



NEWS OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF READING

February 13, 2012

Worship Services

February 19, 2012

"The Grounds of Hope"

Meg Soens, Acting Minister

9:15 AM and 11:00 AM

"Don't be afraid. I'm here. It's all right." These classic words of reassurance may not exactly be the same words you or I might use as we comforted a fearful loved one, but the language, of faith and hope, would be the same. Where do these words come from in each of us? What are the grounds of your hope and faith? Join Meg Soens in an exploration of these questions on Sunday February 19th. Music: 9:15 AM Mary Gould, Vocalist, 11:00 AM UUCR Choir.

Ushers

9:15 AM Needed

11:00 AM Janet Riley

Welcome Table

9:15 AM Needed

11:00 AM Marcia Dresser

Coffeemakers

9:15 AM Faith Development

11:00 AM Needed

February 26, 2012

"Creative Goodness: Grace Found in Community"

Rev. Fayre Stephenson, Guest Minister

9:15 AM and 11:00 AM

We know how important the UU communities we build are to each of us on a personal level. Is there a liberal theology that can give UUs a framework for the spiritual fulfillment we find in religious community? How does our commitment to community unify us in all of our diversity? In addition to providing some possible answers to these questions, this service will be a celebration of our unique UU religious communities. Music: 9:15 AM Barbara Bennett and Marcia Dresser, Vocalists; 11:00 AM UUCR Choir.

Rev. Fayre Stephenson is the Program Director at Ferry Beach, the Unitarian Universalist Camp and Conference Center on the shore of Saco Bay. Before entering the ministry, Fayre worked for many years in Massachusetts as a legislative aide and as a lobbyist and writer for the legislative office of a labor union. After graduating from Harvard Divinity School, Fayre served as minister of the Foxborough (Massachusetts) Universalist Church where she is Minister Emerita. Fayre is currently serving her eighth year as Ferry Beach Program Director, a fulfilling community ministry. She is the mother of two grown sons and the doting grandmother of five grandchildren.

Ushers:

9:15 AM Eric Rizzo

11:00 AM Needed

Welcome Table

9:15 AM Needed

11:00 AM Dru Wood-Beckwith

Coffeemakers

9:15 AM Needed

11:00 AM Needed

Altar Flowers:

Needed

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

2/13/12 What will you add to our Stone Soup?

This Sunday at the 9:15 AM service, we'll be making Stone Soup as an act of faith! The key ingredients are hope, an ordinary stone, and YOU. Join in this participatory experience and email Anne at fdd@uureading.org if you'd like to know what special ingredient YOU can bring!

Adult Enrichment Opportunity: "Nurturing Our Relationships" Final Call For Sign Up! Class Begins This Wednesday

Adult Enrichment Begins This Wednesday February 15: Last Call For Registration!

Nurturing Our Relationships - a four-part workshop for couples in committed relationships begins this Wednesday, February 15. To join this compelling enrichment, please call Ann or Tony Fisher today at 781-942-1634.

Second Offering Feb. 19: Support Afghan Women and Children through Razia's Ray of Hope

Soon Rev. Tim will be in Kabul with a delegation studying the economic and educational initiatives of women in post-Taliban Afghanistan. In solidarity with him, on Feb. 19 we'll have the chance--giving as we are able--to support the work of Razia's Ray of Hope (www.raziasrayofhope.org) through a Second Offering at our Sunday services. (If you'd like to donate by check, please make it out to Razia's Ray of Hope Foundation.)



RRH is a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the lives of women and children in Afghanistan through community-based education. Its flagship project is the Zabuli Education Center in the village of Deh'Subz, outside of Kabul, a humanitarian endeavor led by Razia Jan, an Afghan native, former resident of Duxbury, MA, and former small-business owner there. Razia has worked since 2005 to raise funds for the school, which provides free education for the girls of Deb'Subz.

