

U-FIRST

May 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

Upcoming Worship Services

Sunday Services at 10:00 a.m.

May 6—The Four Things—Rev. Marguerite Sheehan

Four small phrases that can be a foundation for living fully.

Rev. Marguerite Sheehan lives in Amherst and is an interfaith hospice chaplain in the Springfield area. She is also presently working as the Sabbatical Minister at the Harvard Unitarian Universalist Church.

May 13—Senior Moments—Rev. John Pastor

Saying a final good-bye to a loved one is not always easy. What do we say? What do we do? This sermon is about John's journey with his mother while she was in hospice and saying those things that matter most.

John is currently the contract minister at the First Congregational Parish Unitarian in Petersham and is a chaplain with Allegiance Hospice and Palliative Care. He specializes in pastoral care in both of these ministries. He lives in Petersham with his spouse, Bob Hall, and their two dogs (Susie and Charlie) and two cats (Jeeves and Salem).

May 20—A Universe Story—Rev. Alice Anacheka-Nasemann

A world from a miniscule strange ball of matter. The current scientific story about the origins of our universe is a strange and amazing story indeed. Today we will talk about some of the religious and theological implications we can draw from this story.

Rev. Alice Anacheka-Nasemann is the religious education director for the Unitarian Church of Marlborough and Hudson. Ordained in May of 2006, she is currently "in search" for a parish ministry. She lives in Hudson, MA with her spouse, two children, dog and cat. As for her name, Alice is fine, but if you'd like pronunciation help on the last name it's: ahn uh *chay kuh naze man*.

May 27—Memorial Day Service



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

In this issue...

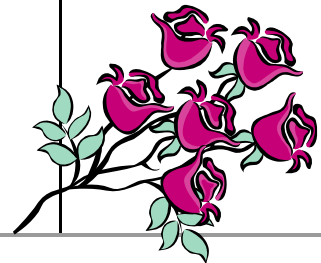
Dutch Garden Fundraiser Update —p. 2

Search Committee—p.2

Thank UU & CongratUUlations—p. 2

History of Mother's Day—p.2

Calendar of Events—p. 3



We are interviewing candidates for next year in the first half of May, and these candidates have agreed to lead us in worship through the end of the year. We hope to choose a part-time minister with the congregation's support, very soon. Since we plan to have a variety of speakers next year, all of our candidates may become regular visiting preachers to our pulpit. Every guest minister is a gift. Showing up for worship, if you are able, is our best way of getting to know them and saying "thank you."

Submitted by Vicki Heidorn

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Spring Fundraiser Update



Many gardens this summer, including the one right here at UUSG, will be benefiting from the beauty of flowers from Dutch Gardens. The spring flower fundraiser with plants from Dutch Gardens netted \$97.50. We have the potential to earn much more with a fall fundraiser, selling spring bulbs, if we start early.

Ministerial Search Committee

The Search Committee consists of Sue Blain, David Fabian, Vicki Heidorn, and Marion Lyon. The Search Committee will be meeting with applicants early in May, and then will make recommendations to the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee will present a candidate and a budget for a vote by the Congregation.

The History of Mother's Day

By Cheri Sicard

While many people might assume that Mother's Day is a holiday invented by the fine folks at Hallmark, it's not so. The earliest Mother's Day celebrations can be traced back to the spring celebrations of ancient Greece, honoring Rhea, the Mother of the Gods. The Romans called their version of the event the Hilaria, and celebrated on the Ides of March by making offerings in the temple of Cybele, the mother of the Gods. Early Christians celebrated the festival on the fourth Sunday of Lent in honor of the Virgin Mary, the Mother of Christ.

In more recent times, relatively speaking -- England in the 1600s--the celebration was expanded to include all mothers with "Mothering Sunday" being celebrated on the 4th Sunday of Lent (the 40 day period leading up to Easter). Besides attending church services in honor of the Virgin Mary, children returned home from the cities with gifts, flowers, and special Mothering Day cakes that were important parts of the celebration.

Mother's Day festivities in the United States date back to 1872 when Julia Ward Howe (her other claim to fame was writing the lyrics for the "Battle Hymn of the Republic") suggested the day be dedicated to peace. Ms. Howe would hold organized Mother's Day meetings in Boston, Massachusetts every year.

