



NEWS OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF READING

February 27, 2012

Worship Services

Sunday, March 4, 2012

"Who Do We Think We Are, Anyway?"

Meg Soens, Acting Minister

9:15 AM and 11:00 AM

Particularly in Unitarian Universalism, different-sized churches often have different ways of relating to the world and to folks within the church. It's not just a question of size: what really matters to our church? Why do we exist? What do we want to do? How do we want to change? We'll explore some of these questions with poetry, story and sermon on March 4. Music: 9:15 AM Nathan Furst, viola and Wendy Wakeman, Handoshkin; 11:00 AM UUCR Choir.

Ushers:

9:15 AM Needed

11:00 AM Ann Mottl and Ellen Hill

Coffee Hour:

9:15 AM Needed

11:00 AM Needed

Altar Flowers:

Nancy Littlehale

Welcome Table:

9:15 AM Needed

11:00 AM Jack Goldberg

Sunday, March 11, 2012

"What Is Our Vision Of Youth Ministry?"

Anne Principe, Interim Director of Faith Development and UUCR Youth

9:15 AM and 11:00 AM

Join Anne Principe and UUCR Youth at either service this morning for an engaging worship centered around the vision of youth ministry. Music: 9:15 AM and 11:00 AM Barbara Bennett and Marcia Dresser, Vocalists with Alex Gordon, Piano.

Ushers:

9:15 AM Governing Board, Jay Schwartz, Christine Thomas

11:00 AM Governing Board, Jean Hanson, Jaime Maughan

Coffee Hour:

9:15 AM Needed

11:00 AM Needed

Altar Flowers:

Kitty Craig-Comin

Welcome Table:

9:15 AM Needed

11:00 AM Needed

Sunday, March 18, 2012

"Sermon on the Amount"

Rev. John Gibbons

9:15 AM and 11:00 AM

Today is Commitment Sunday, the culmination of our Annual Budget Drive, during which we all make a financial commitment to sustain our church for another year. Reflect on what sustains your fire of commitment to our church, and then make your pledge.

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

"Immigrant Rights: From Massachusetts to Arizona": at UUCR, Sat., Mar. 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.



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

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.



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!

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

Worship Notes

Traditional Passover Seder April 7, 2012

AN INVITATION TO A TRADITIONAL PASSOVER SEDER - ALL ARE WELCOME

Rabbi Bart Perlman will hold a traditional Passover Seder at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Reading Fellowship Hall on Saturday, April 7, 2012, from 6:30 PM to 9:30 PM. Doors will open at 6:00 PM. This event will include a full Passover meal. To RSVP and receive information on the cost of meal donation please contact Lou Damelin at loudamelin@rcn.com

Spring Plants For Our Easter Services Sunday, April 8, 2012 - Please Note: Greenhouse Order Deadline is Monday, March 26, 2012

We are asking UUCR members and friends to help beautify Our Sanctuary for the Easter Services on Sunday April 8. Order a Tulip or Daffodil or Azaleas Plant – you choose! The flowers will decorate the Sanctuary for both the 9:15 AM and the 11:00 AM Easter Services. Please take only the plant(s) type(s) that you ordered and prepaid home after the second service on Sunday April 8! Any plants remaining after the second service will be delivered to those who are homebound the next day. We are also asking for plant dedications, in memory of or in celebration of a loved one. Please send your written dedication and plant type desired with a check attached made payable to UUCR for \$ 14.00 per plant, to UUCR, 239 Woburn Street, Reading, MA 01867. You may also place a check in the collection plate with a line note "Easter Flowers" or use the safe in the mailroom. All orders must be called into the greenhouse on the morning of Monday March 26th. This gives the greenhouse adequate time to reserve our plants.

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.