Introducing RRH to us on Feb. 19 will be Patti Quigley, Executive Director. After Patti's husband died in the September 11 attacks in 2001, Patti became aware of the vast difference between her experience as a widow and the treatment of her counterparts in Afghanistan. She now works to help Razia "fulfill her dream of educating the next generation of Afghan people so that the cycle of poverty, despair, and terrorism can be stopped."

About the school, Razia writes, "[Support given to the school so far] is making a measurable difference. An entire village has been touched: 300 girls educated, 3,000 people affected.



"We are just about to conclude our fourth year of school. When we first opened our doors in 2008, 80% of our students had never attended school and were not able to read or write. Grouped by age, the highest level was fourth grade. This year, that first group of fourth graders is finishing seventh grade and should

move up to eighth grade next term. But to everyone's surprise, most of the seventh graders want to skip eighth grade altogether. They want to take an extra set of exams so that they can move to ninth grade....These girls are doing exceptionally well, and are driven to learn....We are thrilled to give [them] a chance to excel."

Founded with the belief that education is the key to positive, peaceful change for current and future generations, the RRH Foundation strives to provide opportunities to learn and grow in a safe, nurturing environment. "My focus is to really make life better for women and girls because they are suffering the most," Razia writes. "By nature, Afghanistan's women are very strong. If they put their mind to something, they can do anything. They can go through hell and come out and survive. They've lived through the Taliban--and if they can get through that, they have a chance."

(About Second Offerings: Four times each year, our congregation has the chance to financially support a local, regional, or international organization that resonates with our UU Principles and Purposes, through a special offering given at a Sunday service. To suggest an organization as a possible Second Offering recipient, please contact a member of the Social Action Committee.)

Worship Notes

New Member Sunday March 4, 2012

If you want to become an official member of UUCR, our next New Member Sunday is March 4th. We'll share in our ritual of welcome and membership during the service, and then all new members are invited to a special coffee hour. Please let our Acting Minister, Meg Soens or our our Member Services and Volunteer Coordinator, Amy Burton, know if you are considering membership, and they will schedule a time to meet with you. [Contact Meg Soens](#) or [contact Amy](#).

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

February 2012

Caring and Sharing Coordinator for Month



The Caring and Sharing coordinator for February is Samantha. Samantha can be reached by [email](#)

Minister's Messages - February 13, 2012

Dear Friends:

Greetings from sabbatical! It seems hard to believe that I've already been on sabbatical for over a month! Since last I wrote you (about my time in Acadia National Park), Jim and I spent a lovely week in Newport Beach, California. Originally, my sister and her family were going to join us, but a change in their schedule prevented them from coming. Despite that disappointment, the time in California was just wonderful!

The temperature was in the 70's and the sun never stopped shining. It felt like summer—and the beach complete with surfers only added to that sense. It was the first time I had been in the Los Angeles area, and I had a blast. We discovered the most amazing and creative Vietnamese bistro right in Newport Beach, and spent several taste transporting dinners trying out a number of dishes from the menu.

We visited the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (a world-class museum), and I was able to take several docent tours on Islamic sacred and secular art, as well Impressionism and French Modern art. On the complete opposite end of the spectrum, we explored Hollywood (seedy doesn't begin to describe it) and had a delightful time as part of the studio audience for "Jimmy Kimmel Live." Although I'd never actually watched his late night talk show before, it a hoot and a half

being part of the taping. His jokes were dreadful, but he has a charming and warm personality and his interviews were natural and comfortable. His guests that day were famed film director Martin Scorsese and English actor and director (and Academy Award nominee for this year) Kenneth Branagh. I've long admired both of these film icons, so sitting 10 feet away from them was thrilling. We were seated in the second row, and when I watched the show later that night I could see myself. Ahh....the closest I'll get to fame!

