

U-FIRST

The Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Society of Gardner

66 Elm St. — P.O. Box 637, Gardner, Massachusetts 01440
(978) 632-0222 — www.uusg.net

April 2009

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Upcoming Worship Services

Sunday Services at 10:00 a.m.

April 5—Universalist Spirituality—Rev. Richard Trudeau

Rev. Trudeau is the minister of the UU Church of Weymouth, MA. He is actively involved in the New Massachusetts Universalist Convention and with the Universalist Heritage Center in Winchester, N.H., home to the "Winchester Profession of Faith." He writes, "While we UUs scour the world's religions for a satisfying spirituality, we often overlook a genuine UU spirituality, deriving mostly from the Universalist side of our movement, that is relevant today."

April 12—Raising Jesus—Rev. John Pastor

This Easter Sunday service will offer a new way of looking at Jesus as a messenger of wisdom and hope. Come learn to rise with Jesus and see a "resurrection" that is available and meaningful for us in our time.

April 19—Dances of Universal Peace—Amina Silk & Arif Leininger

Amina and Arif will speak about their passionate involvement with the Dances of Universal Peace followed by an opportunity for the congregation to participate in the dances. **Note: Service will take place in the fellowship hall. Children are welcome to join in the dances.

April 26—Children's Sunday—Vicki Heidorn

Worship with our children as we share our seventh principle, "Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part."

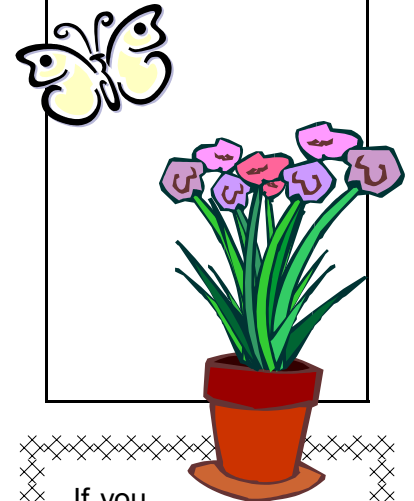
May 3—I Think I Can—Chris Pera

Chris will share some reflections on how attitude and intention can make a difference in big and small situations.

Everyone is invited to join us for coffee and conversation in the fellowship hall downstairs following worship.

Shoes, Paper & Pencils

Chip Stewart is collecting donations of used children's shoes, writing tablets and pencils. These items will be sent to his friend Shannon, stationed in Iraq, who will distribute the items to children there.



If you would like to donate potted spring flowers for our Easter Service in memory of a loved one, please let Catherine know their name.

You may either bring the plant to the church between 9:00 and 11:00 in the morning on Saturday, April 11, or give money to Catherine and a plant will be purchased for you.



Minister: Rev. John Pastor — Office Hours: Thurs. 1-6pm,
Call for an appointment or to arrange another day or time.
For pastoral emergencies — 508-277-6113

Emeritus Minister: Rev. Neil Bakker

U-First Editor: Julie Pera — uusg.newsletter@gmail.com

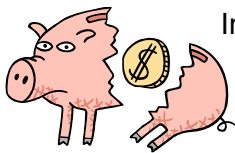
Church Office: Catherine Azora-Minda, Secretary — 978-632-0222

Pastoring.....

Over the past few weeks many of you have asked about my spouse. Where's Bob?

As many of you know, Bob graduated from the police academy last year and was hired to work part-time by the Petersham Police Department. Unfortunately, one of his shift times is Sunday mornings. I've been bringing him your good wishes and he certainly sends them back to you; he misses being at church.

Bob and I have a combination of five jobs between us. I have two part-time ministries. Bob has one full-time job and two part-time jobs. Over the past few months there have been announced lay-offs at two of the places that we do our work. So far, we haven't been given notice. We have had a few "just missed me" moments.



In this current economy, we often speak of how grateful we are to have jobs, but it doesn't seem to ease the apprehension. I realize that you may share similar feelings during this recession time. Many of you are worried about your financial security. Many of you are wondering what the future will hold: how to continue to make mortgage or rent payments, afford tuitions, pay for healthcare, or save for retirement. These fears and concerns are up-close and personal. We should lift them up and share feelings in this community of care: our church family.

During these times, please remember that our church "family" is a place for sharing and caring. You are not alone.

With love,



Soy Candles & Cutlery Fundraiser

Soy candles and cutlery, as well as other items, are available for sale through the catalogue on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall. This is a fundraiser which benefits the church. If you would like to place an order or have any questions, please contact Dorcas Hurd at 978-874-2350 or dorcashurd@comcast.net.

The Lord's Prayer in Aramaic

Amina and Arif will teach the words and then share some possible translations. Participants will then learn to chant the words and do accompanying body prayers and dances.



The group will meet Thursdays, April 23, April 30, May 7 and May 14. The first three sessions will be devoted to learning the prayer in parts and the fourth session will be a celebration including the entire prayer.

