

# 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

July/August 2010

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## Upcoming Worship Services

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

### July 18—Lessons from the Middle Kingdom—Michael Rice

Despite the everyday headlines, there is nothing to fear about the role that China plays in our modern world. Mike will share with us some of his uplifting experiences while living in China with his wife, Mia, during the past year.



### August 15—The Metta-Physical—Rev. John Pastor

We may sometimes find it difficult to quiet our minds and bodies in order to transcend physical reality and bring us into what is known as a “sublime state.” Ancient and modern mystics offer us their helpful wisdom. Come and hear about this wisdom.

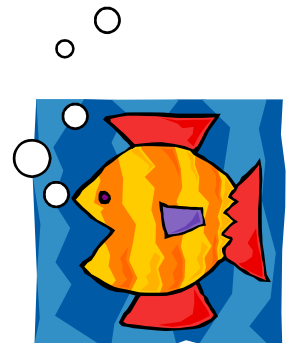
*Both summer services will be held at 10:00am and will be followed by a potluck brunch in the fellowship hall.*



**Please see page 3 for a list of summer worship services scheduled to be held in other area UU churches.**

### September 12—Water Communion & Ingathering

Reconnect with others in the congregation as we begin our new church year. Please remember to collect water during your summer activities and travels for our annual tradition of gathering and blessing the water.



## Potluck and Movie Night: FINDING NEMO, Saturday, July 24th at 6pm

This 2003 computer-animated film tells the story of the overly protective clownfish named Marlin who searches for his lost son Nemo. Along the way he learns to take risks and that his son is capable of taking care of himself. The American Film Institute named "Finding Nemo" the tenth greatest animated film ever made.

Bring your favorite dish to share. Popcorn and soft drinks will be provided.

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...

Summer is a time for rest, reflection, and renewal. For me, this means early morning swims, long walks with the dogs, and sitting quietly in the sun or the shade. It's also a time for reconnecting with family and friends. Bob and I are planning to travel together to visit family during the first three weeks of July, when I am officially on vacation. We hope to bring Charlie and Susie with us this year. The whole family on the road!

Traditionally, summer is also a time for my lists. I have my summer reading list all set (Do I really need to read Carl Jung?). There is also a "To Do" list of chores for the house and garden; chores that are selected on a weather-dependent daily basis. Am I painting the living room or weeding in the garden today?

During the summer our church isn't completely closed. We have scheduled two Sunday worship dates: July 18th and August 15th. Mike Rice will be returning to lead worship on the July date. Welcome back Mike! I will lead the August worship. Our weekly and monthly events will be continuing through the summer. See the calendar for more details.

I hope that you find enjoyment in whatever you have planned for your summer. I look forward to shared stories when we gather again in September for the start of another church year.

May you be well and happy this summer.

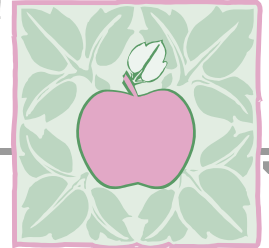
With love,



## 126<sup>th</sup> Annual Fall Fair

Leslie Fabian is willing to co-chair the 2010 UUSG Fall Fair and is seeking her "other half!" This is the time of year to choose a date and run it by the board for approval. Then we'll get an announcement out about that, so people can put it on their calendars and begin whatever preparations might be called for. Come...play with me! We'll have a blast!

Contact Leslie at 978-827-4666



## Thank UU!

Dear Friends,

I can not possibly express my thanks to all of you for the care, concern, generosity, and love that I have received during the past few weeks. People certainly do step up when someone is in need. Ron's illness had progressed during the last few months, but we had hoped that a new directly administered medication would help to turn things around. I think that the procedure itself was too much for his oxygen-deprived body. The basket of flowers at the memorial service was beautiful, and some of the blooms lasted for well over a week. John's visit and service were a great comfort to all of my family. Jay's piano added to a wonderful celebration of Ron's life. We wouldn't change a word or a note!

Peace and Love, Dorcas

## In Our Thoughts...

All the family and friends of Ron Hurd, who passed away on May 20, especially his wife, Dorcas.

*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".*

## Jane Coleman Watercolor Exhibit



The family of Jane Heywood Coleman is pleased to announce that an exhibit of selected watercolors by Jane will be held at the Levi Heywood Memorial Library on 55 Lynde Street in Gardner. The exhibit will be shown from August 4 through August 27, 2010. Jane has been painting for more than 70 years and, although she has had some training at both the Vesper George School of Art in Boston and the Fitchburg Art Museum, she is mostly self-taught. Family and friends have enjoyed her many landscape paintings for years and are pleased to finally be able to bring so many together in one place. Visit the Heywood Library in August and take a peek for yourself!

