



NEWS OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF READING

April 2, 2012

Worship Services

April 8, 2012

"Intergenerational Easter Sunday Service"

Meg Soens, Acting Minister

9:15 AM and 11:00 AM

Join us as we celebrate the resurging power of life in many forms, as celebrated in Easter and Passover and other springtime festivals. Nature and Life seem endless, although our individual lives are not. How can we begin to understand what it might mean to die and come to life again? Come for connection, come for community, come to claim the promise of this new day. Our usual 9:15 and 11:00 AM services will feature The UUCR Adult Choir, and there will be an interactive "Time For All Ages" for young and old alike! Our traditional Easter Egg hunt for the kids will take place after the 9:15 service.

Coffee Hour:

9:15 AM Needed

11:00 AM Needed

Altar Flowers:

Spring Flowers from our members and friends

Welcome Table:

9:15 AM Needed

11:00 AM Needed

Ushers:

9:15 AM Needed

11:00 AM Needed

April 15, 2012

"The Long Goodbye"

Meg Soens, Acting Minister

9:15 and 11:00 AM

Like a hard-boiled detective, sometimes we just want to slip away and avoid those hard good-byes, perhaps when someone we care about is dying, or we must leave old friends in a cross country move. Other times, we take advantage of the gift of time to honor the importance of saying good-bye, to the benefit of ourselves and the other people involved. Still other times, such as when a loved one dies suddenly, we have no choice, and it seems like the possibility of saying goodbye at all is stolen from our grasp. Ultimately though, perhaps all good-byes are long. We'll explore these ideas together in Meg Soens' last sermon at UUCR, both as acting and as intern minister. Music: 9:15 AM Tony Fisher, vocalist; 11:00 AM UUCR Choir

April 22, 2012

"The Welcome Table"

Rev. John Gibb Millspaugh, Guest Minister

9:15 and 11:00 AM

In a service featuring magic, humor, personal stories, and two statistics, the chair of the UUA President's Advisory Committee on Food (!) brings a message of inspiration and inclusion to our congregation. Food matters for personal, public, and planetary well-being. What food adventure are you up for? Music: 9:15 AM Molly Smith, Vocalist; 11:00 AM UUCR Choir

John Gibb Millspaugh is Co-Minister of the Winchester Unitarian Society, where he serves with his spouse and co-minister Sarah Gibb Millspaugh, with whom he parents their four-month old son. As a 2001 graduate of Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government and Harvard Divinity School, justice concerns are central to his ministry; he served for three years as the UUA President's Assistant for Social Justice, focusing on such areas as women's rights, nuclear proliferation, and modern slavery. He currently serves as a consultant and coach to clergy and laypeople on "Adaptive Leadership," as Faith Community Representative on the Town of Winchester's Climate Action Task Force, and as Chair of the UUA President's Advisory Committee on "Ethical Eating: Food and Environmental

Justice." He is editor of the 2009 book on UU theologies and ministries of justice, A People So Bold. He is an avid hiker, a not-so-disciplined meditator, a self-taught and thoroughly mediocre guitar player, and a skilled magician.

Schedule of Worship Services

Sundays
9:15 and 11:00 AM

Children's Classes at 9:15 AM only; infant and toddler child care at both services.

Our full service schedule can be found on our [Upcoming Services page](#).

Featured News

[All Those Acronyms...Supporting Community Sponsored Agriculture Right Here at UUCR! April 2, 2012](#)

PEAS = "People Enhancing Agricultural Sustainability"

NESFP = "New England Sustainable Farming Project"

CSA = "COMMUNITY SPONSORED AGRICULTURE"

UUCR = US!

SUPPORT COMMUNITY SPONSORED AGRICULTURE RIGHT HERE AT UUCR!!

You are invited to join the Unitarian Universalist Church of Reading World PEAS (People Enhancing Agricultural Sustainability) CSA (Community Sponsored Agriculture). You are invited to sign up for shares of produce comes from organic sustainable Lowell based farms. This agricultural program is sponsored and managed by Tufts University. Rosemary Fiori is the on-site coordinator. Fresh vegetables and fruits will be dropped off at the UUCR Loring Porch for pick up by YOU every TUESDAY by 8 PM from June through October. There will be 18 deliveries to the UUCR campus. The once a week delivery will be Tuesday at our

church! There will be 70 locally grown vegetables, berries, melons, tree fruit and more! Also, there will be an extended 3 delivery season from October through November for an extra subscription price. To learn more visit www.nesfp.org or email Rosemary Fiori, Tom Mottl, or Ellen Hill.

