



NEWS OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF READING

Monday, April 30, 2012

Worship Services

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.

Time	Role	Name
09:15 AM	Altar Flowers	Laura Cavicchio - In memory of my mother, Eleanor (cancel)
09:15 AM	Busy Boxes	(click here to sign up)
09:15 AM	Coffee Maker(s)	(click here to sign up)
09:15 AM	Usher	Robyn Matzke (cancel)
09:15 AM	Usher	(click here to sign up)
09:15 AM	Welcome Table	Michele Catalano (cancel)
11:00 AM	Coffee Maker(s)	(click here to sign up)
11:00 AM	Usher	(click here to sign up)
11:00 AM	Usher	(click here to sign up)
11:00 AM	Welcome Table	(click here to sign up)

Sunday, May 13, 2012

"Nature and Nurture"

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 African elephant and her calf 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

Time	Role	Name
09:15 AM	Altar Flowers	Tammy Zambo and Nancy Nienhuis (cancel)
09:15 AM	Busy Boxes	(click here to sign up)
09:15 AM	Coffee Maker(s)	Sabbatical Support Team (cancel)
09:15 AM	Usher	Marketing Committee (cancel)
09:15 AM	Usher	Marketing Committee (cancel)
09:15 AM	Welcome Table	Michele Catalano (cancel)
11:00 AM	Coffee Maker(s)	Sabbatical Support Team (cancel)
11:00 AM	Usher	Marketing Committee (cancel)
11:00 AM	Usher	Marketing Committee (cancel)
11:00 AM	Welcome Table	Robbie Kohn (cancel)

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

So, what's in it for me? April 30, 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!

Ordination of Meg Soens - Save The Date of June 10 at 4:00 PM!

Save the Date -- June 10, 4pm

Ordination of Meg Soens by the Unitarian Universalist Church of Reading and First Parish UU, Lexington at First Parish in Lexington. More information will be forthcoming, but please mark this date and time on your calendars. It's an important gift you are giving to the whole Unitarian Universalist community, so come and be part of it!

Worship Notes

Memorial Service For Ruth White is Saturday May 5 at 2:00 PM

The memorial service for Ruth White is this Saturday, May 5 at 2:00 PM in our Sanctuary.

A catered reception will follow thereafter in Fellowship Hall. If you would like to contribute a food for dessert, the family would appreciate plated fruit, fruit trays, or plated and sliced dessert bars or cookies. Fresh fruit is appreciated. Your contribution can be dropped off on Saturday, May 5, between 12:30 and 2:00 PM in the UUCR kitchen.

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

May 2012

Caring and Sharing Coordinator for Month

The caring and sharing coordinator for the month of May 2012 is Samantha. Samantha can be reached [HERE](#).



Minister's Messages - April 30, 2012

Dear Friends:

In just a week I'll be back in the office (Monday, May 7th) and I'll be back in the pulpit on Mother's Day, May 13, with a sermon entitled "Nature and Nurture." My time away has been quite restorative, and also has expanded my experience and world awareness. I am so grateful to you for allowing me this sabbatical time.

My time in South Africa was extraordinary. I was able to spend quite a bit of time in the wilderness, and see many wild animals up close in their natural habitat. I've put a picture display of some of these animals in the atrium, and I hope you get a chance to see it. I've included three pictures that I took during my African travels with this message, as well.

I'll see you soon.

Tim



Getting up close and personal with a lion in the Selati Game Reserve



Two rhinos at a water hole in the ImFolozzi Wilderness.
Shortly after Tim took the photo, the rhinos charged Tim and the other hikers.



A mother elephant feels Tim is just a wee bit too close and lets him know!

Acting Minister's Messages

- April 30, 2012 - Hooray! Thanks, and Good-bye



Dear UUCR folks,

Next Monday your minister, Reverend Tim Kutzmark, will be back on campus refreshed and energized by a hard-earned four month sabbatical. I know you will rejoice when he's back! And I know he is going to be very happy to return to you and his ministry here.

Since this is my final weekly newsletter article as your acting minister, I want to share some reflections on the church that have come out this wonderful and rich experience.

