

The Call

Unitarian Universalist Congregation
of the Upper Valley

Summer 2014 June-Aug.

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Sunday Services

9 & 11 AM through June 22
10 AM June 29- August 24

Sermon topics may be found on our website, www.uucuv.org, as well as in the Sunday bulletins.

We are

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

Building a New Beginning

Rev. Patience Stoddard

*This beginning has been quietly forming,
Waiting until you were ready to emerge.*

This church year has held many significant events, from the return to the Meeting House as the home for services, to the growing consensus that it is time to take a big step into a more secure and lasting future by building a new sanctuary and fellowship space. At the recent annual meeting the vote to proceed with this plan was UNANIMOUS. The newly appointed Steering Committee of BJ Shabel, Bill Brawley and Joani Nierenberg will be meeting throughout the summer and moving ahead on the next steps. It is a privilege to be a part of this new beginning.

We are not starting from scratch. This beginning owes much to the work up to this time – of the recent two Building Task Forces; the Building Committee and the Strategic Planning Team of several years ago; the Mission, Vision, and Covenant process completed a year ago; and the dedicated leadership and staff of the last twenty years. There is already a strong foundation upon which to build.

The path ahead will have its challenges, as unforeseen obstacles and the unexpected undoubtedly will occur. At those times it will be your trust in the process of collaboration, your commitment to listen to one another and work through differences, and your confidence in the wider principles of our liberal faith that will see us through. Whatever the final structure looks like, its cornerstone will be the values and relationships sustained by this community.

UUCUV's success is not defined by a building or the lack thereof, but by the kind of compassionate community you are day in and day out. As we proceed in planning and building a new physical home for this community, may we move forward consciously and confidently, willing to take a risk for the future.

*You can trust the promise of this opening;
Unfurl yourself into the grace of beginning...
Awaken your spirit to adventure;
Hold nothing back, learn to find ease in risk;
Soon you will be home in a new rhythm,
For your soul senses the world that awaits you.*

(quotes from *A New Beginning* by John O'Donahue)

Summer Service Speakers

Paul Schmidt, Sunday Services Chair

“Learning Through Life’s Passages”

The summer offers us a return to a single service at 10 AM, followed by coffee hour. We hope that you take advantage of the largely lay-led summer schedule.

This year summer services begin on June 29 and center around the theme of “Learning Through Life’s Passages.” The types of passages and learning present in life are varied and are reflected in these services. The full schedule as known at time of this printing is presented here.

If you are interested in presenting special music, there is still time to be involved! Please contact Paul Schmidt if you would like to help with the music for a summer service.

- June 29 Babette Hansen - “Reconfiguring After Change”
- July 6 Cappy Nunlist - “When the Whole Family is in Transition”
- July 13 Grace Alden
- July 20 Patience Stoddard- “Mentors”
- July 27 Jim and Rev. Gail Seavey - Meghalaya India
- Aug 3 Mary Layton - “STEAM: Adding Art to the STEM Subjects”
- Aug 10 Terry Rosenmeier
- Aug 17 Patience Stoddard - “Unexpected Teachers”
- Aug 24 Ginger Wallis - “The Journey of a Question”
- Aug 31 Annual Picnic (usually at noon)

Staff Summer Schedules

Rev. Patience:

Away June 25-29 at General Assembly.

On vacation from June 30 - July 19.

Working and available July 20th -25th.

On vacation July 26-Aug 16.

Back to regular schedule Aug 17.

Sparrow (RE):

Away June 29 - July 6 and Aug 1-10, available by email only (out of country) the rest of August.

Back to work Sept 4.

Rachel (office):

June 17 - July 25 working Wednesday and Friday mornings 9-12, with some other days as needed.

Away July 29 - Aug 12, returning Aug 13 to work.



Pastoral Care and Contact with Rev. Patience Over the Summer

I will be on vacation much of the summer but wish to be contacted by phone should there be a pastoral emergency. I’ll be at General Assembly in Providence, RI from June 25-29. During that time I will be checking emails regularly and available by phone. When on vacation, I would prefer not to be contacted other than for significant pastoral concerns. I’ll be working and in the office the week of the 20th of July. The following week (July 26-August 2) I will be on the Cape at a singing and dancing camp. This is the only week where I may not be reachable in case of emergency. I will leave Cappy Nunlist (Board President) with the name and number of a minister who will be on-call that week.

