



NEWS OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF READING

Monday, April 23, 2012

## **Worship Services**

### **Sunday, April 29, 2012**

#### **"Welcome Home"**

**Tony Fisher**

**9:15 AM Service Only**

To many of us who call UUCR our spiritual home, immigration may feel like a political hot potato being played out in other, more distant places. Yet, concerns over immigration rights touch on many of the core principles we espouse as Unitarian Universalists. Hoping to bring the conversation closer to home, Tony Fisher will explore the human side of a divisive issue. Music: Joan Marshman, vocalist.

#### **"Coming of Age"**

**Meg Soens, Acting Minister; Anne Principe, Interim Director of Faith Development and Coming of Age**

**Program Youth**

**11:00 AM Only**

Our Unitarian Universalist community has a long commitment to the journey of youth to articulate what they have given their heart to. This ceremony culminates years of faith development explorations, experiential learning, peer and mentor spiritual discussion with youth sharing credos of personal expressions for their congregation. Music: The UUCR Choir.

#### **Coffee Hour:**

9:15 AM Needed

11:00 AM Needed

#### **Welcome Table:**

9:15 AM Needed

11:00 AM Needed

#### **Ushers:**

9:15 AM Laurie Mullen and Hayes Family

11:00 Sheryl Cunningham Love and Jen McAneny

#### **Altar Flowers:**

Eileen Cummings in honor and celebration of our COA2 youth

## **Sunday, May 6, 2012**

### **"Following Our Callings"**

**Guest Speaker, Gregg Levoy**

**9:15 AM and 11:00 AM**

Please save the date for Sunday, May 6, 2012. On this Sunday, 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." So please join us to find your calling and "make your life come true"! Music: 9:15 AM Rose McAuley, 11:00 AM UUCR Choir.

### **Altar Flowers**

Laura Cavicchio

### **Ushers**

9:15 AM Needed

11:00 AM Needed

### **Welcome Table**

9:15 AM Michele Catalano

11:00 AM Needed

### **Coffee Hour**

9:15 AM Needed

11:00 AM Needed

## **Sunday, May 13, 2012**

### **"M.O.T.H.E.R."**

**Rev. Tim Kutzmark**

**9:15 AM and 11:00 AM**

Fresh from his sabbatical, Rev. Tim returns to the pulpit! From the mothers of Afghanistan to the lioness protecting her cubs in South Africa, Tim will invite us to reflect on the power and importance of being nurtured by women. Come reflect on the various ways you've been nurtured through the years. Music: 9:15 Radonna Crandlemire; 11:00 AM-The UUCR Choir

### **Altar Flowers**

Tammy Zambo and Nancy Nienhuis

### **Ushers**

9:15 AM Needed

11:00 AM Needed

### **Welcome Table**

9:15 AM Michele Catalano

11:00 AM Needed

### **Coffee Hour**

9:15 AM Sabbatical Support Team  
11:00 AM Sabbatical Support Team

### **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**

#### **Choir - Discussion about Choir Scheduling**

If you would like to sing in the choir but are unable to because of scheduling conflicts or family commitments we would very much like to hear from you. Please meet with Mark Bennett and me on Sunday, May 6th, at 12:15 in Community Hall. We want to discuss ideas for ways to include everyone who wants to sing and we need your input. Please come help us find a way. You never know where an idea will come from so the more of you who can meet with us the better! Thank you, Radonna Crandlemire

[Contact Form](#)

#### **Final Opportunity This Sunday April 29 - UUCR T-Shirt and Sweatshirt Sale This Sunday at Coffee Hour!**



**Got Pride? UUCR T-Shirt and Sweatshirt Sale on this Sunday April 29th at both Coffee Hours - Final Opportunity - Orders Close After This Weekend!** 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.

### **Sign Up to March: 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](http://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.