~A large share costs \$ 710.00 for 18 deliveries.

~A small share costs \$ 470.00 for 18 deliveries.

~The extended season costs \$ 130 for 3 extra deliveries at the end of the season. Subscription must be done online www.nesfp.org

~Subscriptions can and do sell out, so do not delay~

Worship Notes

Save The Date! Meg's Last Time in Pulpit!

Save the date of Sunday, April 15th. Meg Soens, will be preaching for the final time at UUCR, both as acting and as intern minister.

Rev. Tim Currently on Sabbatical through May 6, 2012

Rev. Tim is currently on his sabbatical through May 6, 2012. He will return to the office on May 7, 2012. During this time Meg Soens is our Acting Minister and can be reached at 781.944.0494, extension 101 for non-emergencies. Meg's emergency pastoral phone line is 781.850.3307.

Caring and Sharing Coordinator

April 2012

Caring and Sharing Coordinator for Month

The caring and sharing coordinator for the month of April 2012 is Ann Mottl. Ann can be reached [HERE](#) or by phone at 781-942-0345



Acting Minister's Messages - April 2, 2012



Dear Friends,

As Unitarian Universalists, we honor the centrality of love, and we also honor the importance of freedom. This week is Holy Week for Christians. It leads up to Good Friday, commemorating the execution of Jesus of Nazareth, and is followed by Easter, which celebrates the good news of (depending on whether you are a liberal or a more conservative Christian) the mystery of how the spirit of Jesus lived on so strongly in his followers, or, that of Jesus' resurrection from the dead. In either case, in many ways Easter is about freedom: freedom to follow the path of living lovingly as Jesus did, not for oneself but for others, or freedom from the shackles of death. The Jewish holiday of Passover begins this week as well, another freedom story that deeply roots Jewish observance and identity. Passover celebrates the Jews' escape from slavery in Egypt. As a pagan, perhaps you celebrate the fertility and fecundity of spring's emerging presence, the resurging life that can be seen everywhere now, freed from the bonds of frozen land and light-starved days.

Freedom means different things in different contexts.

For people enslaved or oppressed by other groups in the world, freedom seems clear enough, and very physical. Certainly, an oppressed people can cultivate a freedom of the spirit. They may celebrate the victories against indignity in their music with a coded language. They may worship with a freedom of song and movement that stakes out the ultimate freedom of their spirit, regardless of the oppressions of the physical lives.

For folks who are not oppressed, but members of a dominant and privileged group, freedom means something very different. In my perspective, freedom for those folks -- which means many of us at the church -- means breaking free of the shackles of our unobserved privileges and being willing to understand the context of our lives well enough to be able to do the loving and just thing toward other people who live different lives. It means exercising our reason and understanding enough to look past the blinders we unconsciously slip on, the blinders about who we are and about our privileges, the ones that come to us

simply because we were born part of a dominant group and not through any special achievement or deserving attribute of our own.

I was chatting with my younger son about this. He had recently participated in a debate in which his opponents had argued that American society is racist. He thought that in itself was a racist idea. I pointed out to him that as a young white man he didn't have to worry about being followed in a drugstore just because of his skin tone (not to mention being followed, chased, shot and killed in a suburb by a 'neighborhood watch' person.) He will have an easier time getting a job than an equally qualified black man. He will be less likely to be suspended if he breaks the rules at the high school and his punishment will likely be less severe if he is punished – all because of the privilege he was born with, his white skin-tone. These are realities that have been long documented in studies.

At this time of year, we celebrate in many ways and from many traditions the freedom of new life. And freedom always carries with it responsibilities. What responsibilities do you embrace with your freedom? What responsibilities do we, should we, as a faith community embrace with the new life and possibilities of this spring season?

Blessings to all,
Meg Soens,
Acting Minister

Church Administrator News - March 30, 2012

Request for baked goods or plated fruit for the reception after the Memorial Service for Alan Riley:

Can you make or bring a simple dessert (brownie, bar, or cookie) sliced and on a tray, or cut fruit, sliced and plated, for the Memorial Service reception for Alan Riley on Saturday, April 7, 2012 at 11:00 AM?