Hoping you have a great summer,
Patience

President's Message

Cappy Nunlist, Board President

Annual Meeting was a successful combination of friendship (46 members, 3 staff and several good “friends”), food (excellent as always), and fun (thank you, Sparrow, for creating a new tradition with “Annual Meeting Bingo”). We elected board members and a nominating team, approved a budget for next year, celebrated our social justice activities, contemplated what two services might look like in the fall, learned what progress has been made toward the goal of a new sanctuary and what the next steps would be.

The Steering Committee charged with overseeing this project to its end (whatever that may be) was introduced, and I am delighted that Joani Nierenberg, Bill Brawley and BJ Shabel were willing to undertake this responsibility. The process of interviewing architects or design-builders for the purpose of producing and pricing conceptual sketches to show the congregation, hiring a professional to conduct a financial feasibility study to determine how much we are likely to raise in a capital campaign fund, and bringing this information to the congregation to determine if you want to proceed to the next step was explained. The congregation then voted to support the Committee's efforts by authorizing the expenditure of funds from the capital campaign fund to take these steps.

The atmosphere was one of optimism, trust, and a willingness to listen to other points of view and stay flexible. These are qualities we are going to need in the chaotic, exciting and busy times ahead. I have been aware of (and in some cases been a participant in) several exchanges in the past few months that have increased my appreciation for this congregation in this regard. Conflict has not been avoided. Instead, when there is a problem, people have addressed it appropriately. Slightings have been brought into the open, discussed, and apologies given and accepted with grace. Nothing about this process is easy, but it is incredibly comforting to know that you can make a mistake, have it brought to your attention, and have your explanation and/or apology accepted. We will all make mistakes in this process; we may all be offended by someone's behavior. But I am confident that resolving these conflicts amicably will only bring us closer together. You are all such amazing people! I am honored to serve you as president.



*Every now and then go away, have a little relaxation,
for when you come back to your work your judgment will be surer.
Go some distance away because then the work appears smaller
and more if it can be taken in at a glance
and a lack of harmony and proportion is more readily seen.*

Leonardo Da Vinci

Summer Prayer

Sparrow F. Alden, CRE

Dear Friends,

Upstairs in the Spirit Play classroom, the Ways to Pray activity basket holds cards with words and images for kids to imitate as they work out for themselves what prayer should look like, sound like, feel like.

This summer, in our grand opportunity to be outdoors, I will be looking for ways to pray on my adventures. Have you looked through the book *Stone Circles* from our library? Maybe this summer I'll use an idea from the book to recreate a wee Stonehenge from beach stones just above the water line. Does building Faerie Houses sound like prayer or play time to you? I find that working with found natural materials on a small and detailed scale, creating tiny places of welcome and beauty, opens my heart to the idea of the *genius loci*, the protective spirit of a place. The careful work with my hands in the middle of the woods gives me time to revitalize my understanding of the interconnectedness of the spirit of one place with another and of my role as part of the protective spirit of my biome, my region, my planet.

Time away from human sounds is good food for the soul. At my house, when the power (and the 'fridge compressor

and the computer fans) goes out, the blissful empty silence lasts only until the neighbor's generator comes on. To reach a place without whirring, I must walk in among the trees. Perhaps you will walk on the beach. Ask your kids to listen to the wind, the leaves, the water once a day, a little bit longer each time. You do it. Every day. Let it soak into your bones.

Pray with your guitar and your friends around a campfire. Pray with your hands deep in the earth of your garden. Pray with your pen dancing on clean paper.

I have long ago set aside the questions "Pray to whom? Pray for what?" I just pray now. It saves angst. I just let my attention go in, go in, go in until it comes out the other side embracing all the dancing stars. I know this is sacred; I choose to call it prayer.

Let's explore what our own individual prayer should look like, sound like, feel like. I look forward to grabbing a cup of coffee and hearing about your adventures in prayer this summer.

Peace,

Sparrow



Celebrate Litha!