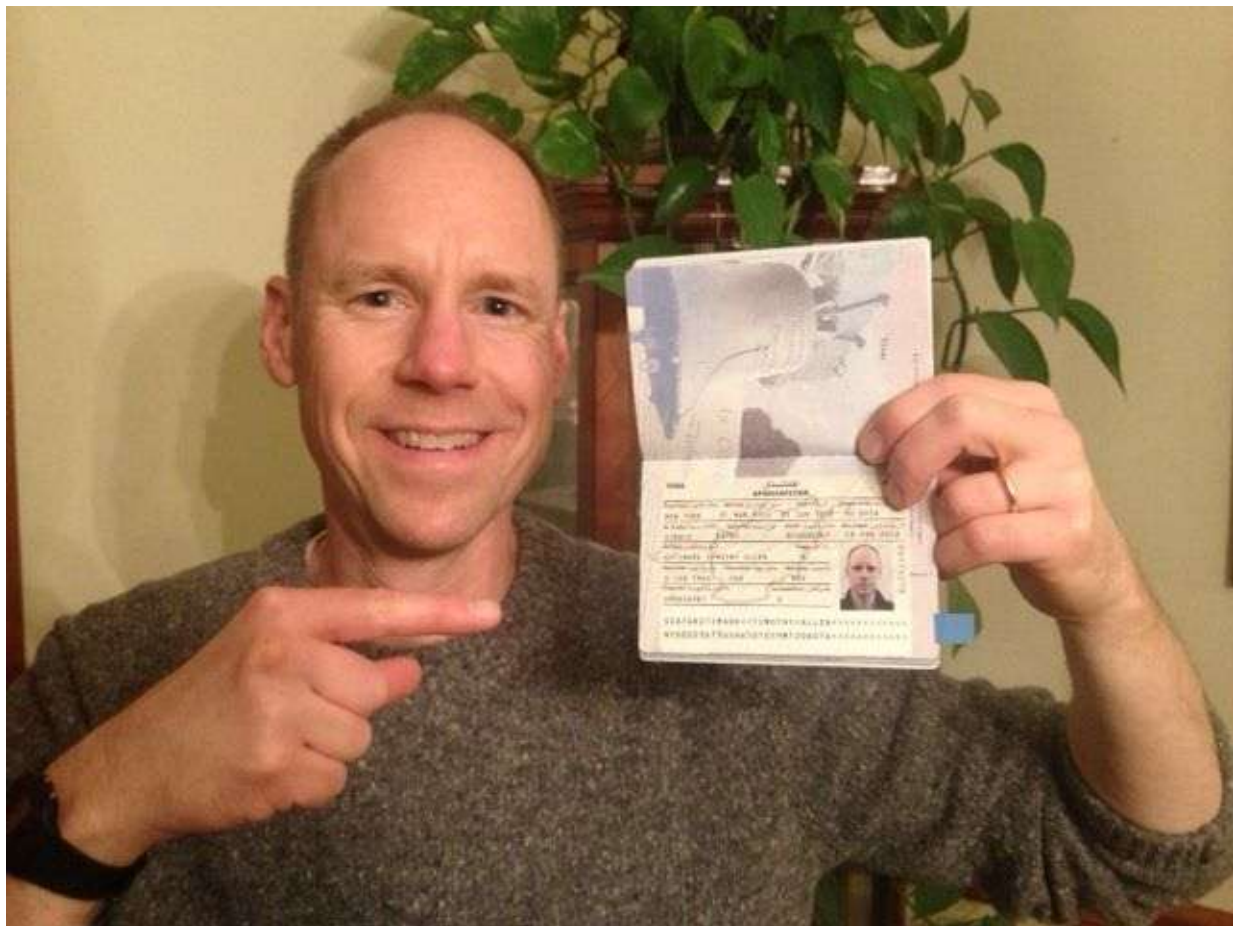
Caring and Sharing Coordinator
March 2012

Caring and Sharing Coordinator for Month



The Caring and Sharing coordinator for March is Nancy. You can reach Nancy by clicking this [LINK](#).

Minister's Messages - February 27, 2012



Rev. Tim with his Visa to Afghanistan!

Hi Everyone:

Greetings from Sabbatical-Land!

I've spent the last few weeks reading and studying the history and culture (and current events) of Afghanistan (and their impact on the larger region), in anticipation of my departure to Afghanistan this week. What a complicated and heartbreaking history and reality.

Of course, Afghanistan has again burst to the top of the headlines this past week with the unfortunate accidental burning of several copies of the Koran by US Military personnel. I wondered if our delegation to Afghanistan would still depart, given the fierce civil unrest and increased terrorist activity that resulted. I've just heard from our guide in Kabul with an email reading "The safety is fine in Kabul, it is calm and safe." The trip is on! Our plan is to move within safe sectors of the city, avoiding large street gatherings and military and government buildings. And so, on Tuesday afternoon, I'll be boarding a plane and flying first to Dubai, and then to Kabul. I will arrive early Thursday morning.

I am equally excited and scared to step into the country during this increasingly unsettled and violent time. But part of my desire in going to Afghanistan in the first place was to see and experience life in a war torn region. For the people of Afghanistan, that includes daily threat of terrorism from the Taliban and mob protests against foreign occupying troops. Death is very much a part of this country's struggle to bring about a new life for itself. I feel humbled and honored for the opportunity to witness this first-hand.