Your dessert or fruit item can be dropped off Saturday morning, April 7, at the UUCR Kitchen from 9 AM to 11 AM.

Temporary Change in Calendar/Building Usage Scheduling Requests:

Effective immediately and through April 15th, please send all requests for room usage to the church office. You may contact Rosemary Fiori with your request at 781.944.0494 or email Rosemary at uucr@uureading.org Please consult our online calendar first at uureading.org to look at available times and spaces before making your request. On Monday, April 16, 2012, requests for room usage will revert back to Judy Riley. Thank you.

Church Administrator News - Got Pride? UUCR T-Shirt and Sweatshirt Sale Sunday April 8



Got Pride? UUCR T-Shirt and Sweatshirt Sale on Sunday April 8 and Sunday April 15:

Don't forget your checkbook at church this Sunday. We will be selling fabulous UUCR T-Shirts and UUCR Zippered and hooded sweatshirts that both have our windows logo and church name on the front with a chalice and the words "we celebrate diversity" on the back. These

items can be worn to do weekend warrior work or you can wear them to walk in Boston Pride this year! Samples will be available to try on for sizing. We are

offering these items in your choice of orange, blue, yellow, red, purple, green, or blue and any size you could want: sizes small through 3XL. Variety is the spice of life. Order forms and samples will be available in the atrium after each church service. Don't miss out!

Time to mark your calendar for the 4th Annual UUCR walks Boston Pride

UUCR marches with Boston Gay/Lesbian/Transgendered/Bisexual Pride on Saturday, June 9. This is our 4th year. Some marchers are planning carpools from UUCR. See the sign up sheet in the atrium to contact other marchers. The parade route kicks off at 12 Noon after a short service at the Arlington Street UU Church at 11 AM. You may join us at the Arlington Street Church in Boston located at 351 Boylston Street website at www.ascboston.org at 11 AM. Or join us in our place in line by 12 Noon. The rear of the parade route is on Tremont Street. The "U's" line up at the very end. (They save the best for last). Buy a shirt (see above) be part of a human rainbow line of color! Show up early to carpool in the UUCR parking lot and we'll paint some UU Principles on your arms or jeans! Play an instrument? Call the church office, we are hoping to make as much noise about UUCR as possible. New this year! When the parade ends and we recess into City Hall Plaza, our UUCR will be represented with a literature table! We hope to sticker the crowd with UUCR Pride! Come join in on the fun.

Adult Enrichment

Important Adult Enrichment: Register Today for Hungry for Change
- April 12-May 17, 2012

Registration is open for this compelling adult enrichment scheduled to begin April 12.

Overview

Hungry for Change explores the true meaning of the phrase "you are what you eat." This 6-week discussion course challenges participants to examine their roles, not only as consumers of food, but also as creators -- of food, of systems, and of the world we all live in. Each session includes readings, short assignments and accompanying discussion questions that address the impact of individual food choices on a range of issues, including ecosystem health, the treatment of factory and farm workers, and the global economy. Hungry for Change helps participants commit to lasting change by developing and sharing personal Action Plans with each session.

Purpose:

- To explore the interconnected nature of food systems and our relationships to them.
- To examine the impact our food choices have on our health, the health of others and the health of our planet.
- To consider the ethical and political implications of our current food system and our personal food choices.

Length: Six sessions

Dates:

Thursday evenings
7:30 PM to 9:00 PM
April 12 - May 17

Capacity: Space is limited to 12 participants.

Fees: fee for the course covers the discussion book.

Facilitator: Tricia Schwartz

May 6, 2012 - Register Today!

Afternoon Workshop "Following Our Callings"

1:00 PM in UUCR Community Hall

With Special Guest Speaker, Gregg Levoy



On Sunday, May 6, 2012 Gregg Levoy will be our guest speaker at both morning services followed by an afternoon workshop on "Following our Callings". This dynamic, humorous workshop will take a creative approach to the challenges of listening and responding to your callings. Space is limited for the afternoon workshop, but you can register ahead of time by calling the church at 781-944-0494 or emailing [HERE](#) and providing your name and phone

number. The fee for the workshop is \$ 30.00 payable to the Unitarian Universalist Church of Reading line item note: "Lavoy Workshop." You may mail your workshop payment to UUCR, 239 Woburn Street, Reading MA 01867 or place it in the collection plate. You may also sign up on Sunday during coffee hour on the sign up sheet in the atrium. Please join us to find your calling and "make your life come true"!