What better way to celebrate the Summer Solstice than at the Summer Revels? This community event on the green in Norwich features song, dance, and participation for all ages from 5 PM until dark on Saturday, June 21. See <http://revelsnorth.org/summer-revels/> for further details. We will not have a separate event at UUCUV, but will join the Summer Revels as we can. See you there! We will meet again at the UUCUV Meeting House to celebrate Lughnased six weeks later on July 31.

The summer solstice holiday, known in Wiccan tradition as Litha, is an excellent time to celebrate the commonalities which bind a neighborhood or clan together and to watch the long twilight. Personal meditations appropriate to Litha include artistic creativity, family and clan, including the

handing down of traditions and treasures to new generations, and gratitude for the bounty we have begun to harvest.

Here's one of my favorite Litha traditions - picking our own 6 quarts of strawberries. The goal is to eat berry-based food until they're all gone; not hard, only about half of them make it home. I serve strawberries blended into a smoothie with yogurt and maple syrup as Strawberry Soup, and a dollop of cream on the top is traditional. Eating only one kind of food for a short time, called a mono-fast, serves some of the same functions as fasting by turning our attention to the nourishment beyond food and our gratitude for it. We wait 11.5 months for strawberry season. Friends, don't let it pass us by.

Religious Ed for Young People at UUCUV!

Sparrow F. Alden, CRE

Whenever there is a worship service, there is something going on for young people. Earth-centered worship (usually weekday evenings) includes people of all ages; Sunday mornings incorporate a model of Worship time together followed by Learning time in age-divided groups.

Whole families begin the Sunday morning service together to light the chalice, to sing, and to collect donations of pantry food and personal care items for The Haven. From there, kids move to Learning time.

This summer I will be refining the logistics. I offer you this snapshot of the plan for the academic year beginning September 7th knowing that you'll follow along if there are some small changes by summer's end.

Nursery-aged kids will have gently structured child care available in the minister's office during all services no matter the day or time. The child care teens have a trunk full of toys and crayons and games, and they've all been trained in safety, first aid, and age-appropriate play and guidance. Emphasis is on feeling welcome, becoming familiar with the space, taking turns, and sharing.

Preschool and elementary students will have religious education lessons during the second service on Sundays. The sunny room upstairs at the Meeting House will be home base. We will get outdoors as often as we can, and we'll use the Spirit Play model for our indoor lessons. Our theme of Compassion will parallel the adults' spiritual work this year, and we will consider all our human and animal neighbors as we learn.

Junior and Senior Youth are expected to attend the sermon or be teens on child care duty; Patience will schedule lunches with them to discuss the sermons!

The whole Junior Youth group (grades 7 & 8 & 9 with room for mature 6th graders) participates in approximately monthly family-led adventures as a group. The Alden family will lead another apple-picking party late in September. There is a rumor of a field trip - possibly even overnight - to a historic Universalist site. Junior Youth in 8th and 9th grades this year will participate in the Coming of Age Program and meet with their mentors monthly at a Sunday lunch time. Find out more about our Coming of Age program on the UUCUV web site.

Senior Youth meeting times are still up in the air, as youth programming only works when these busy kids have time and desire! We hope to meet twice monthly, including Sunday lunches, retreats, and topical discussion groups. We continue our ongoing project of supporting a friend in school in Mukhap, India and will once again be a congregational monthly hospitality team for Sunday Services. In addition, I'm dearly hoping to try out a Friday after-school-after-activities project. Everything I've read on youth's & young adults' robustness and resiliency in the face of an increasingly stressful culture indicates that strengthening stress management skills is the most effective religious education. Well, this Meeting House is on the Advance Transit line. Friday afternoon Cocoa House? Yoga class? Meditation group? Music circle? Cookie baking? Tabletop RPGs? The content will be up to the kids, of course, and I can't wait!

THANK YOU to Nicholas Warren for leading children's religious education on the topic of "Scientists Ask Questions."

THANKS, Frank Gould for helping build the second picnic table!



Children's Garden

We grow lovely fresh herbs and veg to donate to the LISTEN Community Dinner! Is there a week when your family could water the garden twice?