### **Worship Notes**

#### **Host or Hostess Needed for Gregg Lavoy**

Do you have an empty guest room? The Sabbatical Support Team is still in search of a host/ess who could take in visiting author Gregg Levoy for Saturday, May 5 and Sunday, May 6. He will be speaking from our pulpit on Sunday morning and offering a workshop on Sunday afternoon, but needs lodging for Saturday and Sunday evenings. If you can help, please contact Sharyn Taitz, chair of the Sabbatical Support Team.

[Contact Form](#)

#### **Gregg Levoy's Book For Sale during Coffee Hour April 29**

*Callings: Finding and Following An Authentic Life*, at both Coffee Hours on Sunday, April 29. This book, which retails at .95, can be purchased for .00. This is one of the books that Rev. Tim most often recommends. Get your copy now! Contact Dru Wood-Beckwith for more information.

[Contact Form](#)

#### **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

## Minister's Messages - April 23, 2012

Hi Everyone:



Just a quick note to let you know all is well. I just concluded my several weeks out in the bush working with the team of scientists in tracking and recording info. on a pride of lions in a game reserve. The experience was extraordinary--and I learned a great deal about wildlife conservation and management. Further, I participated in some anti-poaching work and patrols, as the reserve has had over half their lions killed by poachers. Some of the rhinos on the reserve also faced that sad fate. I did come up close and personal with several lions. My heart is still racing from an encounter with Mbhurri, a male lion. We were just five feet apart when he finally stopped approaching...and we were making eye to eye contact. He had such raw power in every muscle. I'm now off to a coastal estuary to learn about coastline eco systems and see some hippos and crocodiles. I'll also spend three nights camping and hiking a wilderness trail with a small group of adventurers, led by an armed ranger (we'll be out with rhinos, lions, leopards, hippos, elephants, and many other animals). After that hike, I return to Boston and get ready to return to church. In just three weeks I'll be back in the office. Till then, you all are in my heart and prayers.

Fondly, Tim

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## Acting Minister's Messages - April 23, 2012



### **Our 40/40 Campaign Is Off To A Great Start!**

Dear UUCR folks,

We had a great start to our 40/40 Earth Day Food campaign! Yesterday quite a few adults and children made pledges while at church to make a small change in their lifestyles for 40 days, and check in with each other about how the experience goes. The pledge cards make a beautiful prayer flag in the floor to ceiling window in our atrium, thanks to the 5th and 6th graders and a couple of folks from our church-wide food initiative coordinating group. Take a look, enjoy! You can fill out your pledge card there, take a list of sample actions to peruse, and pick up a 40/40 sticker to put on your name-tag. Wear it proudly. We're doing this together!

Personally, I have moved my reusable shopping bags into the front seat of my car, and more importantly, I have promised myself that whenever I remember I need to use them, even if I am already at the check-out counter, I will go back to the car and get them! Have you gotten started?

There's going to be a bulletin board in Fellowship Hall for the 40 days of the Campaign. I encourage you to share what you are doing there, and read what other folks are doing. Think of it as 40/40 Central. Maybe you'll want to connect with some of the folks who are doing something similar? Or if you come up with an idea, you can post it there. I understand Reverend Millspaugh did a great job of kicking our campaign off and I am very grateful to him for that. And when Reverend Tim returns on May 7, I think he will be quite happy to see our 40/40 campaign up and running and making a difference!

**Save The Date: June 10, 2012**

You, dear UUCR folks, are ordaining me on June 10. You'll be doing this cooperatively with my home church of First Parish of Lexington, and it is important! The ceremony is more like a marriage than anything else, I would say. In our Unitarian Universalist tradition, there is no higher body that says, 'yes, this person is a minister', no centralized group that 'sets us apart' (which is what the word ordain means) for professional ministry. That is only done by a church, which alone can bestow the title Reverend. This goes hand in hand with the long process of "fellowshipping", as we call it, the arduous process of preparing for the ministry that is managed by the Unitarian Universalist Association. Without being fellowshipped, one cannot apply for ministry positions with congregations other than those that ordained you. You can see that the ordination and the fellowshipping process work together.