Since the primary focus of the three-person delegation I'm participating in is learning about women in Afghanistan who are working to make societal, education and economic change, my preparatory study has included a great deal of material on the cultural status of women and girls in the country. What I've already learned has broken my heart. Truly, I find it almost incomprehensible the manner in which women and girls are treated by a vast majority of the country. Two especially interesting and informative books were by Sally Armstrong. In "Veiled Threat: The Hidden Power of Women in Afghanistan," she writes of the traditional tribal culture and how devalued and mistreated most women and girls were (and are)—and how that was compounded by the draconian edicts of the Taliban once they violently took control of the country. Her follow-up book, "Bitter Roots, Tender Shoots: The Uncertain Fate of Afghanistan's Women" looks at the situation five years after the Taliban had been unseated and a new Government set up. The books give excellent (and distressing) history, but also focus on some truly extraordinary women who are working for civil rights and justice in a society that often responds to such work with violent disregard. These women are crusaders for a better way of life for women and girls in a culture and country that, for much of its history, has looked at females as mere property, often valued less than horses or donkeys. The books are disturbing, eye opening, and inspiring.

My time in Afghanistan will be quite full. We'll be visiting newly rebuilt schools for girls, and meeting students and teachers. We'll visit various Women's Rights Organizations, and meet with their courageous leaders. We'll visit the Red Cross Rehabilitation Clinic for Mine victims, learn about the lives of Afghan street children, meet with female judges, visit Kabul University, learn about micro-financing for small businesses being formed by women, and visit the Afghan Widow project. I hope to also visit a refugee camp, if it is safe to do so.

So, with my visa in hand I set off to see Afghanistan. I will carry you with me in my heart, and I send you my love. I'll write when I return.

Khoda Hafiz tan, (translated from Dari: Goodbye and be in the safety of God)

Tim



Director of Faith Development's Messages - 2/27/12 Anne is away

Anne Principe, the Interim Director of Faith Development, is away from UUCR this week. She and her partner, Mike, are traveling in the El Paso, Texas, border region. With financial support from UUA Office of Ministry and Faith Development, Anne will spending time talking with local leaders who accompany the migrant, homeless, and economically vulnerable peoples of the border region.

President's Messages - Website Tweaks



Are you feeling confused since the new website has come out because you're not sure where the newsletter, nuuws and amonguus have gone? Are you finding that you need to work a little harder to get the UUCR news you're looking for? If so, then read on.

Technology changes constantly and our recent website redesign and communication tool reconfiguration were an inevitable and important step to enable us to best reach new and prospective members. Overall, our new website is a tremendous hit. It's beautiful, informative, powerful and inviting. Many new visitors to our church have mentioned that our dynamic new website was the reason they decided to check us out. We have been fortunate to have in-house, two

exceptionally dedicated and talented webmasters in Brian and Robbie Kohn who have worked tirelessly to make this transition practically painless for us all.

The Website Task Force (consisting of myself, Brian and Robbie Kohn, Jamie Maughan, Lorraine Dennis, Roberto Olivardia and Meg Soens, our Acting Minister) met last Wednesday to share all the feedback about the website that you have been sending along to us. Based on your feedback, the Task Force has identified areas where tweaks are needed to best meet our communication needs, particularly with longtime members, and we identified where additional explanation and education are needed to help people understand what is being made available to them and the limits of what can be made available.

Our webmasters and the Task Force have spent a lot of time absorbing your feedback and determining an appropriate response. Now it's your turn. Please read this email and follow the instructions provided. If you're still feeling confused or stuck after reading this email, let me, or any other member of the Task Force know, and we'll work with you one-on-one to troubleshoot your particular situation. Introducing new communication tools takes a few iterations before they are just right. Let's work with these adjustments for a while and then check back in together to see if any additional changes are needed.

Described below are changes we plan to make with regards to the two items that have historically been most important to members and friends: The Newsletter and "amonguus" which is now called "Member to Member".

Newsletter: The Week Ahead

Each week, an email will be sent to all members and friends entitled "The Week Ahead: UUCR Newsletter". There will be three links in this email:

- The first link is to this week's edition of "The Week Ahead" PDF file, which contains the upcoming week's worship schedule and highlights of news recently added to the newsletter. (This PDF file will also be attached to the email.)
- The second link is to the up-to-date HTML version of the newsletter.
- The third link is the most recent edition of the newsletter with full text of all the current news in a PDF file. You can read it immediately, save it to read later, save it for prosperity, or print it. In addition to the weekly newsletter, an email entitled "Weekend Update" will be sent towards the end of the week, containing the weekend's worship schedule and headlines of any weekend events or activities.