Email education@UUCUV.org

Our New Members

Margo Nutt



We were delighted to have four new members join the congregation on Sunday, May 4th. Here are their brief bios:

PAMELIA TISZA says “We moved to the Upper Valley two years ago after living in central New Jersey for over forty years. We needed to be closer to family, most of whom live in New England, where I grew up. It has been a good move, and I am pleased to find a UU church as I come from a family which is UU on both sides.

After college, I went to the Yale School of Nursing, and spent most of my career teaching—first in schools of nursing and then in staff/patient education.

We live at The Greens, which has proven to be a good choice for us. It is a small community of very interesting and congenial people. And the food is excellent. It is also convenient since I have had to stop driving. There is a van for routine household needs as well as for medical trips. And do not forget the free bus which goes by the door and then to Hanover, Norwich and/or the hospital.”

ELENI DRIVAS is a member of the class of 2016 at Dartmouth. As a certified EMT, she is part of Dartmouth EMS (a student-run non-transport basic life support squad licensed by the state of New Hampshire. Dartmouth EMS is dispatched by, and responds with, campus Safety and Security). Eleni also volunteers for Big Brother/Big Sister. She is a math major, and she plans to go to medical school after Dartmouth. Originally from Bedford, Massachusetts, she began attending the UU youth group there in her teens. She and Patience are planning some joint outreach to Dartmouth students next year.

NICK WARREN and **CHELSEA MERRIHEW** moved here in August 2013 so Nick could attend graduate school at Dartmouth, working towards a PhD in Cancer Biology.

Chelsea was able to land a job at DHMC as an RN a few months after moving here.

Nick writes: “Chelsea’s dad grew up in Lebanon and most of that side of her family still lives there. That was a big influence on me applying to Dartmouth in the first place; it has been nice connecting with some relatives she has rarely seen.”

Chelsea and Nick met their first year of undergrad at the University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire. Chelsea studied nursing, while Nick studied Biochemistry/Molecular Biology. (He recently had his first scientific paper published from his undergraduate research.)

He writes: “I also played the cymbals in the marching band all 4 years of college, which has had a lasting impact on me. Chelsea and I like to be outside a lot. This winter we took up downhill skiing and really enjoyed that. We both went down a black diamond trail by the end of the season, which was really exciting. Now that we have a puppy a lot of our time is spent with him and going on walks in the woods by our apartment. I am helping start up a Science Policy organization for graduate students that I hope will tackle some issues such as recycling in research labs.”

“Neither of us have a UU background. Chelsea grew up in a very Lutheran part of Wisconsin and I have been ever changing in my spirituality. Most recently I have been fond of the Dakota teachings of Black Elk and a little bit of Buddhism, but never in a very structured way. So UU was a way for us to compromise on our spiritual journey in order to grow together.”

NOTE: Just before this went to press, **LEAH GOAT** became a member as well. We are delighted to welcome her to membership after long association with the congregation. We thank her for stepping up to help with the UUCUV gardens! We plan to include more of a bio for Leah in the next Call.



UUCUV Spirit-in-Nature Path

Historical Excerpts From the Path Guidebook

Phil Kern

Spirituality is, at least partly, a matter of waking up, of paying attention to our lives, and of acknowledging the profound mystery of existence. Acknowledging mystery means consciously confronting life's fundamental questions: why is there something rather than nothing? Who are we? Where are we, and where have we been? Why are we in this place? In seeking paths by which to address these questions we must keep awake by avoiding the myriad distractions – livelihood, politics, misguided religious traditions, mindless chatter, drugs, and constant entertainment, including sports and the daily news – with which we humans deliberately cloud our minds in order to avoid this very self-confrontational question. Avoiding distraction is necessary because these questions can be addressed only through seeking to know and understand the real world beyond our human screens, the world of “nature,” specifically the origin and character of all life, and of the universe itself. One could engage this quest by walking at times on the Spirit-in-Nature Path, getting to know some of our native neighbors, and learning some of the ways of their neighborhood.

Events leading to the creation of the Spirit-in-Nature Path and this guidebook began in the spring of 2001 with a congregation workshop on, of all things, social justice. The unexpected but unanimous consensus of that workshop was that the single most urgent social problem was environmental degradation. Our determination to address this issue was reinforced in two ways. First there was a request for summer Sunday morning programs on natural history and the environment. Then we discovered that the Unitarian Universalist Association's study/action issue for that year was on the topic of Responsible Consumption as a Moral Imperative.