Unitarian Universalist Basics: An Introduction to Our Faith - May 19, 2012

Overview

Are you new to the church? Would you like to meet other folks who are new as well? Would you like to learn more about Unitarian Universalism? Do you have questions about what it means to be a Unitarian Universalist? Are you thinking about becoming a member of UUCR? Then UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST BASICS is just the thing for you. Join our minister Rev. Tim for this engaging introduction to our faith. Registration is required, please call or [email the church office](#) (781-944-0494) or sign up on Sunday at coffee hour.

Facilitator: Rev. Tim Kutzmark

Date: Saturday, May 19 – 8:30 AM-12:45 PM

This condensed one-day Saturday class will include kid-friendly breakfast, bagels and coffee for adults, and CHILD CARE to make it easier for parents with young children to attend the UU Basics class. This class will be led by Rev. Tim Kutzmark, our minister.

Get Involved News

Creative Hands and Caring Hearts Group (CHACH)

Creative Hands and Caring Hearts Group (CHACH)

The **CHACH** (Creative **H**ands **A**nd **C**aring **H**earts) We meet once a month on the first Wednesday of each month. Our starting time is still 7:30 and we end around 9:30. We will continue to meet at the home of Sharyn Taitz at 1443 Main St. in Reading. We are an open and welcoming multi-generational group of women who love to create with our hands. Any craft, art or skill that can be toted to a meeting is welcomed. If you are interested in joining us, please contact facilitator Sharyn Taitz or simply drop in to any scheduled meeting. Please contact Sharyn Taitz for more information.

Yours in creativity, Sharyn Taitz, CHACH Facilitator.

Contact Form

Ivy Chord Coffee House

Ellis Paul will be performing at UUCR's Ivy Chord Coffee House on Saturday, April 14

Doors open at 7:15 pm for the 8:00 pm concert.

What can you do to help? Well, thanks for asking!

1. Offer to bake (yummy treats to be sold at intermission) -- ONLY 2 more bakers needed
2. Offer to volunteer. ONLY one more volunteer needed for post concert clean up crew (not a lot to do, but the regular volunteers who have been there since 4:00 are tired, so we need late evening reinforcements).
3. Buy lots of tickets online (<http://www.uureading.org/get-involved/programs-teams-and-committees/ivy-chord/upcoming-concerts>) or from Beth Murray during social hour on April 1st.

4. Offer to put up flyers, link your Facebook page to UUCR's Facebook events page, email 84 of your closest friends!

Who is Ellis Paul? I thought you might enjoy this quote from Nora Guthrie (Woody Guthrie's daughter):

"A singer songwriter is only as good as the times he reflects. In times like these, when so many nuts are running the show, it's comforting to know that Ellis Paul is actually holding our sanity on his own stage! Wise, tender, brilliant and biting, Ellis is one of our best human compasses, marking in melodies and poems where we've been and where we might go if we so choose to. Personally Ellis, I'm goin' where you're goin'!"

Questions? Contact Beth:

Beth Murray

[Click to send email](#)

Phone: 781-229-9394



Last Tuesday of the Month Book Club

[LTOM Book Club Meets April 24, 2012](#)

Join Us!

The next meeting of the Last Tuesday of the Month Book Group (LTOM) will held at the home of Ruth Goldberg, 11 Bond St. Reading, on April 24th at 1:30 PM. The book to be discussed is "*Caleb's Crossing*" by Geraldine Brooks. See you then!

Mom's Group

Mom's Group

The UUCR Mom's Group will have three different offerings this year for mothers of the church to get to know one another.

Mom's Circle (registration in September is required).

The Moms Circle is a group of women in a mothering role who meet on a regular basis in an atmosphere of safety and support for the purpose of engaging in facilitated discussions exploring issues of interest to the group and providing an avenue for personal growth, spiritual development, and community connections. Meetings are twice a month on Sunday evenings in the home of one of the members. Meetings are facilitated by members of the UUCR church community and meetings run similarly to Chalice Circle Meetings.

Social Events (open to all)

Throughout the year we will be organizing social events for all mothers to attend. Dates will be announced in advance.