Another thrill was visiting The Crystal Cathedral. I'd been a fan of the (now retired) Rev. Robert Schuller's "Hour of Power" television show from long before I became a Unitarian Universalist, and had found his Sunday morning worship service uplifting and love-infused. The Crystal Cathedral, which is the sanctuary building, is only one part of the church complex. It is the size of a small community college (Evangelical media ministry at its best!). Built from panels of clear glass that sparkle in the sun, it is a light-infused place. The Sunday morning service (which was filmed for broadcast) was quite the experience—from the back wall opening up to reveal sunshine and dancing water fountains, to a quite moving sermon from an African-American film producer talking about his personal faith in Jesus. There was a good-sized band, large choir, and seven or eight lead vocalists who rocked the house with their praise music. Although the theology is far removed from our liberal Unitarian Universalist perspective, there was much heart and soul to be found there. The service was led by Rev. Robert Schuller's daughter who, I am sorry to say, did not inherit her father's dynamic worship arts gifts. The church has fallen on hard times lately, and the entire complex has been recently sold to the Catholic Church, so I was pleased to experience the congregation in its Evangelical Protestant form prior to their moving to a new location.

Later in the week, I was able to get away for a day of hiking, solitude and reflection at Joshua Tree National Park. It is stunning and stark desert, and a deeply spiritual place. I could walk for miles and not see anyone. Dusk in that desert, with just the sound of the warm wind, will not long be forgotten. No wonder so many mystics and spiritual people found (and find) God in the simplicity of the desert.

Surprisingly, my two favorite parts of the trip were visits to the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and the Richard Nixon Presidential Birthplace and

Library. Reagan's Library is located in a breathtaking setting, perched atop a mountain looking down into a beautiful valley. Inside was an informative overview of Reagan's life and Presidency, and an extraordinary look at the history he helped shape. As the sun was setting, I visited his gravesite. I remember watching President Reagan's funeral on television, and being deeply moved. I found myself swept up in that memory and those emotions all over again, and soon I was in tears. This was doubly strange, as I can't claim myself a huge fan of Reagan's politics and policies. But, at the library and in that sunset, the awesomeness of the role of President took on a reality I'd never understood prior. The juxtaposition of the day-to-day natural humanness of "the man" against the sheer magnitude of "the role of President" took my breath away.

I had a similar experience during the entire day I spent at the Richard Nixon Presidential Library. The scope of history explored was fascinating, and following the story of this flawed leader reawakened my horror at Watergate, but also created a respect for the challenges and responsibilities he faced as our President. The exhibit and historical collection about Watergate was honest and excellent, and I could have easily spent another day listening to tapes and exploring the intricacies of that painful chapter that so changed the way this country thinks about elected officials and the political process.

Needless to say, it was a good and varied week.

I'm now deep into reading and studying about Afghanistan, and watching all the documentaries I can get my hands on (there are a lot). I will be leaving in two weeks for Kabul. If you've been reading The New York Times, you'll know that in the last two weeks, a great number of infants and little children have frozen to death in the refugee camps in Kabul. I am sure I have no real idea what awaits me in that war-torn and conflicted country.

I will carry you with me in my heart, and hold you with love in my prayers. May strength, patience, love, light and understanding surround you and guide your way on until I write again.

Warmly
Tim



Tim enjoys the sun and surf at Newport Beach, CA



Tim visits the Evangelical Media Ministry at Rev. Robert Schuller's Crystal Cathedral. This picture is inside the Sanctuary prior to the start of Worship service.



The desert at Joshua Tree National Park



Tim visits the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library

Acting Minister's Messages - February 13, 2012 - "Lighting The Fire of Commitment"

Dear Friends,



My favorite spiritual metaphor is water, especially water flowing from a spring, a place among the rocks where the waters of life well up. It speaks to me of the source of life.

But my second favorite metaphor is fire: the fire burning in a chalice, in a bush in the desert, in our hearts to be part of something nobler than purely our self-interest. A fire speaks to me of the transformations that life can involve, ones that come out of situations of necessity - such as death or loss - and those that come from our own choices, such as a decision to be part of a spirituality group, to develop a personal spiritual practice like meditation or daily prayer, to commit

to working with folks from another community to help make the world better in some way, together.