The ensuing eight-week series on that topic was one of the most well-attended and enthusiastically received summer programs we have had. In June, 2002, we became one of the first five Unitarian Universalist congregations to be recognized as a Green Sanctuary. One of our projects in that undertaking was to create these paths, on the model of the Spirit in Nature Interfaith Path Sanctuary in East Middlebury, Vermont.

Funding was provided by the congregation's Sustainability Action Group, by a gift from former congregation member Louise Wickware, and through a grant from the New England Grassroots Environment Fund. Design and construction of the boardwalk and associated structures were directed by Colin High and former member Bob Eliason. Bob also made the numbered stakes, the original plant labels, and the inspirational signs. Initial construction of the boardwalk, the paths, and the various signs was completed in the summer and fall of 2002, and final work was done in the summer of 2003.

A copy of the path guidebook, which is kept in the kiosk at the beginning of the boardwalk, provides a guide to the paths and to the natural history of this land and of the Earth. It may also serve as a faltering first step on a path seeking spirit in nature. On the paths you will find tags identifying many of the plants and other natural features, and also numbered stakes keyed to the discussions in the guidebook. You will also see signs with contemplative writings from a variety of spiritual traditions that may speak to Unitarian Universalists and other open-minded seekers of spiritual wisdom. Happy walking.



Life Passages

Moving Away:

Bonnie Kawecki, Karen Kluge and Terry Rosenmeier

The congregation bids a reluctant farewell to three members who are retiring to other parts of the country. Bonnie Kawecki and her husband Marty are moving to Maryland to be closer to children and grandchildren. In her last year with us Bonnie served admirably as chair of the Sunday Services Committee.

Long-time members and leaders Karen Kluge (last year's Secretary of the Board) and her husband Terry Rosenmeier (currently on the Sunday Services Committee) are moving to southern Arizona where they will explore the Sonoran Desert and learn about the many birds who make their home there. We will miss their leadership, wise counsel and Karen's strong gospel voice leading us in song.

In Memoriam:

Jacqueline Parker Clement

Jacqueline Parker Clement of Etna and Hanover passed away on April 23, 2014.

With her husband, Mug Clement, Jackie was among the early founders of the UUCUV, and she was an active member through the 1980's and 90's as the congregation grew from a few dozen to over 130.

Jackie grew up in New Jersey, graduated from Mount Holyoke College, and met Mug in graduate school in Berkeley. She returned to school after raising two children, earning a Master's in Education from American University and a Doctorate in Education from Harvard. She had a distinguished career as a school superintendent in New Hampshire, Massachusetts, and Pennsylvania.

Her role as board member and treasurer of the Children's Literacy Foundation reflected her lifelong dedication to children's literacy. Her collection of original artwork from children's books is in the Kilton Public Library in West Lebanon.

A memorial service was held in Etna on May 24.

Virginia Lee (Vietje) Macho

Virginia Lee Macho of Fairlee passed away in Hanover Terrace, on April 26, 2014. An active member of the UUCUV until her long illness intervened, she was seen at tag sales, book sales, and bake sales, quietly organizing and getting things done.

Ginny grew up in New York and graduated from Walt Whitman High School, and studied music at Fredonia State University. She married Theodore Vietje in 1956 and they moved to Fairlee, Vermont where they ran the Rare Bird and Animal Farm until 1970. They bred mountain lions and raised many different wild animals, while they also raised their three children.

Ginny was an accomplished pianist, and taught piano at her home. Photography, sketching, and painting New England scenery were also pastimes she enjoyed. She worked in educational sales with her husband after the zoo closed, and she was sales representative for DC Health and Encyclopedia Britannica, as well as Perma-Bound Books, the latter for 32 years until 2008. She retained her maiden name Macho after divorce in 2000.

A memorial service later this spring will be announced.

