

# U-FIRST

April 2007

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](http://www.uusg.net)

## Upcoming Worship Services

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

### April 8—A Triumphant Faith, Easter Sunday—Rev. Stephen Davies Howard

A Unitarian Universalist perspective on the Easter themes of resurrection and immortality.

### Children's Easter Egg Hunt after Worship Service



### April 15—Finding Stillness—Chris & Julie Pera

Join us as we explore the topics of Silence and Stillness as Worship, including readings from Mother Teresa and the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers).

### April 22—Our Connection with the Earth: Creating a Nurturing Cycle—Sue Blain

We are constantly supported by the earth. When we are aware of this and give back rather than depleting resources, we create a positive cycle of nurturing and being nurtured by the earth.

### April 29—To Be Announced

### May 6—Topic To Be Announced—Rev. Adele Smith-Penniman

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

It's only 11:05AM on Sunday, and I've already participated in a demonstration of social activism and ecological responsibility!

You mean UUSG now serves Dean's Beans Organic, Freshly Roasted, Fairly Traded coffee?!?



Earth Day Celebration, Sunday, April 22, following the service. Coffee hour will be replaced with food, fun, music, and informational materials to celebrate and honor the earth and our place in the interconnected web of life.



For more information about how coffee can make the world a better place, check out the brochures in the fellowship hall or visit [www.deansbeans.com](http://www.deansbeans.com).

Emeritus Minister: Rev. Neil Bakker

U-First Editor: Julie Pera — [uusg.newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:uusg.newsletter@gmail.com)

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

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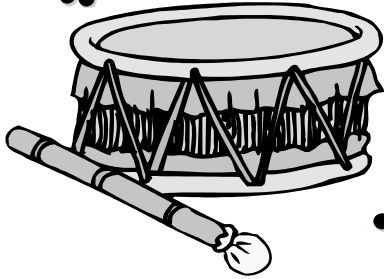
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## Musical Potluck Social

Make musical instruments  
and learn to play them!

**Saturday, April 21, 6:00 pm.**

Pot luck supper followed by crafts and music. Children and adults can make drums and maracas from a variety of materials. Liz and Chuck Nett will demonstrate how to play the instruments. The children are invited to play for the congregation following the story during the Sunday morning service.



## UU SEEKS FURNISHED BEDROOM

Vicki & Chuck have met someone with an interesting work arrangement. He lives in Maine but works in Gardner at RCAP Solutions 4 days a week. He presently rents an apartment in Gardner but his lease will end May 31. This middle-aged, single Unitarian Universalist is looking to rent a furnished bedroom for approximately 3 nights a week, beginning in June.

If you would like more information, please contact him, Skip Moskey, at 978-895-6329, or by email at skipmoskey@mac.com.

## History of Earth Day

[www.earthday.net/resources/history.aspx](http://www.earthday.net/resources/history.aspx)

Earth Day—April 22—each year marks the anniversary of the birth of the modern environmental movement in 1970.

Among other things, 1970 in the United States brought with it the Kent State shootings, the advent of fiber optics, "Bridge Over Troubled Water," Apollo 13, the Beatles' last album, the death of Jimi Hendrix, the birth of Mariah Carey, and the meltdown of fuel rods in the Savannah River nuclear plant near Aiken, South Carolina -- an incident not acknowledged for 18 years.

**It was into such a world that the very first Earth Day was born.**

Earth Day founder Gaylord Nelson, then a U.S. Senator from Wisconsin, proposed the first nationwide environmental protest "to shake up the political establishment and force this issue onto the national agenda." "It was a gamble," he recalls, "but it worked."

At the time, Americans were slurping leaded gas through massive V8 sedans. Industry belched out smoke and sludge with little fear of legal consequences or bad press. Air pollution

was commonly accepted as the smell of prosperity. Environment was a word that appeared more often in spelling bees than on the evening news.