I will write more about this process, but here's the important thing for today: please save June 10, at 4 pm, for this wonderful time not only in my life, but also in your life as a congregation, the time when you say "Yes" to someone's ministry, and give the gift of that person to the rest of the denomination in service. And you'll get the added bonus of hearing another sermon from your minister, Tim Kutzmark: he'll be delivering the ordination sermon. I will share more details on who will be doing what later, in the meantime, get those calendars out and please mark the date.

Blessings,  
Meg Soens

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## **Director of Faith Development's Messages - April 22, 2012 - Rites of Passage**



Hello Families,

This Sunday at 9:15, families begin in worship and after Time for All Ages, will be sung out to their Faith Development explorations. There is Playschool as usual for children up to age 4. Children in grades 5 and older come to the 11 AM service for our annual Coming of Age Worship.

This is a beloved and sacred service when youth are given the honor of delivering a credo from the pulpit. You are not only encouraged to be a part of this as a beloved church member, but you are encouraged to bring your child as well. While some of this ceremony may seem abstract to children, it is valuable for them to experience the energy and meaning that surrounds this rite of passage. In this way, they gradually grow into their own moment of readiness to share a credo – what they have given their heart to.

For those who would like a little help in talking to your child about what this special service and moment is all about, this is our Unitarian Universalist coming of age rite of passage. I often explain it this way:

Rites of passages are times when something changes in a person's life and there is often a ceremony or celebration to

mark the occasion. These ceremonies are held to observe a person's entry into a new stage of life and can be anything from a high school graduation ceremony or a birthday party, to a funeral. Most rites help people to understand their new role in community.

There are many, many rites of passage in our lives and some are considered to be more significant than others. There are five times that are considered to be the most significant times of change. These rites are: Birth, Leaving childhood and becoming an adolescent, Leaving home, Weddings, Death/Funerals.

Our Coming of Age experience is the culmination of many years of learning, interpersonal explorations, and spiritual reflection. It is a time when youth speak out loud the ways that they seek peace in their hearts, love in their relationships, and inspiration for their purpose in the world.

Let us look forward to this Sunday and embrace the moment when each of us surrounds these youth in a circle of affirmation and love.

In faith,  
Anne

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### **Sabbatical Support Team - April 23, 2012 - A Sabbatical Update (Think of it as a State Of The UUnion Address)**

It's the fourth week in April and Rev. Tim has now been on sabbatical for fifteen weeks. He has safely returned from his trips to Afghanistan and South Africa. We're happy to report that, as expected, things are running smoothly and efficiently at UUCR. Under the caring ministry of Acting Minister Meg Soens, the capable leadership of President Tracy Sopchak and our Governing Board, the wonderful work of our professional staff, and the shared ministry carried on by our members and friends, our amazing church community has been a lively and "hopping" place. Attendance during the sabbatical at Sunday worship services has stayed steady at around 150 adults per Sunday. Members Services Coordinator, Amy Burton, reports that we have had a consistent flow of visitors and newcomers.

Our Acting Minister, Meg Soens, has continued to guide us with her wonderful ministry. Although she has preached her last sermon from our pulpit, she will continue her duties as acting minister until Rev. Tim returns on May 7 and then will finish out her second year as our intern minister until the end of this church year in June. She is looking forward to her ordination, which will take place at First Parish in Lexington, on June 10.

We've hosted six guest ministers so far. Since our last update, we've been privileged to have Rev. Fayre Stephenson, the Program Director of Ferry Beach; Rev. John Gibbons from the Bedford UU Church; Rev. Frank Clarkson from the Haverhill UU Church; and Rev. John Gibb-Millspaugh from the Winchester Unitarian Society. There will be one more guest speaker – author Gregg Levoy, who will speak from our pulpit on Sunday, May 6th and will then hold a workshop here in the afternoon. That will wrap up our wonderful line-up of guest ministers/speakers.

Faith Development continues thrive at UUCR. Classes continue to offer exciting and informative experiences for our children. The FD Comm sponsored the ever-popular egg hunt on Easter Sunday. The Coming of Age 2012 class is making final preparations for their Coming of Age ceremony, which will occur at the 11:00 service this coming Sunday, April 29th. Our high school seniors will be honored in a bridging service on Sunday, May 20.