First, UUCR is a healthy church. The congregation has experienced another person's spiritual leadership now, and that has given many of you a sense of the deep truth of true Reverend Tim's words in his last sermon:

"The church isn't the minister. It isn't the buildings, it is YOU, the people!"

Especially for newer folks who had experienced UUCR with only Tim as the minister, you probably now have a better sense of the congregation as a dynamic and independent organism. This is important: in any healthy relationship the two people or entities (in this case the minister and the congregation) know who they are, know where they begin and end, and they know the other party's boundaries, too. Tim's sabbatical has given you a clearer sense of this, of who you are apart from any particular minister.

Secondly, UUCR is strong. The church has many valuable assets. Some of these are physical: an attractive meeting and faith development space: Loring house; a beautiful and welcoming sanctuary and spaces for gathering and fellowship, including the light-filled Fellowship Hall, and the re-floored Community Hall; and Sawyer, a house in good repair on the Woburn side of our campus.

Another important asset is the congregation's relatively high level of financial giving. Although there is no other source of financial support for UUCR than the people in the pews, Unitarian Universalists as a movement are coming out of an historical period when financial support was low relative to other denominations. But we are realizing that a person's relative financial commitment mirrors emotional commitment and also reflects how well a church is living out a mission of higher purpose. Thus, if you want to know how committed to the church and its' mission the members are, look to the levels of giving, in money as well as volunteer time and ministries. This church measures up well against its' UU peer churches. My wish is that this will move to the

next level as the church becomes an ever-more important part of the fulfillment of each member's particular higher calling in the world, and members increasingly commit to live that calling out in the context of the church's evolving, living and co-created mission.

The final asset to highlight is the spiritual asset of the congregation's creativity, energy and desire to make a difference in the lives of people around you, both in the church community and beyond the church's doors. This requires your faith that you can make a difference, and the desire to understand how to harness the energies of the entire congregation to do so. The inward focus of care has clearly been very strong for a very long time, and the healthy Caring and Sharing, Pastoral Care, and Creative Hands ministries testify to this. A collective external focus is also growing here now, and the new two year Food Initiative (the social justice and service theme the congregation agreed upon) is starting to get its' legs, and generate some whole-church energy. This is an important signifier of a church that cares about having a greater impact on the world around it, and so works to maximize that by acting in concert. A higher purpose requires this outward look, and it is best built on a strong ethic of caring for fellow church members. You can both be, and do, much.

The biggest challenge you have from my perspective is to work together to continue the on-going work to refine the mission of this church, in the context of this particular place (the Reading, MA area) and time. A clear, shared mission, interpreted in the context of the actual historical surroundings, is powerful, life-giving, and meaningful. I encourage you to continue to engage each other about what the higher purpose of this particular church really is, and engage the your neighbors, in some sense, in this conversation. What unique gift does this church has to offer the concrete place and time in which it exists?

Next week, when the clock strikes midnight on Sunday May 6, I will not be changed into a pumpkin, but I will return to my role as half-time intern minister for one final month, and Reverend Tim will be back. Over the next month and one half I will be saying good by to you as the intern minister. But for now, as your acting minister, thank you for this wonderful four months. You are strong, loving and a wonderful congregation in which to minister. Hooray! Thank you. And Good-bye.

Blessings,
Meg Soens

President's Messages - Meg's Upcoming Ordination



I am eagerly anticipating an upcoming event during which I will have an opportunity to provide a service, in my role as board president of a UU church, which I would not be able to fulfill in almost any other main-stream religion. On June 10, 2012 at 4:00 pm, at First Parish UU in Lexington, I will have the great honor and unique privilege to co-ordain Meg Soens, our Acting Minister, along with the board president from that church, where Meg is a parishioner. The other president and I will be the people who represent the members of our respective congregations and give the official charge to Meg through which she will become a minister and adopt her new found title of 'Reverend'.

