service --- offering rides to church or to the doctor, home delivered meals, or perhaps some simple repairs or help with a chore around the house. If you would like to formally sign on as a member of the "Caring Crew" please email her at minister@uucuv.org or sign up on the sheet posted in the kitchen of the Meeting House. In addition, if you would like to become a regular visitor for members who are in nursing homes, please indicate this when you sign up.

Join the Women's Group 3rd Thursday monthly, 5:30 PM

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 choosing not 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.

Sally Page baciquail@comcast.net

Attend Adult RE Classes

Rev. Patience and Sparrow Alden offer occasional special group meetings and classes for adults, such as "New UU" orientations and the recent book discussion group on *The Case for God* by Karen Armstrong. Watch the Weekly Blasts and Sunday bulletins for these opportunities to expand your knowledge and enjoy meaningful conversation with others in the congregation.

Keeping Informed of Church Events

Please read your Weekly Email Blasts for important up-to-date news!

If you do not already receive our Weekly Blasts and wish to be added to the list, email Rachel at office@uucuv.org and let her know. This is our primary means of communicating our current news.

Church Calendar

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

www.uucuv.org

Ways to Get Involved!

Our Social Action In the Wider Community

LISTEN Community Dinners

One of the ways our congregation gives back to the Upper Valley is through our participation in the LISTEN Community Dinner program. All are welcome to join our team- no experience is necessary and you are not required to work at every dinner; only sign up for the ones that fit your schedule. We offer 2 shifts: prep & cook from 3:00p.m. - 4:45 p.m. and serve & cleanup from 4:45 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. and you may choose to work one or both shifts. Please call Suzanne at 603-643-7494 or send an email to knitrmom@gmail.com if you would like to sign up or have questions.

This year our team will cook and serve dinners on the first Monday of every other month at LISTEN's beautiful new facility in the River Point Plaza in White River Junction, VT. Please mark your calendars for the following dates:

April 7; June 2; August 4; October 6; December 1

LISTEN offers six Community Dinners, five nights a week, in 2 locations, at no cost to anyone, but serves mostly seniors and low-income families with children.

Our UUCUV team is one of more than 40 cook teams who prepare and serve hot, nutritious meals at the new LISTEN facility. It is a blessing to finally have a dedicated space where all the dinner needs, including fresh and pantry foods, pots, pans and real flatware and dishes instead of disposables, are on hand instead of in the back of Ray's pick-up truck, because he had to be ready to drive to the variety of locations we relied on before the opening of the new facility. Upwards of 20,000 meals are served annually, and as you might imagine, the need increases each year.

We currently cook for up to 100 guests at each dinner. Take-home containers are always available to bring meals to those who are homebound or to take for lunch the following day if there is enough food left after the meal is served.

I hope you will consider joining us to work at a dinner, donating a homemade dessert, fresh produce, or offer funds to purchase such items to supplement the meal. We have a good time together doing meaningful work for our Upper Valley neighbors. I find this work very gratifying, and I hope you will, too!

Suzanne Simon

Partner Church

Our congregation has a partnership with the Mukhap Unitarian Church in India. Please read the wonderful article on page 13 for ways to be involved in this endeavor.

Dismas House

"Dismas House provides transitional housing for men and women leaving Vermont's prisons, with residences in Burlington, Rutland, and Winooski [*and soon Hartford*]. The mission of Dismas is to create a supportive, family-like environment where healthy community is nurtured, and relationships between offenders and society members are mutually healed. We help former prisoners return to productive lives by reducing revolving-door incarceration, increasing public safety, and saving taxpayer dollars. Dismas House does not have a therapeutic model to work with sex offenders." (*from a Dismas House brochure*)

Dismas House is looking for items for the home that is opening soon in Hartford: small bedroom desks, bureaus, coffee mugs, drinking glasses, sheets or blankets for twin beds. At least through March there will be a donation box in the UUCUV office on the floor near the mailboxes. If you want to donate furniture, talk to Bonnie Kawecki.