Priscilla Brooks

On June 1st the congregation said a fond goodbye to Priscilla at the Memorial Service held at the Meeting House. Priscilla and her husband Rev. George Brooks have been friends of the congregation for many years. They made a generous donation to purchase the Meeting House and were actively involved in our services during summers. Before her marriage, Priscilla was an administrative assistant in her hometown of Deerfield, MA and later in Boston at the Unitarian Association. She was an expert knitter, teaching courses to adults and running her own knitting store. Priscilla graced this community with her kindness, wisdom and quiet strength. We miss her and send our love to her husband George as he returns home to Florida.

Northwoods Summer Lunch Program

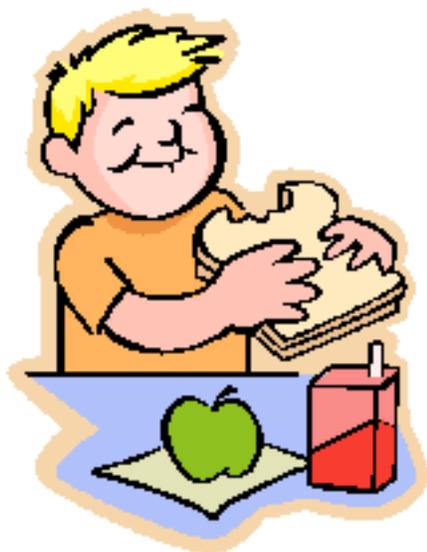
July 20 – after church to 2:00 PM

Lori Fortini

It is that time of year again to plan for the Northwoods Summer Lunch Program. UUCUV has signed up to make lunches for the week of July 21-25. So we will be making the lunches on Sunday July 20th after church.

For new folks, UUCUV has participated in this lunch program for many years. We are one of a network of churches who make lunches for the children in the housing development in White River Junction. These children receive school lunch during the school year, but we help supplement the family food budgets by providing a sandwich, fruit, juice, and snacks for a week when school is off for the summer. As we get closer to the date, I will ask for donations to cover the cost of the food and for volunteers to help with our sandwich-making assembly line.

Thank you to all who help keep this UUCUV program going. It is a tangible way to make a difference in children's lives while it builds UUCUV fellowship and community. A win-win!



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

I am only one, but still I am one.

I cannot do everything. But still I can do something.

And because I cannot do everything,

I will not refuse to do the something I can do.

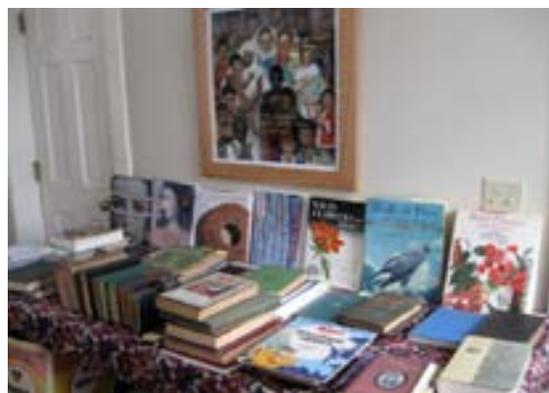
— Edward Everett Hale (Unitarian minister) (1822-1909)

Book & Music Sale Once Again a Success!

Rich Greenlee

This year's Book & Music Sale was held on Saturday, March 22. The event brought in over \$1,300 to the UUCUV coffers, but perhaps even more important was the chance to "recycle" used books and CDs. Also, many people come to this event who are not UUCUV members, so it gives us a chance to raise our visibility to the community at large. We also help support local used book stores by offering them inventory at a price where they too can make a profit.

I want to thank everyone who donated books and music, who helped at the event and with distribution of "leftovers" afterwards, and who came by to make purchases! We expect to continue this tradition again next year, so save your books and music with an eye towards next year's donations!



Norwich Five-Church Rummage Sale Friday July 11 - Sunday July 13

Sale Dates

Grand Opening: Friday, July 11, 11 AM to 9 PM

Saturday, July 12, 9 AM to 2 PM

2 PM to 7 PM Half Price Sale

Sunday, July 13, 10 AM to 1 PM, Bag Sale

Donations Wanted

Please watch our weekly blasts for details on when to bring donations to Tracy Hall and how you can volunteer to help with the sale. Note that they do not accept mattresses, TV's, computer monitors, or large appliances. Contact: Mary Layton marydlayton@gmail.com



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.