I am so looking forward to this event because it represents to me a unique and extremely important aspect of our faith. Namely, that we, the congregation, have the sole power to adopt our religious leaders into ministry. We do not rely on a higher-level governing body to make this decision on our behalf. The Unitarian Universalist Ministerial Fellowship Committee (MFC) officially approves ministers for UU ordination, but it is individual congregations, not the Unitarian Universalist Association or the MFC, that vote to ordain candidates. I think this aspect of our faith is crucially important because it is based on the truism that nobody is better equipped to decide the suitability of a person for ministry than those in a congregation who have worked, worshiped and grown alongside them. We are the most suited to determine whether a candidate is actively committed to UU Purposes and Principles and is ready and qualified to guide and accompany others along their spiritual path. UUCR's ordination of Meg will forever bind us together. She will always be our spiritual daughter and her ministry, wherever it may take her, will always carry the imprint of UUCR.

Meg's ordination is an opportune time for me to demonstrate to my 8-year old son Miles, the unique congregational empowerment attributes and aspects of our faith. I don't think he'll soon forget his mother standing in front of a congregation, laying her hands on the shoulders of an incoming minister, saying all sorts of important-sounding words which will mark Meg's passage into her new spiritual leadership role. I know I won't! Interestingly, this is the year that many of my son's close friends in town who are Catholic will be taking their first Communion. Indeed, this weekend we were invited to a service for one of his best friends. I asked my husband, who was raised Catholic, to explain to Miles what the service means to those of the Catholic faith, since I am not intimately familiar with the ceremony. I couldn't have designed a better scenario to

enable my son to experience the wide variety of religious experiences and belief systems which we have the freedom to explore in our great country.

My time working with Meg as our Acting Minister is drawing to a close since Reverend Tim will be returning to work on Monday, May 7th. I have come to look forward to my weekly breakfast at Christopher's restaurant with Meg and our wonderful chats and her wise words. Fortunately, Meg will still be with us until the end of this church year, so I won't have to say goodbye just yet. It has been my great pleasure to work closely with Meg over these past 4 months and it is my great honor and privilege to play a principle part in her upcoming ordination ceremony.

Don't miss this unique opportunity!

Best Regards,

Tracy

Website News - Worship Volunteers Signup

We're pleased to announce that volunteer signup for Ushers, Welcome Table, Altar Flowers donations, and Social Hour volunteers are now possible online. In each Upcoming Service article ([link](#)), there is a table showing the volunteers needed. If you prefer, you can visit the Worship Volunteers Signup page ([link](#)), and volunteer for any upcoming service.

If you are willing to fill an empty slot, please click the "(click here to signup)" link, enter your full name and email address, enter in the confirmation code, and then submit the form. If you entered a valid email address, then you'll receive a confirmation email containing instructions on the relevant volunteer job.

Website News

- Spending Policy and Budget Analysis now available on the website

A few weeks ago Tracy mentioned that we would be posting a copy of church policies on the website. The first policy, the Spending Policy, has been posted. **It is accessible only if you are logged into the website.** Here's a link to where all the policies will be posted:

[Church Policies](#)

Again, you need to be logged in to access the church policies. If you click the link when you're not logged in, you'll be brought to an error page.

When you're logged in, you'll always be able to find the Church Policies from the menu, in the Welcome menu, just above the link to the Site Map.

In addition, Tracy recently mentioned that updates on the church budget analysis will be posted to the website, primarily for use by members of programs to know where their budgets currently stand. The first update has been posted in the Finance Committee Journal. This is another page that is only accessible if you are logged into the website. If you try to access it when you aren't logged in you'll be brought to an error page. Here's the link:

[Finance Committee Journal](#)

You can always find the link to the Finance Committee pages from the Get Involved Menu. The link to the Finance Committee pages will only be visible when you're logged into the website. Once you are on the Finance Committee page, there is a link on the right side of the page to access the Finance Committee Journal.

If you have any problem accessing either of these pages, please let us know.

[Contact Form](#)

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

Buddhist Meditation Group

Half Day Meditation Retreat

The Buddhist Meditation Group @ UUCR invites you to a half day meditation retreat on Saturday June 30th from 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

The retreat will consist of a combination of chanting, silent meditation and walking meditation. It is recommended you wear loose comfortable clothing. Please bring a meditation cushion if you prefer one over a chair.

