

U-FIRST

October 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.

October 5—Yom Kippur—Rev. John Pastor

This day we will honor the Jewish Day of Atonement which officially begins at sundown on Wednesday, October 8 and ends at nightfall on Thursday, October 9.

October 12—Association Sunday—Rev. Darrick Jackson

This year's theme is "Grow our Spirit." How exactly do we do that?

October 19—God of the Kabbalah—Rev. John Pastor

The Kabbalah is one of the Jewish books of mysticism where God is experienced as "created." This Sunday Rev. John will reflect on an expansive spirituality that seems "outside the box."

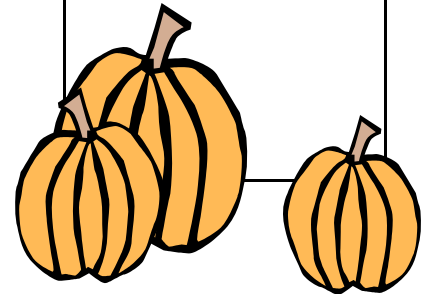
October 26—United Nations Sunday—Vicki Heidorn

Vicki and the children will present a program that celebrates the UN and UNICEF.

November 2—All the Souls and Saints—Rev. John Pastor

We gather to honor our dead and celebrate our past and present saints.

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



Blessing of the Animals

October 4 at 11 a.m. on the church lawn.

In the tradition of St. Francis of Assisi, Rev. John will be blessing the animals. Bring your favorite animal friend(s) or their picture(s).

Dancing for Hymnals - Part II

The first dance was such a success, we decided to do it one more time for the same fine cause. We were able to purchase about half of the new hymnals that we actually need, so we must dance again. John Zylinski and Catherine Azora-Minda will be spinning the music. It's the night after Halloween so recycle those costumes if you want to. The music will celebrate all saints, souls and sinners so come and have a little fun!



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

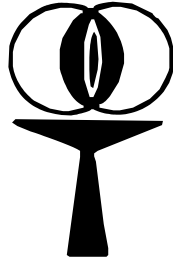
Emeritus Minister: Rev. Neil Bakker

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

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

Pastoring.....

Sometimes we just call ourselves Unitarians, but let's not forget our "other half." In 1961 two denominations, the American Unitarian Association (1825) and the Universalist Church of America (1793), merged to create the Unitarian Universalist Association.



In this part of New England the Universalist movement began with itinerant preachers like Hosea Ballou, whose family lived in Richmond, NH. The Universalists officially organized themselves in Winchester, NH in 1803 by adopting a document called the Winchester Profession of Belief.

The Winchester Profession begins, "We believe that the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments contain a revelation of the character of God and of the duty, interest, and final destination of mankind." In this opening statement there are two crucial words that indicate that Universalism was something new.

"One of these words is the smallest one: 'a.' We believe that the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments contain a revelation. One

revelation among many. The Judeo-Christian religious tradition isn't the only religious tradition." Universalists acknowledge the validity of other religious paths.

"The other crucial word is 'contain.' The Holy Scriptures contain a revelation. The Bible itself is not a revelation, it contains a revelation. Some parts of the Bible are religiously important, but other parts are not." Universalists believe that these parts can be distinguished by people, using their hearts and minds and that each person is his or her own religious authority. The Winchester Profession also proclaims that God is love and that this love is universal.

On Oct 5th, there will be a special Service of Rededication in Winchester, NH. with a sermon presented by Bill Sinkford, president of the UUA. Details are in the invitation from the Universalist Heritage Foundation in this newsletter. I

encourage you to attend and celebrate our "other half."



We are Unitarians and Universalists!

With love,

The Universalist Heritage Foundation

Invites You to a Service of Rededication of the Universalist Memorial Church Winchester, New Hampshire

site of the signing of the Winchester Profession of Belief 1803

**Sunday, October 5th, 2008
at 3:00 p.m.**

Sermon will be by the Rev. Dr. William Sinkford
President, the Unitarian Universalist Association

The church is located at the intersection
of North Main Street and Route 119 (Richmond Road)

Thank UU!

To Cheryl Menard and Chip Steward for
cleaning up the water from the nursery room
on September 7.

*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".*


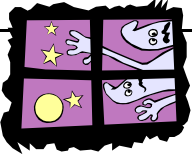
Winchester Profession of Belief 1803

Article I. We believe that the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testament contain a revelation of the character of God, and of the duty, interest and final destination of mankind.

Article II. We believe that there is one God, whose nature is Love, revealed in one Lord Jesus Christ, by one Holy Spirit of Grace, who will finally restore the whole family of mankind to holiness and happiness.

Article III. We believe that holiness and true happiness are inseparably connected, and that believers ought to be careful to maintain order and practice good works; for these things are good and profitable unto men.