Our Governing Board has been working on several projects and goals. They recently passed a Spending Policy aimed at ensuring that we stay within our congregation-approved budget. The Annual Budget Drive committee is still finishing up their annual budget drive and are at 80% of this year's goal for pledged income.

We look forward to Rev. Tim's return to the pulpit on May 13th. There will be special Coffee Hours on that day to welcome him back. We truly believe that he will be very pleased to discover how smoothly we have all weathered the four-month sabbatical period.

Sincerely,  
Sharyn Taitz, for the UUCR Sabbatical Support Team

[Contact Form](#)

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## **Member Services Corner - So, what's in it for me? Monday April 23, 2012**



The first time I met a Unitarian Universalist was while working for Habitat for Humanity on a warm, rainy day in Charleston, South Carolina. Two things immediately struck me about this group of UUs - first that they were very glad to be there and second that they were even happier to be together. Their kindness and connection to each other was second only to the kindness they showed me in speaking about UU principles that, at the time, seemed incredibly alien.

I keep this first encounter in my heart as I speak to you now about what I believe it means to give of your time and talents in our own spiritual community. With so many weekly to-do's in this bustling place, I imagine it can feel at times like ticking off boxes in a "honey-do" list from the congregation. So why do we give of our time in service to or with this faith community? Engagement in this community is critical not only to UUCR as a whole but is also an invaluable aspect of your own spiritual life.

Shaping the community: By giving of your time and talents, this community is shaped by your efforts. We evolve and re-evolve as a dynamic community because you have changed us. Your efforts are a critical gift to the UUCR spiritual journey. Without Ushers, there would be no smiling faces to new and returning joiners in our Sunday gathering together. Without an Archive Committee, we would have no connection to the rich and wonderful depths of our past. Without dedicated Faith Development teachers, the younger in our community would be sung out of the sanctuary with no gracious arms ready to lead them down their own journey of curiosity and meaning. These and many other gifts of time are undoubtedly vital to the vibrancy of our community.

So, what's in it for you?: It is so important to understand the reverse of that gift of time - you are profoundly shaped by the act of giving. I ask you, what does giving of your time do for you? Deepening your engagement with this community is something that must be deeply personal to your own spiritual journey. I think back to the group I met in Charleston. While speaking to and observing these volunteers, it became clear that their time together spent in service was an extension of their spiritual life and community.

The time you give within our doors and beyond should challenge and inspire you. This place does not exist simply to sustain itself. You are here and we are here for you to grow, learn, deepen and be inspired. As you contemplate ways to get involved, I ask you to give attention to how that involvement will nurture and challenge you on your own spiritual journey.

With so many fabulous opportunities for engagement, you must be wondering how you find the right opportunity. This is where I come in! I am here to help you find meaningful ways of deepening your involvement in UUCR. Some of you are already deeply entrenched in the work of this community. We have many individuals who have given countless hours in service to UUCR. This place is truly the better for your efforts. As you continue on your journey, I would invite you to ask the same questions. Is the time and effort I give to UUCR, giving something to me? If you have been doing the same task for a while, might it be time for a new way of deepening?

I hope to speak to you more in the coming months about why and how to deepen your engagement with the UUCR community. In the meantime, I am here to help you find a meaningful and challenging way to utilize your gifts. Your time spent in service here may be the thing that brings you true joy or growth and who knows, maybe you will inspire a future Member Services Coordinator!

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## **Church Administrator News - Fresh Veggies Roll Into UUCR Starting June 12! Don't Miss Out!**



Interested in our food campaign? Looking for a 40/40 action?

Look no further than sample action #36 "try veganism." (For more information about the 40/40/42 Campaign, go to <http://ethicaleating.uua.org/40-40-campaign>)

As part of this endeavor think about bringing a box of locally grown produce home every week to your family's table with the purchase of a Community Sponsored Agriculture subscription! Everyone will want to rush home Tuesday night to feast on the freshness of Massachusetts farming!