The retreat will be followed by a pot luck vegetarian lunch.

Registration is required and free here: <http://bmgjuneretreat.eventbrite.com/>

Creative Hands and Caring Hearts Group (CHACH)

Creative Hands and Caring Hearts Group (CHACH)

The **CHACH** (**C**reative **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](#)

Choir

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](#)

Fellowship

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](#)

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.

- 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

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:

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. 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

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

Partner Church Committee

The Chocolate and Coffee Sale Continues! May 6

On Sunday, May 6, 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!"

Planting Seeds (Community Engagement Project)

Support Community Sponsored Agriculture At UUCR - First Delivery June 12!

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! - First Delivery Scheduled to Loring House for Tuesday, June 12

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 enroll visit www.nesfp.org

~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. Enrollment must be done online www.nesfp.org

Social Action

[Sign Up This Weekend For: 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

4th Annual UUCR Walks Boston Pride - Join Us



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 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. To sign up, call the office at 781 944 0494 or [HERE](#)

Social Action

The Food Drive Is Over--But You Can Still Bring Food!



Thanks to all who donated, 140 pounds of nonperishable food, paper goods, and laundry detergent filled the special collection boxes at the UUCR. These items will go to our neighbors for whom the Reading Food Pantry is a source of help--and the Feinstein Foundation of RI will match a percentage of every pound donated in April, further

supporting the Food Pantry and those who depend on it.

The official food drive is over--but the Reading Food Pantry basket in our Woburn St. foyer (under the coat rack) stands ready for donations 52 weeks a year! Please bring nonperishable food or paper goods any time, and UUCR volunteers will take them to the Food Pantry.

Social Action

Wanting to Reach Out? The Social Action Team Welcomes You at Coffee Hour 5/6

The Mother's Day Walk for Peace on May 13, volunteering at the Greater Boston Food Bank on June 9, supporting the UU Urban Ministry, and more--the Social Action Team has information about all these ways of reaching out to our wider community and would love to talk with you or help you get connected. Come visit with us at coffee hours on May 6 in Fellowship Hall!

(See other articles in the newsletter about the Walk and the Food Bank.)

Social Action

[Join UUCR Volunteers at the Greater Boston Food Bank: Sat., June 9](#)

For a fun, informative, and satisfying morning of work, you're invited to join with other UUCR volunteers at the **Greater Boston Food Bank, Saturday, June 9, 9:30 to noon**--our church's 4th or 5th annual trip.

After a brief training, volunteers head to the conveyor belts to sort, pack, and label donated food that goes out to food pantries and meal sites, to help alleviate the increasing food insecurity and hunger in Massachusetts.

There are jobs for volunteers of all strengths, and for volunteers who can lift and those who can't. For safety reasons, volunteers need to be 16 years old or older.

For more information or to sign up, visit the Social Action Team table at coffee hours on May 6, or [contact Anne Mark](#).

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.

Our Larger Community

Please Welcome Our Returning Renter to UUCR - Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction With Cindy Gittleman

Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction (MBSR) program begins on May 2nd with Cindy Gittleman

Wednesday Evenings from May 2 - June 20 from 6:30-9:00 PM*with an extended practice session on June 9 from 9:00am-4:00 PM

*The first and last classes are extended by 1/2 hour.

Is stress affecting your life? Would you or someone you know like to learn easily accessible methods of increasing well-being and decreasing stress? Come explore the connection between mind and body in this highly engaging and supportive program, originally developed by Jon Kabat-Zinn. The program includes guided instruction in mindfulness meditation practices and concepts, gentle stretching, group discussion, daily home assignments, and home practice materials, including 4 guided mindfulness practice CDs.

MBSR is both challenging and life affirming, and involves a commitment to practice at home every day between classes. A significant body of research supports the benefits of the mindfulness practice. Participants can experience an increased ability to cope more effectively with both short and long-term stressful situations, decreases in physical and psychological symptoms, an increased ability to relax, greater energy and enthusiasm for life, among other benefits.

Tuition: 5

Registration at www.sunrisemindfulness.com

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."