### Earth Day 1970 turned that all around.

On April 22, 20 million Americans took to the streets, parks, and auditoriums to demonstrate for a healthy, sustainable environment. Denis Hayes, the national coordinator, and his youthful staff organized massive coast-to-coast rallies. Thousands of colleges and universities organized protests against the deterioration of the environment. Groups that had been fighting against oil spills, polluting factories and power plants, raw sewage, toxic dumps, pesticides, freeways,

the loss of wilderness, and the extinction of wildlife suddenly realized they shared common values.

Earth Day 1970 achieved a rare political alignment, enlisting support from Republicans

*(Continued on page 5)*



Participant in Earth Day, 1970.  
Photo: EPA History Office



## Treasurer's Report

**January 1 — March 28, 2007**

Income: \$8497.18

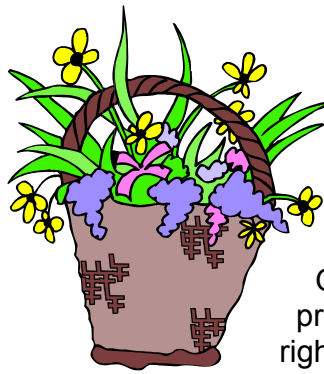
Expenses: \$8653.66

This shows that we have spent \$156.48 more than received during the first three months of the calendar year 2007.

However, at this writing, March is not quite over yet, and there will be additional income and expense posted at month-end such as interest income and heating oil expense.

We have received \$20,486.80 in pledges and donations during this fiscal year that started July 1, 2006. This is about \$400.00 higher than the projected total for the end of March in the budget. Please keep up your financial support!

Respectfully submitted,  
Priscilla Ericsson, Treasurer



**Beautify Your Home!  
Beautify the Church!  
Raise Money for UUSG!**

Lovely summer plants from Dutch Gardens are available at great prices, with half the sale price staying right here at UUSG. Selections include both hardy perennials such as astilbe, double geranium, and oriental lily, and tender perennials such as gladiolus and freesia.

Create or enhance beautiful landscaping in your own yard, and at the same time consider purchasing plants for the church's garden as well. A beautification project is planned and a list of plants needed is available.

Sales begin Easter weekend and must be completed by April 18<sup>th</sup>. Plants can be ordered during coffee hour on April 8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>. If you would like, please take an order form to collect orders from family, friends, co-workers, and/or neighbors. See Sue Blain if you have questions or would like an order form.

### **Best Practices for Working With Youth**

*A workshop for adults working  
with youth ages 12 and over.*

**Workshop Facilitator:**

**George Thompson,**

**St. Lawrence District Youth Consultant**

Saturday, April 21, 2007 10:00 am – 4:00 pm  
UU Congregation of Binghamton, NY

This workshop will address various aspects of working with youth, creating a healthy community and meaningful programming. Particular focus areas will be team-building, and establishing and respecting boundaries in youth-adult relationships.

Please register by April 13, 2007  
Registration fee is \$25



### **OUR WHOLE LIVES LEADER TRAINING FOR JUNIOR HIGH & SENIOR HIGH**

Sponsored by the St. Lawrence District  
Religious Education Committee

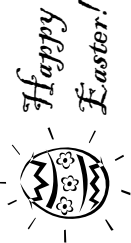
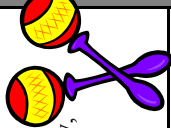

**Friday, June 15<sup>th</sup> 3:00 PM  
through Sunday, June 17<sup>th</sup> 3:30 PM**

**First Unitarian Society of Ithaca, NY**

*Our Whole Lives* is based on a philosophy of comprehensive sexuality education which helps participants make informed and responsible decisions about their sexual health and behavior. It equips participants with accurate, age-appropriate information in six subject areas: human development, relationships, personal skills, sexual behavior, sexual health, and society and culture. Grounded in a holistic view of sexuality, comprehensive sexuality education provides not only facts about anatomy and human development, but also helps leaders to clarify their values, build interpersonal skills, and understand the spiritual, emotional, social and political aspects of sexuality as well.

We have been invited by our neighboring district to participate in these workshops. Please contact Julie or Vicki if you would like more information or a registration form.