We can choose other things. We can choose to take care of only our own, we can choose to stiffen against the changes and opportunities that life inevitably brings to us. We can choose to refuse the invitation to authentic community, with the challenges and demands such a commitment entails. But, if we make these kinds of choices, we miss out on the fire along the way.

In the end of course, we will all burn, we will all change, for we all die. But there is something in us that seeks to be burnished in use before that end, something that seeks to realize a higher, better self embodying greater love toward others and our world. Ours can be a slow burning, banked under a blanket of ash for a long time, or a sudden flaring with the transformation occurring quickly.

In the coming weeks, you will be asked to consider what you will pledge to the church in financial support for the upcoming fiscal year. Budget drive folks may give you guidelines for giving. I hope you take them seriously. But first, ask yourself, 'how does this church fan the embers of my desire to be burnished in use, to be part of something nobler? To become better at loving?' Name that, lift it up. Only then, I hope, will you consider your pledge.

Blessings to all,

Meg Soens
Acting Minister

President's Messages - February 12, 2012 - Permanent DFD



I have some wonderful news to share with you this week. The Governing Board, The Faith Development Committee Chairs, Reverend Tim, and a new committee being piloted this year called the Director of Faith Development

(DFD) Relations Committee worked closely together over the past few months to research and craft an offer to Anne Principe as our permanent DFD. I am very pleased to inform you that Anne has accepted our offer.

There are few people I have met in my life with as much integrity, insight and professionalism as Anne. As the Governing Board President of a church that is completing the transition from a Pastoral to a Program church, I can scarcely imagine a better person to serve as our next DFD, primarily because Anne is a systemic thinker. She understands that, like pulling on one section of a hanging mobile, making a change to one area of a church in transition translates to motion throughout the whole system before equilibrium can again be reached. As we continue our conversations about how we will inhabit our identity as a Program Church, and particularly as we explore in more depth our evolving Faith Development Program, I am thrilled to know that Anne will be here helping to guide and lead us along the path.

Our process to arrive at this decision was that of a Program Church. The Governing Board is entrusted with the power to hire (and fire) staff members and Reverend Tim, as our chief of staff, is responsible for leading our staff team. Under typical hiring circumstances, the board empowers a search committee to conduct interviews with qualified candidates and recommend a candidate for the board to hire. In this case, we strongly felt that we already had a qualified candidate in house and that a search wasn't necessary. At the outset of our process, Reverend Tim was emphatically in support of hiring Anne, as was I and the entire board, inclining us toward an immediate decision. However we recognized the opportunity to gather first-hand, in-house feedback from a wider subset of people who had worked closely with Anne to more fully inform our decision. We also acknowledged our temptation to solicit feedback from every congregant, ensuring that all voices have been heard and all viewpoints considered. However, our size and structure no longer allow for this luxury. We are simply too big. As a Program church, it is vital that we empower each other to make decisions and trust one another to act in the best interest of our church.

The board empowered a subset group, comprised of Reverend Tim, Matt Wilson and myself, to gather wider feedback and, assuming that it was favorable, to negotiate an offer with Anne. We first reached out to the Faith Development Committee Chairs, Tricia Schwartz and Sherri Cook, who gave us their ringing

endorsement. We also asked them to provide for us a list of FD parents and lay leaders whose feedback would comprise a representative sampling of the full spectrum of feedback. We reached out to these individuals and received overwhelmingly favorable feedback. Additionally, we worked closely with the DFD Relations Committee, a pilot committee formed by the Governing Board this year to test out an emerging best practice used by an increasing number of UU Congregations to have a committee of congregants available to meet regularly with the DFD to serve as their listening and sounding board, and to offer input, suggestions and feedback during the year.