Mother's Book Club (open to all)

Throughout the year we will be having at least three different book discussions. You are not required to attend all meetings. Books will be announced in advance.

If any of these offerings interest you, please contact Sara Ortins for more information (781-944-2740)

Coordinator: Sara Ortins

Sundays Twice a month, 7:30-9:00 PM

Here is the Mom's Group Schedule for the remainder of this Church Year. All meetings are 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM unless noted. Please contact Sara Ortins or Alison Friedman for the meeting location.

- 4/29 Chalice Circle Mom's Group Meeting
- 5/6: Book group, 101 Loring House
- 5/20 Chalice Circle Mom's Group Meeting
- 6/9: Family BBQ, home of Rebecca Higgins, Time to be determined

Social Action

Running for Your Rights: UUCR Marathon Runner Supports UUSC



From Mark Cronin-Golomb: I am excited that I will be participating in the **116th running of the Boston Marathon** on behalf of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) on April 16, 2012. This is my second year running the marathon, and my first year running in support of UUSC!

UUSC is a human-rights and social-justice organization working in more than 20 countries around the world, including right here in the United States. To learn more about this organization and its vital work, visit uus.org. I am sure you will see why I have chosen to support this wonderful cause.

I have a fundraising goal of \$ 2,500. If just 25 people support me at \$ 100 each, I will meet my goal! And if you donate \$ 100 or more, I will list your name on the back of my marathon shirt as a mile sponsor. Of course, your contribution of any amount will be greatly appreciated.

To support me, please visit

<http://www.crowdrise.com/runforjustice/fundraiser/markcroningolomb>

and make your gift today. Or if you prefer, you can give me cash or a check made out to UUSC.

Consider your sponsorship a proxy for running the Boston Marathon. **I will run the 26.2 miles, suffer the blisters and the anguish of Heartbreak Hill, and you get to provide compassionate support to the people being oppressed around the world.** That's a pretty good deal!

Thanks in advance for your support.

Sincerely,
Mark

Social Action

Food Drive for Reading Food Pantry Sponsored by Gathering Change, Inc.



Pounds for the Pantry: 35 pounds of food were donated on April 1—thank you!

UUCR is hosting a **Spring Food Drive** for the Reading Food Pantry **through the month of April. There will be a large box at each of our sanctuary entrances on April 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29**, to receive donations of paper goods and nonperishable foods for those in our

church's community who rely on the pantry.

This event is being coordinated by Gathering Change, Inc., a local 501c3 nonprofit organization that raises awareness and funds for food pantries. Once again, GCI has partnered with the **Feinstein Foundation's Million Giveaway to Fight Hunger**. The Feinstein Foundation, based in Cranston, RI, will match a percentage of every pound of food or dollar collected in the months of March and April by participating organizations. This is an opportunity to increase the funds we can pass on to the Reading pantry.

Monetary donations are also welcome!

For more information, call Judy Bousquin at 781-438-8960 or check out the websites www.gatheringchangeinc.org and www.feinsteinfoundation.org. Thank you for your support!

Social Action

[Walking the Walk: Join us for the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute's 15th Annual Mother's Day Walk for Peace \(Sunday, May 13\)](#)



The Social Action Team and Rev. Meg invite and encourage everyone--young and old and in-between--to join in the annual Mother's Day Walk for Peace on Sunday, May 13, to benefit and support the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute in Dorchester.

(Yes, this will be Rev. Tim's first Sunday back from sabbatical--but the Walk is early, and getting home for the 11 a.m. service should be doable.)

Hundreds of people walking side by side 3.5 miles through Dorchester: urban and suburban; young and old; those for whom neighborhood violence is far away, and those for whom it is all too near, having torn their families apart; raising voices in affirmation and hope...This is the Peace Institute's Mother's Day Walk for

Peace, which raises awareness and much-needed money for the Institute's programs and services:

- peace education curriculum for elementary, middle, and high school students
- crisis management for families impacted by violence
- Survivors Leadership Academy
- training for professionals dealing with families impacted by violence

For info or to sign up with the UUCR Walk team, see Social Action Team members at coffee hours on April 15.

Social Action



[Learn about the UU Urban Ministry: Annual Meeting, Thurs., May 17](#)

Exciting things are happening at the UU Urban Ministry in Roxbury. If you'd like to know more about this unique UU social justice ministry in Roxbury, please come to the 177th Annual Meeting on Thursday, May 17 (daytime)!