# Summer Happenings at UUSG

## Gardner Days

There is a sign-up sheet circulating on which you can indicate how you will help with our booth at Gardner Days on August 6-7. We especially need someone who is willing to figure out the booth display and help with set-up both days of the event.. For more information, please talk to Catherine Azora-Minda.



## Open Mic Kirtan & Vegetarian Picnic

Sunday, July 18th & Sunday, August 15th

Kirtan 3-5pm

Picnic 5-7pm

Come to the kirtan and share your favorite chant, song, poem or piece of scripture. Bring a blanket to sit on. If it rains, we'll be inside. Reusable plastic plates and utensils will be available for picnic. Please list the ingredients for your dish.

## Meditation Group

Wednesdays at 6pm

The meditation group meets in the fellowship hall and a teacher from the Insight Meditation Society in Barre often leads the group. New members are always welcome and donations are accepted.



## The Healing Breath

Thursdays at 5pm

Arif is listening to Saadi Neil Douglas-Klotz's "The Healing Breath," a beautiful study/ translation/ meditation of the beatitudes from the original Aramaic. He invites anyone who wants to come and listen to join him. It is a 6 CD set and he will be listening every Thursday from 5-6 until it is done.

## Peace Sanctuary

Saturdays at 9am

This is a time to spend in silent prayer or meditation with others.



## Local Summer Worship Services

In addition to our services on July 18 and August 15, these other area UU churches will be offering summer Sunday worship.

### Fitchburg UU Church

is offering three summer vespers services at 6:00pm, July 11, August 1, and Aug. 22. Please check their website [www.fitchburguu.org](http://www.fitchburguu.org) for location as one may be held in Cogshall Park.

### Universalist Memorial Church in Winchester, New Hampshire

Summer Services 2010 at the historic church are at 11:00 a.m., followed by a social hour. For directions to the Universalist Memorial Church, please check their website, [www.universalistheritage.org](http://www.universalistheritage.org)

- **July 25 "The Heart of Universalism"**  
*Rev. Barbara ten Hove, Co-Minister, Cedars Unitarian Universalist Church, Bainbridge Island, WA* and recipient of the 2010 Universalist Heritage Sermon Award contest. Ms. ten Hove will not be present. The sermon will be delivered by the Rev. Dr. Elizabeth M. Strong, member of the board of the Universalist Heritage Foundation.
- **August 8 "God is Love? What?"**  
*Rev. Bill Baughan of Pittsfield, MA* is a semi-retired Unitarian Universalist minister, who preaches occasionally in Palmer, MA, and in Bennington, VT
- **August 22**  
*Rev. Hope Johnson Minister, Unitarian Universalist Church of Central Nassau, Garden City, Long Island, and Janice Johnson, Director of the Office of Racial and Ethnic Concerns, Identity-Based Ministries, Unitarian Universalist Association.*

(Note: There will be no summer services in Ashby, Athol, Leominster, Petersham or Winchendon.)

## Gardner CAC Food Pantry

The Gardner CAC is in need of non-perishable food items. If you prefer to make a monetary contribution, make a check payable to the Gardner CAC and place it in the offering plate. Cash donations can be put in a pew envelope marked "Gardner CAC" and placed in the offering plate.



# Unitarian Universalist Society of Gardner

P.O. Box 637  
Gardner, MA 01440

TO:

## 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 2010-11

Bo Azora-Minda  
Rodney Fagan  
Melody Fortier  
Bob Gifford (Chair)  
Cheryl Menard  
Christopher Pera (Clerk)  
Mike Vecchi



## Save the Date!

July 18—Summer Worship Service & Potluck Brunch  
July 24—Movie Night & Potluck, 6pm  
August 15—Summer Worship Service & Potluck Brunch  
September 12—Water Communion Worship Service

## Newsletter Contributions

The deadline for newsletter contributions is usually the 15th of the month. Please send your contribution via e-mail to [uusg.newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:uusg.newsletter@gmail.com), or provide a typed or *neatly* handwritten copy to Julie Pera. Contributions may be edited for length or content at the discretion of the editors.

**Publication date for the September Newsletter is August 15.**