Amonguus: Member to Member

Due to feedback received from members and friends regarding the Member to Member bulletin board, we will be switching back to an email mailing list for Member to Member messages. Members and friends can now email their messages to membertomember@uureading.org or toamonguus@uureading.org and those messages will be distributed by email to subscribers of this new mailing list. These messages will be processed at least 3 times per week during off-hours to ensure that they don't interfere with other regularly scheduled bulk email distributions. If you would like to receive Member to Member email, go to the online newsletter, find the box on the right labeled Mailing List Subscription, be sure that Member to Member is checked, enter your Name and E-mail address, and then click Subscribe.

If you are interested in the technical background information regarding the capabilities, features and limitations related to the development of the new website and the changes made to the communication tools, look for upcoming articles that the webmasters will be posting in the newsletter.

Like Sunday morning worship services, our newsletter is the heartbeat of our congregation. It is the central means by which we can communicate to one another about the important work being done here in support of our mission and it's only a click away! To reach the online newsletter, use this link: <http://uureading.org/newsletter>.

Best Regards,

Tracy

[Website News - Church Website](#)

This is the first in a series of news articles providing insight in the the technical aspects of our church's new website and associated services.

The church website, introduced in Autumn 2011, is built on Joomla 1.7, one of the most popular and most powerful free, open-source content management systems available, capitalizing on over 200,000 community users and contributors to the development and maintenance of the software.

Joomla allows UUCR to efficiently manage the creation, publishing, and presentation of content on its website and online newsletter. Most adding and editing of content of the website can be accomplished by end-users, with little or no training, rather than requiring a web developer be involved in every update. And all of this is accomplished ensuring that only authorized personnel can make changes.

The church website was designed to be dynamic, clean, attractive, superlatively-readable, modern, accessible, and oriented toward fostering community. The design was based on a low-cost purchased template that provided fantastic navigation and page compositing. A number of free extensions have been added to support mailing lists, interest forms and surveys, and an eye-catching slide show showcasing our church's mission, people, and activities. Choosing Joomla significantly reduced the cost of maintaining a web presence for the church.

The website software offers RSS syndication for news from each church group, as well as for the newsletter itself, allowing users to access the information they desire as they prefer to via their web browser or directly to their email inbox. It also offers integration with Facebook, Twitter and Google Plus, so users can share what they find on the website with their friends and acquaintances, which hopefully results in attracting new members to the church.

A registered user experience allows for substantial growth in the months and years to come, as we take advantage of what the latest web technologies have to offer, both within and among the members and friends of the church, and between the church and the larger community. Commenting capability and bulletin boards are among the many features of the website that are currently disabled but may be enabled soon.

Adult Enrichment

Unitarian Universalist Basics: An Introduction to Our Faith - March 17, 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 17 – 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?

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

[Get Involved News](#)

Chalice Circles

[Chalice Circles - Open Chair](#)

Are you interested in joining a Chalice Circle now? The Wednesday Circle is just starting up for this year and we hope you will join us! We meet from 11:00 am - 12:30 pm at the home of Jean Hanson. If you are interested in starting with us on March 7th, or would like further information, please contact Jean at 781-779-1382 or email her using this form:

[Contact Form](#)

There are also "empty chairs" available in the other Chalice Circles currently running, including Sunday evening, Tuesday afternoon, and Saturday morning. Please contact Jean if you are interested in joining any of those Chalice Circles, instead.

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](#)

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.

- 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

More News

[Save The Date! Commitment Sunday is March 18, 2012](#)

Sunday, March 18, 2012 is Commitment Sunday. With your generous financial support, we can continue to keep our spiritual mission alive. Let's grow the "Fire of Commitment" together as we prepare for our Annual Budget Drive.

Our Larger Community

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



Spring is the time of year when families of preschoolers begin making plans for nursery school in the fall. If you or someone you know (friend, neighbor, relative, acquaintance) has a child who will be at least 2.9 years old by August 31, 2012, do urge them to consider UUCR's own Sawyer Nursery School. Sawyer is a flourishing little operation that celebrated its 50th anniversary last March. It offers a Tuesday/Thursday morning program for 3 year olds, a Monday/Wednesday/Friday morning program for 4 and 5 year olds, and the option of a weekly 'Lunch Bunch' extended day for all. It is a happy place for children, led by experienced, well-trained and loving staff members. To

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

Ivy Chord Concerts

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



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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