Our church is entitled to three official delegates at the meeting, and of course others are welcome to attend as well. If you'd like to attend as a delegate, please contact Anne Mark.

At the UUUM:

- Roxbury Youth Programs Afterschool provides a safe, enriching environment for young people during out-of-school hours.
- RYP Weekend is an exploration and mentoring program for elementary-school-age children.
- RYP Summer offers an "earn and learn" employment program for up to 15 neighborhood teens and fully paid summer camp adventures for more than 30 urban elementary-school-age children.
- Renewal House provides support and extensive services for individuals and families escaping from abusive living situations.

- United Souls is a support group and network for men in transition, struggling with urban life's most difficult challenges.

Fellow UUCR members are tutoring in the UUUM's English-as-a-Second-Language and RYP afterschool programs and helping RYP students with mock college interviews. More volunteers are always needed, in these and other areas. Contact Rev. Kate Wilkinson, kwilkinson@uum.org, 617-318-6010.

Social Action

Second Offering for Louis D. Brown Peace Institute: Sunday, April 15

On April 15, we'll once again have the chance to support the vital work of the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute in Dorchester (www.ldbpeaceinstitute.org) through a Second Offering, and to hear the inspiring voice and message of the Peace Institute's founder, Clementina Chery.

"Transforming Pain into Power and Action": The staff and many volunteers of the Peace Institute assist and support families of homicide victims and nurture the spirit of nonviolence through school and community programs. Affirming and promoting seven principles of peace (love, unity, faith, hope, courage, justice, and forgiveness), the Institute offers services and emotional shelter to families in the most difficult times of their lives and engages with youth to forgo violence and embrace peace.

The UUCR and the Peace Institute are already warmly connected: Tina preached and held a workshop at the church in 2008; we gave a Second Offering then; and in 2009, 2010, and 2011, congregation members have marched in the Mother's Day Walk for Peace (remember Rev. Tim's call-in to our Sunday service from last year's Walk?).

Giving to the Second Offering on April 15 as we are willing and able, we will help ensure that the Institute's work, vision, and message continue. (If you'd like to donate by check to this final Second Offering of the 2011-2012 church year, please make the check out to the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute.)

Social Action

UU Mass Action 6th Annual Advocacy Day: Wed., Apr. 25

Join UUs from across MA for UU Mass Action Advocacy Day on Beacon Hill (Wed., Apr. 25). Together, call on legislators to

- secure more funding for housing for the homeless (Housing First program)
- stop the Anti-Immigrant SB 2061 bill
- continue the fight against the Three Strikes bill

Start with the Acts of Faith Breakfast (9 a.m., UUA Headquarters, 25 Beacon St., Boston). Hear Dr. Dan McKanan of Harvard Divinity School talk about his new book *Prophetic Encounters: Religion and the American Radical Tradition*. Proceeds to support the UU Mass Action Acts of Faith Blog that tells the story of UU churches in MA living their faith in the world. (individual; group of 4)



Advocacy Day follows (10:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., start at UUA Headquarters). Keynote speaker State Senator (and UU) Will Brownsberger (one of only four white legislators in MA to vote against the Three Strikes bill). Other speakers will brief the group on the legislative issues; then attendees will visit with their legislators. (individual, youth, group of 4 (lunch provided)).

Details and registration: uumassaction.org/advocacyday. If you plan to attend, please contact Anne Mark to coordinate transportation and group registration rates.

More News

[Save The Date! Ferry Beach Weekend Scheduled For June 1st - June 3rd](#)

This year our church retreat weekend at the UUA conference center in Saco, Maine on the ocean will be held June 1, 2 & 3. This is a time for all members, and friends, of all ages of UUCR to spend a weekend just socializing with no pressing church business. Activities for children and adults are planned but if you prefer to sit and read a book the porch has comfy rockers. Perhaps you'd like to take a nature walk, there are trails across the street, or fly a kite or organize a pick up game of softball. Saturday night there will be talent/no talent show so get your act together. Stage fright, we need an audience too. Dates of registration will be announced soon.

