

# U-FIRST

July/August 2008

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

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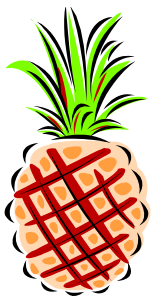
## Upcoming Worship Services

**Sunday Services at 10:00 a.m.**

### July 20—On Waking Up—Catherine Azora-Minda

Each day is a new day, a fresh beginning, another chance. How we greet each day is a corollary to how we move through our lives. Summertime musings on waking and awakening.

### August 17—Cultivating Truthfulness—Bo Azora-Minda



Buddha is said to have taught five precepts that are to be undertaken voluntarily. One of them is truthfulness. Undertaking these precepts is said to help you on your path to enlightenment.

A Potluck Brunch will follow each of the summer worship services! Please bring a favorite dish to share.

### September 7—Water Communion

Our church year will begin with a Water Communion Ingathering Service on September 7th. Remember to bring some water to share from your summer experience.

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



## Family Fun Time

UUSG RE committee is sponsoring a family fun time at

**3pm on Saturday, July 26.**

Activities for children and families to deepen our relationships and learn a little about UU. Previously scheduled potluck and movie night to follow. Stay as long as you like!. No charge, donations accepted.

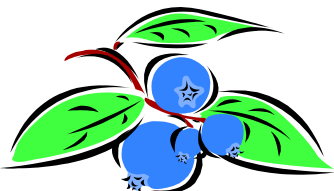
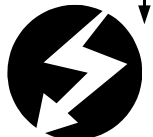
Contact Vicki Heidorn

978-632-7623 or surroundingsgallery@gmail.com

**\*Rev. John will be on vacation July 1st through 20th.**

**Rev. Jennie Barrington has graciously agreed to cover for any pastoral emergencies during his time away.**

**She can be reached by her cell phone, 978-353-9412.**



Minister: Rev. John Pastor — Office Hours\*: Thurs. 1-5pm, Sat. 10-11am  
For pastoral emergencies — 508-277-6113

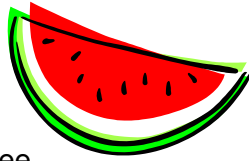
Emeritus Minister: Rev. Neil Bakker

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

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

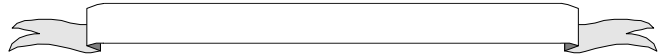
## Experience Gardner

For the second year, we are participating in the Experience Gardner Summer Festival. For two days, the streets of downtown Gardner are closed off to traffic. It's an opportunity for people to walk around and sample some of the best that Gardner has to offer. There are live performances, lots of good food and informational booths for many agencies and organizations here in Gardner.



At the next meeting of the Publicity Committee we will discuss our participation in this year's Gardner Days. If you would like to be a part of the planning, please attend the meeting on Saturday, July 12, at 9:00am at the church. If you can't attend the meeting but can help during the event, please contact Catherine at 978-632-3299 or leave a message on the church voice mail. We need people to staff the booth in shifts from 9am to 7pm on August 1, and 9am to 4pm on August 2. We also need some help with setting up and taking down the booth at the beginning and end of each day.

This is not just a good opportunity to talk with others about UUSG and Unitarian Universalism. It's a wonderful chance to spend time with other members of the church and get to know one another a little better.



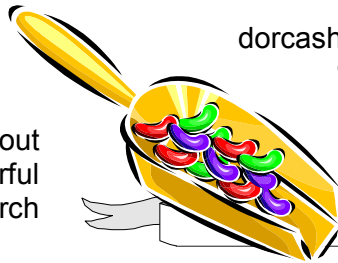
## FALL FAIR

It may seem early but plans are proceeding for the Fall Fair. Leslie Fabian and Dorcas Hurd are going to co-chair the fair in November. The exact date has not been set.

Leslie and Dorcas would love to have ideas from anyone in the congregation. Please call or e-mail either of them with any input that you may have.

leslifab@aol.com  
978-827-4666

dorcashurd@comcast.net  
978-874-2350



*Thank you!*



Greetings, fellow UUs!

Next year at General Assembly we Unitarian Universalists will elect a new president for our association.

Given that we have two excellent candidates, the reverends Dr. Laurel Hallman and Peter Morales, who bring different conceptions for the future of our religious movement, I decided to create a neutral online forum where their platforms can be discussed publicly in a civil manner.