Rowe Camp Spring & Summer Schedule

UU Rowe Camp and Conference Center in the Berkshires of Western Massachusetts has released their Spring & Summer Schedule for 2009 and we have copies available in the Fellowship Hall. Since 1924 Rowe Camp has offered Unitarian and later Universalist youth a chance to experience UU values and get to know other UU young people from all over the Northeast. Since 1974, Rowe Conference Center has provided a place for adults and families to come for relaxation, education, community and spiritual nurturance.

This season's conference schedule includes programs on a wide variety of topics including writing, storytelling, singing, couples, money, communicating with horses and dogs, shamanism, art, poetry, quilting, gardening, gay men, songwriting, and the future of North America. The programs will be led by Robert Bly, James Hillman, Cris Williamson, David Korten, Marge Piercy, Matthew Fox, Gordon Bok, James Howard Kunstler, and Ysaye Barnwell.



If you'd like to receive the beautiful Rowe catalogue, please write UU Rowe Camp & Conference Center, Kings Highway Road, Rowe, MA 01367; call (413) 339-4954; e-mail retreat@rowecenter.org; or check the web at www.rowecenter.org.

Thank UU!

To Chris Pera for organizing our 125th celebrations!

In Our Thoughts...

Sue Blain's brother, Dick, who has a terminal diagnosis.

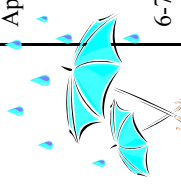




Tom Brady, who is recovering at home after triple bypass surgery on March 10th.

Connie Thompson, who is on the mend at home after brief hospital stays.

Thank UU, CongratUUlations, In Our Thoughts & Welcome

If you know of a contribution, concern, or accomplishment that deserves mention in this column, please be sure to send a note to one of the newsletter editors via e-mail or "in-box".

UUSG April 2009

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
29 10am Worship Service 11:30am, Spirit of Life, Adult RE	30	31 9am TOPS 	April 1 6-7:30pm Meditation	2 1-6pm Minister's Office Hours	3 10:30am Al-Anon 5-8pm AA	4 10am Peace Sanctuary 12-1pm AA
5 10am Worship Service	6 6:30-8:30pm Yoga	7 9am TOPS 	8 6-7:30pm Meditation	9 1-6pm Minister's Office 7-9pm Dances of Universal Peace	10 10:30am Al-Anon 5-8pm AA 	11 9am Publicity Comm. 10am Peace Sanctuary 12-1pm AA
12 10am Worship Service <u>Newsletter Deadline</u> 	13 Exec. Committee, 7pm	14 9am TOPS	15 6-7:30pm Meditation	16 1-6pm Minister's Office Hours	17 10:30am Al-Anon 5-8pm AA	18 10am Peace Sanctuary 12-1pm AA
19 10am Worship Service 11:30am, Spirit of Life, Adult RE	20	21 9am TOPS	22 6-7:30pm Meditation	23 1-6pm Minister's Office Hours	24 10:30am Al-Anon 5-8pm AA	25 10am Peace Sanctuary 12-1pm AA
26 10am Worship Service	27	28 9am TOPS	29 6-7:30pm Meditation	30 1-6pm Minister's Office Hours Music & Worship Comm, 7:30pm 	May 1 10:30am Al-Anon 5-8pm AA	2 10am Peace Sanctuary 12-1pm AA 3pm Visioning Pot Luck

Bold: UUSG events at UUSG

Plain Text: Rental Groups at UUSG

Italics: Community Events

Boldface Italics: District & UUA events

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TO:

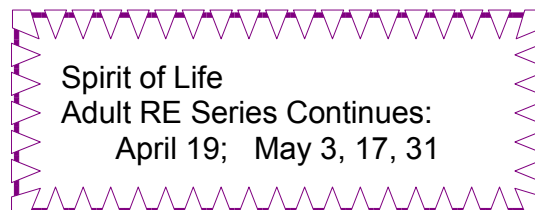
April 09

Your Executive Committee

If you have any questions or suggestions regarding church policies or programs, please feel free to speak with any of the church trustees.

Trustees for Church Year 2008-09

David Fabian
Rodney Fagan
Melody Fortier
Bob Gifford (Chair)
Vicki Heidorn (Clerk)
Shauna Pratt
Lorna Ulmer



Save the Date!

Saturday, May 2, 3pm – As we continue to celebrate our 125 years in the community, we will have a church wide visioning session & potluck to talk about where we see the church in near future and the next 125 years.



Newsletter Contributions

The deadline for newsletter contributions is usually the second Sunday of the month. Send your contribution via e-mail to uusg.newsletter@gmail.com; or on diskette, typed or *neatly* handwritten in the newsletter “inbox” located on the bulletin board downstairs. No phone submissions, please. Contributions may be edited for length or content at the discretion of the editors.

The deadline for the May newsletter is April 12.