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.”

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.

New Books

This time I was on a mission to buy different versions of the Bible. Between LISTEN and the 5 Colleges Book Sale, I was able to purchase the King James Version, the Revised Standard Version and the New King James Version. (I did not take the Gideons Bible from a hotel room.) They are now on the library shelf with some Bible reference materials and are ready to be checked out.

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



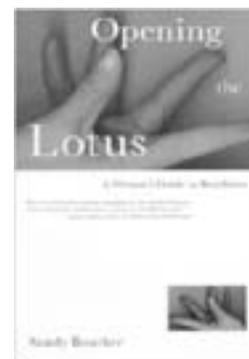
*And forget not that the earth delights to feel your bare feet
and the winds long to play with your hair. Kahlil Gibran*

Book Review

By Margo Nutt

***Opening the Lotus: A Woman's Guide to Buddhism* By Sandy Boucher**

Part primer, part personal history, part guide to spiritual practice, this book opens the door to an understanding of Buddhist spirituality. Written in a conversational tone, with inspirational personal anecdotes, the author presents a female perspective on fundamental Buddhist teachings such as compassion, detachment, and enlightenment.



Do women take a distinctive approach to the elements of the Buddhist path? The author believes they do, because their life experience differs in many respects from men's. Girls receive early social conditioning that is different from the training of little boys; women encounter particular expectations, dangers, and obstacles as well as encouragement to develop specific qualities in themselves, perform certain roles, follow particular paths. Because of this conditioning, the inner life of women is bound to be different from the subjective universe of most men.

Buddhism has traditionally been a male-dominated religion in Asia. Buddhist centers that cater mostly to Westerners are more open to women's leadership. In no way do the Buddhist teachings serve to exclude anyone from receiving the instruction. Like Jesus, the Buddha welcomed everyone.

Partner Church News

GOOD NEWS FROM INDIA & GUEST SPEAKERS, JULY 27

Claudia Kern

Our Partner Church Ka Jingialang* is very pleased to report that with the assistance of Bah* Khlanhiwot Lammare, a native of Mukhap and Secretary for the Unitarian Union of Northeast India Partner Church Council, we have made real progress in re-establishing communication with our Partner Church in Mukhap. With his assistance the Mukhap church leaders have appointed the college student we are sponsoring, Rangwansuk Lapasam, as our official contact.

If you do not recognize the name Rangwansuk, it is because our student, Rangdajied, has chosen to return to the traditional version of his name before it was Anglicized by the British. Claudia Kern will be helping Rangwansuk with writing his news to us in English, and Khlanhiwot and other young adults from Mukhap with good English skills will help him translate our news into Khasi*.

One of those who will assist Rangwansuk is the Rev. Leiki Suchiang who is also from Mukhap. She is now the assistant minister to the church in Mukhap and visits there often because her mother lives in the village. It is because of Rev. Leiki that the UUCUV Ka Jingialang was contacted

by her good U.S. friends, Jim and the Rev. Gail Seavey who spent a month in Meghalaya in 2011 and made a shorter visit last year.

We are excited to report that the Seavey's will be sharing their experiences in Meghalaya with us at our worship service on Sunday, July 27. This will be a great experience to hear more about Unitarianism in the Khasi and Jaintia Hills of Meghalaya in Northeast India.

**Ka Jingialang = committee*

**Bah = Mister*

**Khasi = the main language of Meghalaya, although the villagers in Mukhap speak a variation found in the Jaintia Hills.*



Rev. Leiki Suchiang with Rev. Gail Seavey our speaker for July 27.



Rangwansuk preparing rice fields in Mukhap for planting this spring.

UUCUV Partner Church History

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

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, Rangwansuk 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 may be hard 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.
- **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.

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 updated schedule through end of June:

June 15 --Meet at 8:00 AM for rehearsal, sing at 9:00

June 22--***Meet at 9:30 AM for rehearsal in Patience's office, sing at 11:00 for Flower service***

Linda Hoover, Choir Director

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 Mary Shain at jimandmaryshain@gmail.com.