To that end I created an open blog which uses the transcript of the first official candidate forum at GA 2008 with its mix of scripted remarks and unscripted answers to specific questions as a starting point. Other campaign documents will follow as they become available.

Since this will be neutral territory perhaps even the candidates themselves will chime in with clarifications or commentary. But most importantly, we hope for input from members of your congregation or fellowship!

Please visit this new moderated forum, and then post your opinions, or submit materials worth discussing. The forum came online today, July 8, with an introduction and the opening speeches of the candidates (scroll down for the first post). The complete transcript and links to video are also available on the site:



<http://uuapresidentialdebate2009.wordpress.com>

Peace!

Martin Voelker



# UUSG July/August 2008

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
July 6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	Yoga, 6:30-8:30pm	TOPS, 9am	Meditation Group, 6-7:15pm	Dances of Universal Peace, 7pm	Al-Anon, 10:30am AA, 5-8pm	<b>Peace Sanctuary 10-11am</b> AA, 12-1pm
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	Yoga, 6:30-8:30pm	TOPS, 9am	Meditation Group, 6-7:15pm		Al-Anon, 10:30am AA, 5-8pm	<b>Peace Sanctuary 10-11am</b> AA, 12-1pm
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
<b>Worship Service &amp; Potluck Brunch, 10am</b> 	Yoga, 6:30-8:30pm	TOPS, 9am	Meditation Group, 6-7:15pm	Minister's Office Hours, 1-5pm	Al-Anon, 10:30am AA, 5-8pm	<b>Peace Sanctuary &amp; Minister's Hr, 10-11am</b> AA, 12-1pm <b>RE Family Time, 3pm Potluck, 6:30pm &amp; Movie Night, 8pm</b>
27	28	29	30	31	Aug 1	2
	Yoga, 6:30-8:30pm	TOPS, 9am	Meditation Group, 6-7:15pm	Minister's Office Hours, 1-5pm	Al-Anon, 10:30am AA, 5-8pm	<b>Peace Sanctuary &amp; Minister's Office Hours, 10-11am</b> AA, 12-1pm
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	Yoga, 6:30-8:30pm	TOPS, 9am	Meditation Group, 6-7:15pm	Minister's Office Hours, 1-5pm	Al-Anon, 10:30am AA, 5-8pm	<b>Peace Sanctuary &amp; Minister's Hr, 10-11am</b> AA, 12-1pm <b>Dancing for Hymnals, 8-11pm</b>




**Bold:** UUSG events at UUSG

*Plain Text:* Rental Groups at UUSG

*Italics:* Community Events

**Boldface Italics:** District & UUA events

# UUSG August/September 2008

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
Aug 10 MOMS Club Yard Sale, 9am-12n 	11 Yoga, 6:30-8:30pm	12 TOPS, 9am	13 Meditation Group, 6-7:15pm	14 <b>Minister's Office Hours, 1-5pm</b> Dances of Universal Peace, 7pm	15 Al-Anon, 10:30am AA, 5-8pm	16 <b>Peace Sanctuary &amp; Minister's Office Hours, 10-11am</b> AA, 12-1pm
17 <b>Worship Service &amp; Potluck Brunch, 10am</b> Newsletter Deadline for <u>SEPTEMBER</u> edition	18 Yoga, 6:30-8:30pm	19 TOPS, 9am	20 Meditation Group, 6-7:15pm	21 <b>Minister's Office Hours, 1-5pm</b>	22 Al-Anon, 10:30am AA, 5-8pm	23 <b>Peace Sanctuary &amp; Minister's Office Hours, 10-11am</b> AA, 12-1pm <b>Potluck &amp; Movie Night, 6:30pm &amp; 8pm</b>
24	25 Yoga, 6:30-8:30pm	26 TOPS, 9am	27 Meditation Group, 6-7:15pm	28 <b>Minister's Office Hours, 1-5pm</b> 	29 Al-Anon, 10:30am AA, 5-8pm	30 <b>Peace Sanctuary &amp; Minister's Office Hours, 10-11am</b> AA, 12-1pm
31	Sept 1 <b>LABOR DAY</b> 	2 TOPS, 9am	3 Meditation Group, 6-7:15pm	4 <b>Minister's Office Hours, 1-5pm</b>	5 Al-Anon, 10:30am AA, 5-8pm	6 <b>Peace Sanctuary &amp; Minister's Office Hours, 10-11am</b> AA, 12-1pm
7 <b>Water Communion Worship Service, 10am</b>	8 Yoga, 6:30-8:30pm	9 TOPS, 9am	10 Meditation Group, 6-7:15pm	11 <b>Minister's Office Hours, 1-5pm</b>	12 Al-Anon, 10:30am AA, 5-8pm	13 <b>Peace Sanctuary &amp; Minister's Office Hours, 10-11am</b> AA, 12-1pm