This committee's pilot year has allowed us to determine the parameters around which a permanent committee would function. The committee will present their findings to the board at our June meeting for our consideration of making this a permanent committee. The pilot DFD Relations committee, comprised of George Marinakas, Junelle Barras and Blair Howell, was unanimously in favor of our offer and worked closely with us during the negotiation process.

As you know, Anne is currently serving as our Interim DFD. Her position will transition to our permanent DFD on July 1st of this year. The reason for this is that the interim work in which Anne was originally tasked is extremely important to finish. What that means in practical terms is that while Anne will be collecting our ideas for the evolution of our Faith Development Program, she won't begin to enact them until the beginning of our next church year. In the next couple of weeks I'll share in more detail the specific interim work that Anne will be completing before the end of the year which encompasses both our Faith Development program for our children and youth and our Long Range Plan ('Living our Future') goal #4: Mixing Our Ages – "by strengthening our intergenerational activities to build our sense of connectedness across the ages".

Before Anne takes up residence as our permanent DFD, there are two areas that need board attention. One is the development of Anne's job description. The latest version that we have available, and upon which the interim job description was based, is woefully outdated for a Program church. That presents us with a wonderful opportunity to craft a new job description that reflects the church that we are today and the role that we wish for our DFD to serve. The other area is the Roles, Relationships, Responsibilities (RRR) document that the Faith Development Committee, Reverend Tim and the Board developed last year which defines the

boundaries and interface between the DFD and other key positions including the Minister, the Board and the Faith Development Committee. We need to add the DFD Relations Committee into this document and ensure that the document reflects the changing role of the DFD in a Program Church and our changing idea of our Faith Development Ministry.

And what are our ideas for our changing Faith Development Ministry? What does a Faith Development Program typically look like in a Program Church? What do we want our Faith Development Program, led by Anne, to look like? How can our Faith Development Ministry best support our children's faith discovery and our collective "sense of connectedness across the ages"? These are exciting and engaging questions for us all to ponder. In the coming months, while the interim work is being completed, we will begin to sketch out opportunities for congregational engagement with these questions informed by the interim year's learning. When Reverend Tim returns from sabbatical in May, we will have the opportunity to incorporate his input into Anne's job description, the RRR document and the congregational visioning plans.

I invite you to extend your personal welcome to Anne as she becomes a part of our church family. I would also love to hear your ideas, questions and suggestions about our process moving forward. Meg Soens, our Acting Minister, is also here for you to receive your feedback about our changing church identity and our evolving program.

In moving forward with our mission,

Tracy

Sabbatical Support Team - February 13, 2012

A One-Month Sabbatical Update

(Think of it as a State Of The UUnion Address)

It's the second week in February and Rev. Tim has now been on sabbatical for five weeks. 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 hasn't missed a beat. Here are a few brief glimpses of the happenings at 239 Woburn Street and beyond:

Our **Acting Minister**, Meg Soens, has stepped up to her increased duties and responsibilities with professionalism, caring and aplomb. She has kept a keen eye on the planning and coordination of all worship services, provided pastoral care in her warm and sincere manner, supervised and collaborated with staff members, assisted lay leaders on several different committees, brought her ideas and guidance to a multitude of committee meetings, preached three sermons, officiated at one memorial service, co-led a weekend retreat and performed other activities and tasks too numerous to mention.

We've hosted two **guest ministers** so far. We were privileged to have Rev. Parisa Parsa and Rev, Nathan Detering in our pulpit. There will be five more guest ministers and one guest author visiting UUCR in the upcoming weeks.

Faith Development continues thrive at UUCR. The big news is that our Interim Director of Faith Development, Anne Principe, has been hired to become our permanent DFD starting this summer. Under Anne's guidance and along with the support of the FD Committee and all of our wonderful volunteers, classes have continued and there have been many interesting and exciting FD events. We have also hired a new Youth Coordinator – Seth Robinson. Just to mention a couple highlights – the second term teachers have begun teaching their classes; the Coming of Age 1 and 2 classes have been meeting with teen interns from The Food Project; and the COA2 members participated in a 24-hour Homeless Mission with CityReach in Boston.