The UUCR is pleased to be a local host for the group People Enhancing Agricultural Sustainability, Community Sponsored Agriculture. The UUCR is a host site for delivery. You can sign up for a subscription to receive 18 weekly box deliveries of organic sustainable vegetables from Lowell based farms. Tufts University sponsors and manages this program.

Your box of fresh vegetables and fruits will be dropped off at the UUCR Loring house porch every Tuesday for 18 Tuesdays starting June 12. You will have until 7 PM on Tuesday to stop by your UUCR and pick up your box of food. Your family will enjoy over 70 locally grown vegetables, berries, melons, tree fruit and more!

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

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

Subscription can only be done online at [www.nesfp.org](http://www.nesfp.org) -- the New England Sustainable Farming Project Website.

The first boxes will roll in on Tuesday, June 12, don't miss out, sign up today!

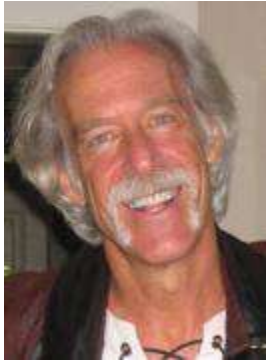
## Adult Enrichment

**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**

### **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

## **Creative Hands and Caring Hearts Group (CHACH)**

### **Creative Hands and Caring Hearts Group (CHACH)**

The **CHACH** (Creative Hands And Caring Hearts) 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](#)

## **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](mailto:sawyer_nursery_school@verizon.net).

## **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!

## **Kris Kringle Fair**

### **Kris Kringle Fair Changes Ahead!**

Please note that there have been some significant changes to our traditional fall fair structure. After much contemplation and creative thinking, we have had to make a change that will hopefully benefit UUCR's budget and will create a safer environment for our fair(s).

Starting this November (2012) we will have our usual annual Kris Kringle Fair (on Saturday, Nov. 10) and we will also begin having an annual Spring Fling fair in the spring of 2013 (date to be announced). The Spring Fling will be timed so that it is a distance from the Auction/Soiree that typically happens in late January or early February. The Nov fair will be a little different in that some of the customary tables/areas will not occur in Nov. but will be moved to the spring event. But please note that all tables that are fall/winter seasonal will be kept in the fall fair. The spring fair will feature Attic Treasures, Used Books, a food cafe, probably a recurrence of the Baked Goods Table, and several other tables, including the resurrection of the old Plants Table.

The decision to make these changes was based upon several factors, but mainly upon the following three reasons:

Our fair has grown so large that we have outgrown our available campus space and we were inadvertently causing some safety issues with our overcrowding - crowding rooms/hallways and blocking fire exits. Those who coordinated the various tables had difficulty effectively displaying their wares because the space was so limited. Spreading out our fair offerings to two annual fairs will help us use our space more effectively, both for safety issues and for better display space.

Because we needed the space, we were disrupting our sanctuary by unscrewing and moving pews. This practice causes damage to our new flooring and puts undue stress on our aging pews, (not to mention on our aging set-up and clean-up crew members!) The new "two fair" structure will eliminate the need to move/remove pews in the sanctuary.

Historically, in the years when we have had two fairs, for various reasons, we have always generated more income than we do when we only have the fall fair.

As the only remaining K K Fair Chairperson, I consulted the retired fair chair people and some other leaders in the church. I then brought my decision to the Governing Board, along with my research and facts, for their approval. They wholeheartedly approved my decision.

Hopefully, there will be two different teams of leaders for the two fairs. Currently, for the Kris Kringle Fair, the co-chairs are myself and Shanna Weston (Thank you for stepping up, Shanna!). We are in serious need of two more people who would be willing to help us coordinate the K K Fair this fall and then allow me to step down from the leadership position after that. We will also be seeking a leadership team for the 2013 Spring Fling fair.