In 1907, Ana Jarvis, a Philadelphia, Pennsylvania school teacher, furthered the cause by beginning a campaign to establish a national Mother's Day. Ms. Jarvis persuaded her mother's church in Grafton, West Virginia to celebrate Mother's Day on the

Thank UU!

To Sue Blain for doing many behind-the-scenes things that help to keep things going on a Sunday morning: from grinding the beans for the morning coffee to finding and coordinating the flowers that beautify our sanctuary; for creating the banner in the sanctuary that lifts up the idea that "Love is the spirit of this church"; for being an active and caring member of the board and two of its committees; for sharing her passion about diversity and caring for the earth.

To Nancy Fiske for taking the time to stop at the UUA office in Boston to purchase a variety of promotional materials for our congregation.

CongratUUlations!

To Cindy and Dana Malley on the birth of their daughter, Violet. Please keep them in thoughts and prayers as Violet gets strong enough to come home from the hospital. Godessspeed!

If you know of a contribution 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".

second anniversary of her mother's death, which happened to be on the 2nd Sunday of May that year. By the following year, Mother's Day was also being celebrated in Philadelphia.


Not content to rest on her laurels, Ms. Jarvis and her supporters began to write to ministers, businessman, and politicians in their quest to establish a national Mother's Day and in 1912, the Mother's Day International Association was incorporated for the purpose of promoting the day and its observance. By 1911, Mother's Day was celebrated in almost every state in the nation. In 1914, President Woodrow Wilson made it official by proclaiming Mother's Day a national holiday that was to be held each year on the 2nd Sunday of May.

It is somewhat ironic that after all her efforts, Ana Jarvis ended up growing bitter over what she perceived as the corruption of the holiday she created. She abhorred the commercialization of the holiday and grew so enraged by it that she filed a lawsuit to stop a 1923 Mother's Day festival and was even arrested for disturbing the peace at a war mothers' convention where women sold white carnations -- Jarvis' symbol for mothers -- to raise money. Ana Jarvis' story is not a happy one. Things went from bad to worse and she eventually lost everything and everyone that was close to her and died alone in a sanatorium in 1948. Shortly before her death, Jarvis told a reporter she was sorry she had ever started Mother's Day.

Ana may be gone, but Mother's Day lives on, regardless of whether it meets her approval. Many countries throughout the world celebrate Mother's Day at various times throughout the year, but some such as Denmark, Finland, Italy, Turkey, Australia, and Belgium also celebrate Mother's Day on the second Sunday of May.

www.fabulousfoods.com/holidays/momsday/momdayhistory.html

UUSG May 2007

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
29 Worship, 10am	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
6 Worship, 10am Adult RE, 11:45am	7 Yoga, 6:30-8:30pm	8 TOPS, 9am	9 Meditation Group, 6pm	10	11 Al-Anon, 10:30am AA, 5-8pm	12 AA, 12-1pm
13 Worship, 10am Exec Comm, 11:45am <u>Newsletter Deadline</u> <i>Happy Mother's Day!</i>	14 Yoga, 6:30-8:30pm	15 TOPS, 9am	16 Meditation Group, 6pm	17	18 Al-Anon, 10:30am AA, 5-8pm	19 AA, 12-1pm Potluck & Game Night, 6pm 
20 Worship, 10am Congregational Meeting/Forum, 11:30am	21 Yoga, 6:30-8:30pm	22 TOPS, 9am	23 Meditation Group, 6pm	24	25 Al-Anon, 10:30am AA, 5-8pm	26 AA, 12-1pm
27 Worship, 10am	28 Yoga, 6:30-8:30pm	29 TOPS, 9am	30 Meditation Group, 6pm	31	June 1 Al-Anon, 10:30am AA, 5-8pm	June 2 AA, 12-1pm

Bold: UUSG events at UUSG

Plain Text: Rental Groups at UUSG

Italics: Community Events

Boldface Italics: District & UUA events

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."

May 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!

May 6—Adult RE: Diversity Workshop (final session), 11:45am

May 13—Executive Board Meeting, 11:45am

May 19—Potluck & Game Night, 6:00pm

May 20—Congregational Meeting/Forum, 11:30am

June 3—Annual Meeting

Look for details inside!

Bumper Stickers for Sale:

Unitarian Universalism The Uncommon Denomination

Show your religious pride! UUSG now has bumper stickers for sale. Suggested donation is \$5.

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 June newsletter is May 13.