Our **Governing Board** has been working on several projects and goals. A new Marketing Team has been formed and is in the early stages of planning; the Website Task Force is seeking feedback so that our new website might be tweaked to provide optimum communication; various committees and their leaders are preparing their budget requests for the next fiscal year; and a new committee has been formed to plan and execute a pledge drive to fund next

year's operating budget, with the kick-off events beginning on Commitment Sunday, March 18th.

The annual **Soiree & Auction** was a huge success, bringing in more than \$ 22,000 to support our operating costs. Thanks to Dru Wood-Beckwith and her team for making that evening both fun and profitable.

There is so much more going on at UUCR, but it's daunting to list everything here. Just look around and you will see a thriving, welcoming and nurturing religious community that is buzzing with activity and pulsing with caring energy. We all have reason to be very proud.

Sincerely,

Sharyn Taitz, for the UUCR Sabbatical Support Team

Member Services Corner - Join the Conversation! - "Congregations and Beyond" February 13, 2012

Hello wonderful UUCR Community!

Did you know that the number of people who identify as UUs is about four times the membership of our association of congregations? It's true! This statistic presents the opportunity to evaluate our faith as a *spiritual movement*. The Rev. Peter Morales recently released a statement detailing his thoughts on "a historic opportunity for our faith." Click here to read how Unitarian Universalism has the potential to grow beyond our traditional perceptions of congregations: http://www.uua.org/documents/moralespeter/120115_congs_beyond.pdf

This week on facebook, let's begin discussing Rev. Morales' thoughts. As a way for us to engage in this significant conversation, I invite you to ponder a beginning question: **What core Unitarian Universalist value are you most proud to share in your life and with the world?** Visit the conversation on our facebook page and let us know what you think!

<http://www.facebook.com/UUCRMA>

Adult Enrichment

Nurturing Our Relationships - Feb. 15, 29 - Mar. 14, 28

A four-part workshop for couples in committed relationships.

Overview

We all know the statistics about marriage and divorce. Is it possible to sustain a committed relationship over the long haul? In this program of fun, interactive workshops, we will focus on what couples can do to keep their relationships strong. How do our UU identity and faith community provide a nurturing environment for interpersonal relationships? How do our UU principles inform our partnerships? We will look at the stages of a couple's life together and explore personality styles, skillful conversations, managing difference, maintaining passion and rituals of caring.

This program is for couples of all sexual orientations who have made vows or pledged to spend their lives together. This workshop series does not provide couples therapy; couples with serious relationship issues should speak to their minister or another counseling professional.

Length: Four sessions

Dates:

Wednesday evenings

7:30 PM to 9:00 PM

February 15th and 29th, March 14th and 28th

Capacity: A minimum of four couples is necessary to hold the class, and a maximum of ten couples can participate.



Facilitators: Ann and Tony Fisher

Ann and Tony have been married for thirty years and been active UUs even longer. Ann is a clinical social worker with experience leading couples' workshops. Tony is a ministerial candidate at Andover-Newton Theological School.

For information or to sign up, email [Ann](#) or [Tony](#), or call 781-942-1634.

CSAs: Getting Your Share - March 4, 2012

Heard about CSAs (community supported agriculture) but not sure of what they are? Looking to join a CSA but not sure which to sign up for? Matthew Himmel of local food cooperative World PEAS will talk about CSAs and how they benefit local residents, communities, and farmers.

Date: Sunday, March 4th, 12:30 - 1:30 PM

Speaker: Matthew Himmel

Facilitator: Ann Fisher

Unitarian Universalist Basics: An Introduction to Our Faith - March 10, 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 acting minister Meg Soens 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: Meg Soens

Dates: Saturday, March 10 – 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 Meg Soens, our acting minister.

What's for Dinner? - March 18, 2012

Join us as we discuss the book *The Omnivore's Dilemma* and learn how our eating choices affect not only our health, but the health of the environment that sustains life on earth.