There will soon be an announcement about a planning meeting so we can make final decisions about which tables/areas will appear at which fair and how to optimize our available space. We hope that you will join us at that planning meeting if you customarily chair a table/service/area at the fair or even if you just have a vested interest in the fair. We value your input. Please watch for the announcement of that meeting, which will likely happen in early May.

If you have good leadership skills and enjoy working with people, please contact Sharyn Taitz or Shanna Weston to volunteer to join our management team. Since our fair income is the second largest source of income next to the annual pledges, it's very important that we get this leadership team in place now.

Thank you sincerely,  
Sharyn Taitz, co-chair of the Kris Kringle Fair

## More News

### Registration for Ferry Beach Retreat Weekend Begins on Sunday April 22

Our church has traditionally spends a weekend at Ferry Beach Park Assoc., the UUA conference center in Saco, Maine, and this year the dates are June 1, 2 and 3, 2012. The conference center has three dormitory buildings where families are housed together, and a brand new kitchen and dining room building. The weekend includes two nights' accommodations, five meals and a light pizza supper on Friday, and all activities. Kids of all ages look forward to the sandcastle competition where everyone wins, rock painting, and the Talent/No Talent Show on Saturday night. In the past we have nature walks, kite flying, volleyball, a pick game of softball, campfire. If there is an activity you would like to offer talk to Susan Delaney. There is a beautiful Chapel in the Grove where we can have a service on Sunday. Cost is 0 per adult, 0, kids 14-17, and ages 3-13. Registration will begin on Sunday, April 22 after the first coffee hour. If you have questions or want a registration form emailed to you, you can contact Susan Delaney by email.

[Contact Form](#)

## Our Larger Community

### Sawyer Nursery School Benefit Fundraiser on April 26, 2012

#### **Eat at Fuddruckers on April 26 and support Sawyer Nursery School**

The Fuddruckers Restaurant on Walker's Brook Drive in Reading (in the Jordan's Furniture complex) will host a fundraiser to benefit UUCR's own Sawyer Nursery School on Thursday evening, April 26 from 5 to 8 p.m. Twenty percent of all purchases made at that time by Sawyer supporters who bring in a voucher from the attached flyer will go directly to Sawyer to support enrichment activities. Enjoy a meal out and make a lot of preschoolers happy! You can print out as many copies of the flyer and voucher as you like. See you on the 26th!

## Social Action

### Last Day for the Special Food Drive: April 29



Thanks to those who donated on April 1-22, we're at 104 pounds of nonperishable foods and paper goods given to the Reading Food Pantry, and still counting! April 29 will be the last day of this special drive--it would be great to meet or top last year's 180 pounds.

Look for the brightly decorated Food Drive boxes at the sanctuary doors on the 29th.

**Why a special food drive? Thanks to a partnership with Gathering Change, Inc., the Feinstein Foundation of RI will match a percentage of every pound of food or dollar collected during April, making your gift of food go even farther.**

But don't worry if you forget your food on April 29. All year long you can donate food to the Reading Food Pantry by placing it in the labeled basket in the Woburn St. foyer, under the coat rack.

For more information, call Judy Bousquin at 781-438-8960 or visit [www.gatheringchangeinc.org](http://www.gatheringchangeinc.org) and [www.feinsteinfoundation.org](http://www.feinsteinfoundation.org). Thank you for your support!

## **Kris Kringle Fair**

### **Kris Kringle Fair Organizational Meeting**

Mark your calendars now. On Tuesday, May 22nd, at 7:30PM, in Loring Room 101 there will be a very important Kris Kringle Fair organizational and planning meeting. We welcome all who are interested in the fair and in helping us structure the new "two fair" system for the upcoming church year. If you have been involved in past fairs or if you'd like to get involved, please come to our meeting with your ideas. If you have a vested interest in which tables or services appear in which season (fall or spring) - please come to the meeting with your ideas. And most important of all, IF YOU WISH TO JOIN THE FAIR STEERING COMMITTEE AND BE TRAINED FOR FUTURE LEADERSHIP, please come to the meeting with your ideas. We can't make the fairs happen without strong leadership teams. Each fair needs 3-4 co-chairs. If you can't attend, but wish to offer suggestions or to volunteer for a leadership position, please contact either of us by e-mail, by phone or in person.