Our Larger Community

[Time To Register For Sawyer Nursery School](#)

Spring is the time of year when families of preschoolers begin making plans for nursery school in the fall. If you or someone you know (friend, neighbor, relative, acquaintance) has a child who will be at least 2.9 years old by August 31, 2012, do urge them to consider UUCR's own Sawyer Nursery School. Sawyer is a flourishing little operation that celebrated



its 50th anniversary last March. It offers a Tuesday/Thursday morning program for 3 year olds, a Monday/Wednesday/Friday morning program for 4 and 5 year olds, and the option of a weekly 'Lunch Bunch' extended day for all. It is a happy place for children, led by experienced, well-trained and loving staff members.

To schedule a tour, contact school Director Deb Harvey at 781-944-9581 or sawyer_nursery_school@verizon.net.

Ivy Chord Concerts

Ellis Paul on Saturday, April 14, 2012 at 8:00PM



Charismatic performances, approachable style and beautifully rendered story-songs

Saturday, April 14, 2012
8:00 pm

Tickets:
\$ 25 general admission
\$ 23 students/seniors

Buy tickets for this concert online.

Read what the press has to say about Ellis Paul:

"There are artists who are good at their craft. There are artists who have developed and maximized their talent to a high degree. Then there are those fewer artists who seem simply to have been blessed with skills that outshine most others. Ellis Paul is one of those." —John Ziegler, Duluth News Tribune

"He's one of those few artists who can connect to the audience, making everyone in the crowd feel like he or she is actually being performed to. The sound was spot-on and the set list included some new songs from a forthcoming children's album some of which showcased subtle political lyrics. However, even Paul's songs about dragonflies still managed to sound beautiful and utterly heartbreaking." —Adam Arrigo, Northeast Performer

Lori McKenna: October 6, 2012



"Poignant and profound poetry. She has an uncanny ability to paint stories of the human condition in a way that reminds us all that we are not alone." ~ Keith Urban

Saturday, October 6, 2012
8:00 pm

Tickets:
\$ 22 general admission
\$ 20 students/seniors

[Buy tickets for this concert online.](#)

Lori is the winner of **2011 Boston Music Awards Folk Artist of the Year.**

From Good Day LA:

Lori McKenna is one of the most respected songwriters in country music. Her songs have been recorded by other artists including Faith Hill, Tim McGraw, and Mandy Moore.

John Gorka on Saturday, January 26, 2013



Energetic, acoustic folk

***"Listening to him sing, one can get goose bumps all over. There are many reasons—fresh lyrics, a stunning emotional baritone, his twisted humor ..."* New York Times**

Saturday, January 26, 2013
8:00 pm

Tickets:
\$ 25 general admission
\$ 23 students/seniors

[Buy tickets for this concert online.](#)

From Ben Wakeman, Take Me To the Bridge:

There are few contemporary songwriters that come anywhere close to the talent of John Gorka. His songs have a way of working on you long after you thought you had it all figured out. I will listen to a song that I know all the words to and can sing along with and then one day sitting at a traffic light I realize that there was a whole other layer of meaning that I had missed.

In 1984 John Gorka won the prestigious Kerrville New Folk competition. He has over ten albums to his credit. John is a songwriter's songwriter and his songs are

championed by an amazing circle of artists including Nanci Griffith, Mary Chapin Carpenter, David Wilcox and many more.

Matt & Shannon Heaton on Saturday, April 13, 2013



"Their playing is masterful and inventive, their arrangements city-smart and spacious. Still, they never forget that Irish music is, at its heart, a neighborly form meant for sharing, not showing off."—Scott Alarik, Boston Globe

Saturday, April 13, 2013
8:00 pm

Tickets:
\$ 16 general admission
\$ 14 students/seniors

Buy tickets for this concert online.

Musically speaking, the Heaton's play the heck out of their instruments (Irish wood flute/accordion, guitar/bouzouki). After years of study in Chicago, and many nights of music in Clare, Galway, and their adopted home of Boston, Irish Music Magazine's John O'Regan wrote, "their duet playing is tight, sweet, and tasteful, lacking nothing on either technical expertise or instrumental virtuosity."

As for their singing, when Matt and Shannon perform centuries-old songs, it feels current, conversational. They make traditional music relevant to American audiences. O'Regan wrote "songwise [there are] hints an older domestic sound, the familiar down home harmonies of The Carter Family and Tim and Mollie O'Brien."