# UUSG April 2007

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
Executive Comm. Meeting, 11:45am Worship, 10am 1	2 Yoga, 6:30-8:30pm	3 TOPS, 9am	4 MOMS Club, 9:30am Meditation Group, 6pm	5	6 Al-Anon, 10:30am AA, 5-8pm	7 AA, 12-1pm
8 Worship, 10am 	9 Yoga, 6:30-8:30pm	10 TOPS, 9am	11 Meditation Group, 6pm	12	13 Al-Anon, 10:30am AA, 5-8pm	14 AA, 12-1pm
15 Worship, 10am <u>Newsletter Deadline</u>	16 Yoga, 6:30-8:30pm	17 TOPS, 9am	18 Meditation Group, 6pm	19	20 Al-Anon, 10:30am AA, 5-8pm	21 AA, 12-1pm 
22 Worship, 10am Earth Day Celebration  Exec. Comm. Meeting, 11:45	23 Yoga, 6:30-8:30pm	24 TOPS, 9am	25 MOMS Club, 10:30am Meditation Group, 6pm	26	27 Al-Anon, 10:30am AA, 5-8pm	28 AA, 12-1pm
29 Worship, 10am Adult RE, 11:45am	30 Yoga, 6:30-8:30	May 1 TOPS, 9am	2 MOMS Club, 9:30am Meditation Group, 6pm	3	4 Al-Anon, 10:30am AA, 5-8pm	5 AA, 12-1pm

**Bold:** UUSG events at UUSG

Plain Text: Rental Groups at UUSG

*Italics:* Community Events

**Boldface Italics:** District & UUA events

*(Earth Day History, continued from page 2)*

and Democrats, rich and poor, city slickers and farmers, tycoons and labor leaders. The first Earth Day led to the creation of the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the passage of the Clean Air, Clean Water, and Endangered Species acts.

Sen. Nelson was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom -- the highest honor given to civilians in the United States -- for his role as Earth Day founder.

As 1990 approached, a group of environmental leaders asked Denis Hayes to organize another big campaign. This time, Earth Day went global, mobilizing 200 million people in 141 countries and lifting the status of environmental issues on to the world stage. Earth Day 1990 gave a huge boost to recycling efforts worldwide and helped pave the way for the 1992 United Nations Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro.

As the millennium approached, Hayes agreed to spearhead another campaign, this time focused on global warming and a push for clean energy. Earth Day 2000 combined the big-picture feistiness of the first Earth Day with the international grassroots activism of Earth Day 1990.

For 2000, Earth Day had the Internet to help link activists around the world. By the time April 22 rolled around, 5,000 environmental groups around the world were on board, reaching out to hundreds of millions of people in a record 184 countries. Events varied: A talking drum chain traveled from village to village in Gabon, Africa, for example, while hundreds of thousands of people gathered on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., USA.

Earth Day 2000 sent the message loud and clear that citizens the world 'round wanted quick and decisive action on clean energy.

Now, the fight for a clean environment continues. We invite you to be a part of this history and a part of Earth Day. Discover energy you didn't even know you had. Feel it rumble

through the grass roots under your feet and the technology at your fingertips. Channel it into building a clean, healthy, diverse world for generations to come.



EPA Administrator William K. Reilly with former Senator Gaylord Nelson, Earth Day 1990.  
Photo: EPA History Office

**U-Youth!**

**Can you spot the differences?**

There are 15 differences. Can you spot at least 10?



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# Unitarian Universalist Society of Gardner

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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."

Apr 07

## 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 2005-06

Vicki Heidorn, Chairperson  
Sue Blain  
Keith Casavoy  
David Fabian  
Qing Fagan  
Bob Gifford

## Save the Date!

April 1—Executive Committee Meeting, 11:45am  
April 8—Children's Easter Egg Hunt, following worship  
April 15—Open Congregational Forum, 11:30am  
April 22—Earth Day Worship Service & Celebration;  
Executive Committee Meeting, 11:45am  
April 29—Adult RE: Diversity Workshop, 11:45am  
May 5—Adult RE: Diversity Workshop (final session), 11:45 am

**Look for details inside!**



## 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 May newsletter is April 15.**