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 Mary 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. In the summer, for example, we prepare lunches for children in a housing development in White River Junction (see page 9).

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!

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 Crew

While most of the caring for each other happens quietly and spontaneously, there are times when a coordinated effort can be most helpful. This summer 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 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.

(continued next page)

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

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.

Please email Sally for directions to her home.

Sally Page baciquail@comcast.net

Join a Committee or Work Group

Talk to any committee chair or group coordinator 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 include working on a fundraising activity (Ways and Means, Lori Fortini), visiting a member in a nursing home (sign up sheet), organizing space and materials (Patience), doing gardening (Leah Goat), or helping with up-keep at the Meeting House (Mary Layton or Carl Tracy). Remember many hands make light work.

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

*I wish to begin this summer well,
To do something in it worthy of it and of me;
To transcend by daily routine and that of my
townspeople;
To have my immortality now, that it be in the
quality of my daily life.*

Henry David Thoreau



Ways to Get Involved!

Our Social Action In the Wider Community

LISTEN Community Dinners

It is easy to overlook the hidden poverty of our scenic and affluent region. Our UUCUV cook team is one of more than 40 teams who prepare and serve hot, nutritious meals for the LISTEN Program. Upwards of 20,000 meals are served annually, at no cost, and as you might imagine, the need increases each year. We currently cook for up to 100 guests at each dinner. Seniors and families with children make up the majority of our guests.

Participating in the LISTEN Dinner Program is just one of the ways our congregation gives back to the Upper Valley community. 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 me at 603-643-7494 or send an email to knitrmom@gmail.com if you would like to sign up or have questions.

This summer our team will cook and serve dinners on Monday, June 2nd and Monday, August 4th at LISTEN's beautiful facility in the River Point Plaza in White River Junction, VT.

I hope you will consider joining us: work at a dinner, donate fresh produce or a homemade dessert, 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 deeply 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 14 for ways to be involved in this endeavor.

Supporting the Work of The Haven

We collect food and personal care items at Sunday services to be delivered to The Upper Valley 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.

Interfaith Power & Light

We are a member of this national organization of faith communities dedicated to the promotion of clean energy and awareness of global warming. For more information, contact Mardy or Colin High.

mhigh22@gmail.com

chigh@rsginc.com

Dismas House

“Dismas House provides transitional housing for men and women leaving Vermont’s prisons, with residences in Burlington, Rutland, Winooski, and 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)*

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. Please contact Deb Diegoli, 1061 Route 5, Springfield, VT 05156 dldiegolivt@gmail.com

Bonnie Kawecki

About the UUCUV

Board of Directors as of 7/1/14

*Cappy Nunlist, President
Phil Kern, Vice President
Bess Schmidt, 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: *TBA*
Committee on Ministry: *Frank Gould, Lori Fortini, Kathy Christie*
Library: *Olive MacGregor*
Meeting House: *Carl Tracy, Mary Layton*
Monthly Teams: *Mary Shain*
Partner Church: *Polly Gould, Claudia Kern*
New Building Steering Committee: *Bill Brawley, Joani Nierenberg, BJ Shabel*
Nominating Committee: *Suzanne Simon, Barbara Clapp, Christine McDonough*
Sunday Services: *Paul Schmidt*
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: Summer Services are held at the Meeting House at 10 a.m. (beginning June 29). Childcare is usually available. Sparrow F. Alden (email below) arranges for children's programming during summer services.

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. See her vacation schedule on page 2 for details.

CREDENTIALLED RELIGIOUS EDUCATOR: Email Sparrow F. S. Alden at education@uucuv.org

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

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE: Hours in summer are 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 Autumn issue is August 15. Please send your submissions to Rachel at office@uucuv.org

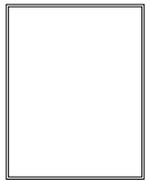
"WEEKLY BLAST" DEADLINE:

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

Flower Communion--June 22, 11 AM
Summer Series Begins--June 29, 10 AM
General Assembly--June 25-29
(Providence, RI)
5-Church Rummage Sale--July 11-13
Northwoods Lunch Prep--July 20

UUCUV June - August

UUCUV Phone: (802) 649-8828

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

E-mail: office@uucuv.org

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