In this groundbreaking book, author Michael Pollan turns his own omnivorous mind to the seemingly straightforward question of what we should have for dinner. The surprising answers Pollan offers to the simple question posed by this book have profound political, economic, psychological, and even moral implications for all of us. *The Omnivore's Dilemma* promises to change the way we think about the politics and pleasure of eating. For anyone who reads it, dinner will never again look, or taste, quite the same.

Date: Sunday, March 18th, 12:30 - 1:30 PM

Facilitator: Kristine Blum

Hungry for Change - April 12-May 17, 2012

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

Don't Let These Adult Enrichments Pass You By!

Did you know that we have an entire rich line up of adult enrichments planned for our second semester at the UUCR?

Enrichments that are on the horizon include a viewing of the film "Food, Inc." on Sunday, February 12 at 12:30 PM in Loring. Also just around the corner is a 4-part workshop for couples in committed relationships entitled "Nurturing Our Relationships." This course starts on Wednesday evening, February 15th.

Enjoy a review of our entire Adult Enrichment offering for our second semester.

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

Chalice Circles

Chalice Circles - Open Chair

Our Chalice circles have begun, and there is always an Open Chair for someone new!

Chalice Circles are small (8-10 participants) groups, led by trained facilitators, that meet twice monthly for 1 ½ hours. The format of the group consists of a brief reading, a check in among the members, a longer reading, and a discussion of members' reactions/reflections/thoughts about the readings.

Topics over the years have ranged from world religions to more personal topics such as friendship, community, nature, etc. The Chalice Circle is a more intimate place to get to know one another at the same time as providing the opportunity to explore meaningful topics with other members of our community.

The Circles have started and will go to the end of the Church year in June.

There are lots of openings in the following Chalice Circles:

- Tuesday 4:30 – 6:00 PM
- Thursday 3:30 – 4:30 PM (phone Chalice Circle for those unable to attend a meeting)
- Saturday 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM

You can [register online](#) or by contacting [Jean Hanson](#).

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

Aoife Clancy and Robbie O'Connell Perform February 25, 2012

Brighten up your winter with Celtic singers Aoife Clancy & Robbie O'Connell, performing at our very own Ivy Chord Coffee House on Saturday, Feb. 25. Their music will warm your heart! Doors open at 7:15 pm. The concert starts at 8:00 pm. Tickets can be purchased at UUCR's website, or email [Beth](#) or call her at 781-229-9394.

Let Beth know if you are able to bake and/or if you can put up a flyer.

Last Tuesday of the Month Book Club

Book Club to Meet February 28

The Last Tuesday of the Month Book Club will meet at the home of Joyce Miles, 43 Hathaway Road, Wilmington, Ma. on February 28th at 1:30 PM. The book selected to be discussed is, *In the Garden of Beasts* by Erik Larson. Happy Reading!

Mom's Group

Please Join Us at Our Next Mom's Group Book Discussion on February 24

The UUCR Mom's Book Group will sponsor their next meeting on Friday, February 24, from 7:30 PM to 9:00 PM in Loring House. The book choice is "Little Bee" by Chris Cleave.

All women are welcome. Please join us for refreshments and a lively discussion! Many copies of the book from the library are available through Alison Friedmann.

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.

- 11/13: Book group, 101 Loring House, "The Sibling Effect"
- 11/20 Chalice Circle Mom's Group Meeting
- 12/2: Holiday party, home of Debbie Vince, Friday Evening
- 12/11 Chalice Circle Mom's Group Meeting
- 1/8 Chalice Circle Mom's Group Meeting
- 1/22 Chalice Circle Mom's Group Meeting
- 2/3: Book group, 101 Loring House, Friday Evening
- 2/12 Chalice Circle Mom's Group Meeting
- 3/4 Chalice Circle Mom's Group Meeting
- 3/18 Chalice Circle Mom's Group Meeting
- 4/1 Chalice Circle Mom's Group Meeting
- 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

[UUCR Hosting Immigrant Rights Workshop: Can You Help?](#)

On Saturday, March 3, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., our church will host a UU Mass Action - UUA Mass Bay District workshop called **Immigrant Rights: From Massachusetts to Arizona**. As hosts, we'll be providing beverages and light food for workshop attendees and helping them with any needs or questions that come up throughout the day.