UUSG October 2008

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
28 Choir, 9:15am Worship Service, 10am	29 Yoga, 6:30-8:30pm	30 TOPS, 9am 	Oct 1 MOMS Club, 9:30am Meditation Group, 6-7:15pm Book Club, 7:30pm	2 Minister's Office Hours, 1-6pm Adult RE, 7-8:30pm	3 Al-Anon, 10:30am AA, 5-8pm	4 Peace Sanctuary, 10-11am Blessing of the Animals, 11am AA, 12-1pm Movie Night, 6:30pm
5 Choir, 9:15am Worship Service, 10am	6 Yoga, 6:30-8:30pm	7 TOPS, 9am	8 Meditation Group, 6-7:15pm Book Club, 7:30pm	9 Minister's Office Hours, 1-6pm Dances of Universal Peace, 7pm	10 Al-Anon, 10:30am AA, 5-8pm	11 Publicity Comm., 9am Peace Sanctuary, 10-11am AA, 12-1pm
12 Choir, 9:15am Worship Service, 10am <u>Newsletter Deadline</u>	13 Yoga, 6:30-8:30pm Executive Comm., 7pm	14 TOPS, 9am	15 Meditation Group, 6-7:15pm Book Club, 7:30pm	16 Minister's Office Hours, 1-6pm	17 Al-Anon, 10:30am AA, 5-8pm	18 Peace Sanctuary, 10-11am AA, 12-1pm
19 Choir, 9:15am Worship Service, 10am	20 Yoga, 6:30-8:30pm	21 TOPS, 9am	22 Meditation Group, 6-7:15pm Book Club, 7:30pm	23 Minister's Office Hours, 1-6pm	24 Al-Anon, 10:30am AA, 5-8pm	25 Peace Sanctuary, 10-11am AA, 12-1pm Movie Night, 6:30pm
26 Choir, 9:15am Worship Service, 10am	27 Yoga, 6:30-8:30pm	28 TOPS, 9am	29 Meditation Group, 6-7:15pm Book Club, 7:30pm	30 Minister's Office Hours, 1-6pm Music & Worship Comm, 7:30pm	31 Al-Anon, 10:30am AA, 5-8pm	Nov 1  Pie Making, 9am Peace Sanctuary, 10-11am AA, 12-1pm

UUSG events at UUSG

Plain Text: Rental Groups at UUSG

Italics: Community Events

Italics: District & UUA events



124th Annual Fall Fair



Saturday, November 15, 2008

9 am – 2 pm

Featuring:

Lunchroom

Teacup Auction

Baked Goods Sale

Cutlery & Soy
Candles

Homemade Pies

and our Famous
Flea Market,
including:

Furniture

Jewelry

Books

Gently Used
Clothing

and many other
Treasures!

Your suggestions
and ideas will be
gladly considered!

Donations Needed

We will be adding some new saleable items and 2 or 3 large raffle baskets. If you provide some service and could donate an item or gift card to be included in one of the baskets, please call Leslie. While you are shopping or patronizing a salon, please consider asking the proprietor for a donation of a gift card or product.

We are looking for more handmade or craft donations. If you have talent in this way, please consider donating something: knitting, sewing, woodworking, art, or any other creation.

Donations may be taken to the church starting October 19th. If they are for anything other than the flea market, please designate them as such. We ask that all of the flea market items be dropped off by Wednesday noon, November 12th, so that we will have time to sort and price things.

We cannot accept electronic items, TVs, or appliances of any kind. Please make sure that donations are in decent condition—no chips or cracks, tears or stains.

A list of opportunities and signup sheet are posted on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall. Please think about how you can help to make this the most successful fair in recent history.

Does anyone have any other suggestions? Please contact:

Dorcas Hurd 978-874-2350 or dorcashurd@comcast.net

Leslie Fabian 978-827-4666 or leslifab@aol.com

Pie-Making

Saturday, November 1 at 9am

We will make pies for the Fall Fair, to be frozen, in the church kitchen on Saturday, November 1st, starting at 9 a.m. Please come and help peel apples, roll crust, and assemble pies. No experience is necessary. There is on-the-job training.

Be sure to bring your favorite paring knife, rolling pin, pastry cutter, etc. A signup sheet is on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall. On that particular day, many hands DO make light work.

If you would like to donate items or funds to defray expenses, please call Dorcas Hurd. Thank you.



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."

Oct 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)
Shauna Pratt
Lorna Ulmer



Save the Date!

- October 2—Adult RE: Continuing "Understanding the Bible", 7-8:30pm
- October 4—Blessing of the Animals, 11am on the Church Lawn
- October 4—Potluck & Movie Night, 6:30pm (rescheduled from September 27)
- November 1—Dancing for Hymnals, Part II, 7-11pm
- November 15—Fall Fair, 9am-2pm

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 November newsletter is October 14.