If you are interested in helping Dismas directly, they are looking for volunteers to help with meals occasionally, do projects at the House or participate in a committee. There are volunteer cards on the welcome table and one copy of some information sheets. Volunteer cards can be sent to Deb Diegoli, 1061 Route 5, Springfield, VT 05156 dldiegolivt@gmail.com

Bonnie Kawecki

Supporting the Work of The Haven

We collect food and personal care items at Sunday services to be delivered to The Haven. We also support them financially through the Pods for the Pulpit craft fair earnings. This year, a portion of the minister's discretionary fund was donated to help families in need of emergency housing or support.

About the UUCUV

Board of Directors

Cappy Nunlist, President
Bill Brawley, Vice President
Karen Kluge, Secretary
Lucy Taylor, Treasurer
Anne Alford, Member-at-Large
Dan Mendelsohn, Member-at-Large
Mary Shain, Member-at-Large

Staff

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

Committee/ Task Force Chairs

Communications: *Bill Brawley*
Committee on Ministry: *Joan Nierenberg, Lori Fortini, Kathy Christie*
Library: *Olive MacGregor*
Meeting House: *Carl Tracy, Mary Layton*
New Building: *Mary Layton*
Partner Church: *Polly Gould*
Sunday Services: *Bonnie Kawecki, Paul Schmidt*
Sunday Teams: *Karen Kluge*
Ways and Means: *Lori Fortini*



OUR MISSION: We strive to be a joyful, inclusive congregation that nurtures spiritual and intellectual growth for everyone while encouraging lives of service and integrity.

OUR VISION: We, the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the Upper Valley, unite: to provide diverse gatherings with music, ceremony, dialogue, and joy in support of each other's spiritual well-being;

to maintain an active program of religious education for adults and children;
to find ways for each of us to participate in activities that will provide fellowship, be intergenerational, and serve the wider community;
to sustain our vitality toward building a sanctuary and increasing our membership;
to fulfill our commitment to be environmentally responsible;
to fulfill our commitment to be a Welcoming Congregation;
to be a positive influence in the world;
to welcome all who share our mission and covenant.

OUR COVENANT: We covenant with each other to speak and act with thoughtful intentions, compassionate truthfulness, and constructive encouragement, in order to build and nurture a loving and supportive environment where all will feel safe to explore our spiritual truths.

SUNDAY SERVICES: Services are held at the Meeting House at 9 and 11 a.m. Childcare is usually available. Sparrow F. Alden (email below) provides children's religious education programs at 10 a.m. between the services. Youth group gathers approximately monthly for Sunday lunch.

MEETING HOUSE: Located at 320 Route 5 South in Norwich opposite The Family Place, the Greek Revival farmhouse contains our offices and meeting spaces.

MINISTER: You may contact Rev. Patience Stoddard at the office (802) 649-8828 or if urgent, (603) 313-1169 (cell), or email her at minister@uucuv.org. Her office hours are Tuesdays 9-4 and Thursdays 9:30-6:30.

CREDENTIALLED RELIGIOUS EDUCATOR: Call Sparrow F. S. Alden at (603) 359-8426, or email her at education@uucuv.org

CHOIR DIRECTOR: Email Linda Hoover at music@uucuv.org

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE: Hours are Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 9-12, unless otherwise posted. Contact Rachel Clark at the office at (802) 649-8828, or email office@uucuv.org.

CARES AND CONCERNS: With cares and concerns, please contact Rev. Patience Stoddard or Sparrow Alden (contact information above).

NEWS: To receive our weekly email news "blasts" and/or The Call, our quarterly e-newsletter, email Rachel at the office (above) and ask to be added to our list. Hard copies of The Call are available at the Meeting House for those who need them.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:

The submissions deadline for the Summer issue is May 15.

Please send your submissions to Rachel at office@uucuv.org

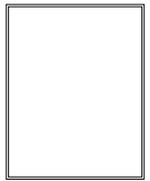
"WEEKLY BLAST" DEADLINE:

Send news items to Rachel by 9 AM Wednesdays for inclusion in the weekly news email.

Unitarian-Universalist Congregation
of the Upper Valley

PO Box 1110

Norwich, VT 05055



Dates to Remember

Book & Music Sale--March 22
Northern New England District
Spring Conference--April 12
(Concord, NH)
Annual Meeting--May 31
General Assembly--June 25-29
(Providence, RI)

UUCUV March - May

UUCUV Phone: (802) 649-8828

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

E-mail: office@uucuv.org

Spring Issue 2014