If you can donate a food item (e.g., sandwich fixings, crackers, bagels, veggies, fruit), juice, or soda, or if you can act as a host/hostess for part or all of the event, please [contact Anne Mark](#).

Immigrant rights will be the focus of this year's UUA General Assembly in Phoenix, Arizona. To get ready for GA and to start a statewide immigrant rights campaign, UU Mass Action is holding workshops across the state (http://uumassaction.org/Immigrant_Right). For details, and to sign up to attend the workshop at our church, check upcoming newsletters.

Social Action

"Immigrant Rights: From Massachusetts to Arizona": at UUCR, Sat., Mar. 3, 10-1



Workshop "Immigration Rights: From MA to AZ" (UUCR, 3/3, 10-1)

In Fellowship Hall, UUCR, Sat., Mar. 3, 10-1: Join together as our church hosts area UUs to discuss taking action on immigrant rights.

The free workshop "Immigrant Rights: From Massachusetts to Arizona" will look at how immigrant rights is an important issue for Massachusetts UUs. At the start of his term, UUA President Peter Morales stated that immigrant rights is the civil rights issue of our time. Since then, the UUA and many UU activists have been working to help UUs stand on the side of love with immigrants. In fact, the whole focus of this year's UUA General Assembly in Arizona will be immigrant rights.

To get ready for GA and to start a statewide immigrant rights campaign, UU Mass Action (in partnership with the UUA's Mass Bay, Clara Barton, and Ballou Channing districts) will host a series of workshops across the state. At the UUCR workshop on March 3, we will

- preview the Frontline documentary "Lost in Detention," which paints a stark picture of what happens to individuals and families caught up in our country's immigration policies. (Maria Hinojosa, who produced "Lost in Detention," will give the Ware Lecture at GA this year.)
- get policy briefings by local immigrant rights organizations about the needs right here in Massachusetts
- learn more about what will be happening at this year's GA
- strategize about how we might be able to work together to stand on the side of love with immigrants in Massachusetts

To register for this free workshop, please visit http://uumassaction.org/Immigrant_Rights and click on "Click here to register" toward the bottom of the page, or contact Anne Mark. A light lunch will be



provided.

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 orsawyer_nursery_school@verizon.net.

Ivy Chord Concerts

Aoife Clancy & Robbie O'Connell on February 25, 2012 at 8:00 PM



Aoife Clancy & Robbie O'Connell

Luscious Celtic music & harmonies!

Saturday, February 25, 2012

8:00 pm

Tickets:

\$ 20 general admission

\$ 17 students/seniors

Buy tickets for this concert online.

Read what the press has to say about Aoife Clancy and Robbie O'Connell:

"Whether she's delivering an ancient Irish ballad, an American folk classic, or an urgent contemporary song, Aoife sings with the same gorgeous naturalism as if she were experiencing the emotions in the songs for the first time." —Scott Alarik, Boston Globe

"'There is Hope' by cousin Robbie O'Connell with soft violin guitar and flute are perfect for the gentleness of Aoife's clear delivery." —Sing Out!

The Boston Globe describes Robbie O'Connell as *"a writer of timeless-sounding, emotionally powerful and often hilarious songs"* and places him *"among the most respected guitarists, singer and songwriters in Celtic music."*

The Springfield Union-News declares *"...he made it quite clear...that there is more to being Irish than filing stereotypes. And through his music, he's bringing an inspired vision and a new voice of Ireland to American audiences."*

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



Ellis Paul

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

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