**Bold:** UUSG events at UUSG

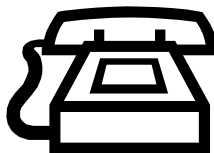
*Plain Text:* Rental Groups at UUSG

*Italics:* Community Events

**Boldface Italics:** District & UUA events

## Did You Know...

...that most services have been tape-recorded and are available on loan? If you missed a service, or would like to listen again to one that was especially helpful or interesting, just leave a message on the church voice mail and the tape will be sent to you.



...that excerpted versions of services from the beginning of May to the end of the church year are available for listening on the website?

...that there is a church directory of family and friends of UUSG? If you don't have a copy, one can be sent to you in the mail or via e-mail. Again, all it takes is a message on the church voice mail.

## Volunteers Needed

Religious Education needs you to help out with our programs for the next church year.

- ◆ No experience necessary.
- ◆ Limited commitment.
- ◆ Guaranteed fun.

Contact:

Nancy Fiske, Vicki Heidorn,  
Shauna Pratt or Rev. John.



If you are interested in attending any of these conferences, please contact Vicki Heidorn at 978-632-7623 or [surroundingsgallery@gmail.com](mailto:surroundingsgallery@gmail.com)

UUSG is looking for 4 people to attend this event. \$45 per person, financial assistance available.

### **Leading in Congregations**

September 20, 2008

See June edition of U-First for details.

### **New England Fall Conferece**

October 17-18, 2008

See June edition of U-First for details.

more information about all of these conferences is available at [www.cbd.uua.org](http://www.cbd.uua.org)

## **RE Committees & Religious Educators**

SATURDAY, AUGUST 23RD

9:00 A.M. TO 5:00 P.M.

at Genesis Spiritual Life Center, 53 Mill Street,  
Westfield, MA 01085 (413) 562-3627

[genesis@genesiscenter.us](mailto:genesis@genesiscenter.us)

**Get off to a great start in  
Religious Education this fall!**

Join us RE Committees, along with their Religious Education Staff, explore the why and how of transformative Religious Education ministry. We will look at:

- ◆ Aligning your RE program(s) with the Mission and Vision of your congregation and Unitarian Universalist Religious Education Ministry
- ◆ Roles, Responsibilities, and Relationships essential in doing this vital work
- ◆ Communication and Expectations to help us all
- ◆ Building Community
- ◆ Effective Leadership

You will have a designated time to work on your own congregation's RE plans for 2009! There will be opportunities to meet other UU RE Committees from around the District to share resources and best practices.

# Unitarian Universalist Society of Gardner

P.O. Box 637  
Gardner, MA 01440

TO:

If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter or be on our mailing list, or if your address has changed, please send a note to the church, "Attention: U-First Editor."

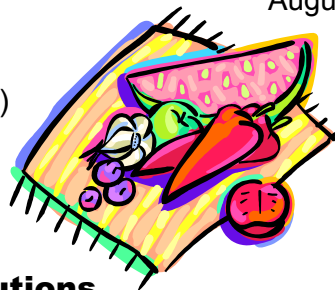
July/Aug 08

## 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)  
Marion Lyon  
Shauna Pratt



## Save the Date!

July 20—Summer Worship Service & Potluck Brunch

July 26—RE Family Fun Time, 3pm; Potluck, 6:30pm; Movie, 8pm:  
*The Russians Are Coming. The Russians Are Coming.*  
<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0060921/>

August 9—Dancing for Hymnals with DJs John Zylinski & Catherine Azora-Minda, 8-11pm (details to follow)

August 17—Summer Worship Service & Potluck Brunch

August 23—Potluck, 6:30pm; Movie, 8pm:  
*Guess Who's Coming for Dinner* (Tracy, Poitier, Hepburn)  
<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0061735/>

September 7—Water Communion  
Worship Service



## 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](mailto: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 September newsletter is August 17.**