Sharyn Taitz and Shanna Weston, co-chairs of the fall Kris Kringle Fair

## **Our Larger Community**

### **Ferry Beach Weekend Registration Continues - Only four weeks left to register**

#### **FERRY BEACH WEEKEND**

Registration continues for the church's weekend at Ferry Beach in Saco, Maine on June 1, 2 & 3, 2012. Please register soon as there are only 4 weeks to register. Attendees from last year received forms by email, please print those forms and bring to church on Sunday at either coffee hour. If you need forms you can e-mail Susan Delaney by email and she will send them to you, or you may pick a registration form up at the church.

[Contact Form](#)

## Social Action

### Walking the Walk: Join Rev. Meg and the Social Action Team 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, contact Anne Mark, [CLICK TO SEND EMAIL](#), or see Social Action Team members at coffee hours.

## Social Action

### A Kind Thank-You to UUCR from Gathering Change, Inc.



On April 22, a framed certificate of appreciation was given to our congregation by Judy Bousquin, from Gathering Change, Inc. It reads, "On behalf of everyone at Gathering Change, Inc., a non-profit charity that works to support basic needs in our communities, we are humbled by your compassion and generosity. Thank you for believing that our spare change can make a difference in the lives of our neighbors during your recent Second Offering Collection. You individually and collectively give us a sense of hope and promise for a united world where hunger will no longer exist." Signed, Dorothy Goodwin, President

On October 16, 2011, members and friends of the UUCR donated 79.05 to Gathering Change, Inc. GCI distributed the money to the food pantries in Reading, Wilmington, Woburn, and Stoneham. GCI had not previously worked with the pantries in two of the towns, so the offering enabled GCI to expand its outreach and further help those in need.

## Social Action

### I've Got a Hammer: Build with Habitat in Bedford

Volunteers are needed to build a Habitat for Humanity house in Bedford, MA, weekdays and Saturdays. Long-time Habitat volunteer and UUCR member Jamie Maughan reports that more hands would be greatly welcome at the Habitat for Humanity of Greater Lowell site. Here's a chance for our church to get actively involved with HFHGL again and to work with a family in need on building a safe, decent, affordable home. To volunteer, visit [www.lowellhabitat.org](http://www.lowellhabitat.org). For more information, contact Jamie by email.

[Contact Form](#)

## 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](http://uumassaction.org/advocacyday). If you plan to attend, please contact Anne Mark to coordinate transportation and group registration rates.

## Partner Church

### Organic, Fairly Traded Coffee and Chocolate at UUCR, April 29

On Sunday, April 29, you can once again buy organic, fairly traded coffee and chocolate bars at coffee hours!

Buying Equal Exchange chocolate and coffee at church is good because

They taste great.

Proceeds from the sale will support another year of high school for our church's partner Unitarian student in the Philippines, Gerry. (If you haven't "met" Gerry yet, please come to the table at coffee hour to see his picture and learn his story.

If your 40/40/42 pledge is "If you enjoy chocolate, coffee, or tea, buy only Fair Trade sources for 40 days" (see elsewhere in this newsletter)--this is your chance to stock up!

Buying organic chocolate and coffee benefits the earth not just on Earth Day but every day.

Members of the Partner Church Committee look forward to talking with you at the sale table. To order coffee if you won't be in church, contact Ann Mottl by [email](#).

From Equal Exchange: "The premium fairly traded organic cacao in our chocolate bars is grown by small farmers organized into co-operatives in the Dominican Republic, Panama, Peru, and Ecuador. The organic sugar and organic vanilla are both fairly traded. The sugar comes from small farmer co-operatives in Paraguay, while the vanilla is grown by a farmer association in Madagascar. Enjoy!"

## Ivy Chord Concerts

### 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."

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